



STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
LANSING

RICK SNYDER  
GOVERNOR

MARK A. VAN PORT FLEET  
DIRECTOR

December 1, 2018

Mr. John Walsh, Director  
State Budget Office  
111 South Capitol Avenue  
Romney Building, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Lansing, Michigan 48933

Dear Director Walsh:

Pursuant to Section 385 of Public Act 207 of 2018, this letter contains the Michigan Department of Transportation's (MDOT's) report of activities related to the Gordie Howe International Bridge (GHIB) project for Fiscal Year (FY) 2018, October 1, 2017 through September 30, 2018.

During this time, MDOT responded to GHIB-related requests for information from Governor Snyder's office, legislative offices, the Windsor-Detroit Bridge Authority (WDBA), United States Department of Transportation, and other local, state, and federal entities. We have continued to participate in meetings to facilitate these requests, and work with WDBA in order to implement the June 2012 Crossing Agreement.

Additionally, MDOT engaged in the following activities during the year:

- Real estate activities, including environmental due diligence, title and appraisal work, property acquisition, demolition, and other site preparation work. Of 636 parcels required for the project, MDOT is in possession or has control of 97.8 percent, with 575 parcels considered project ready (demolition and any environmental remediation completed) as of November 2, 2018. Working with our legal team, MDOT is actively pursuing acquisition activities on all remaining parcels, including use of the condemnation process when required.
- Completion and approval of Re-evaluation No. 4 for the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS), a full re-evaluation as required by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) prior to undertaking construction activities. The full report, including updates of the traffic, air, and noise analyses completed for the FEIS, is available online at [https://www.michigan.gov/mdot/0,4616,7-151-9621\\_11008\\_87891---,00.html](https://www.michigan.gov/mdot/0,4616,7-151-9621_11008_87891---,00.html).
- GHIB-related utility relocation as part of the I-75 pavement inlay project, including the relocation and replacement of several siphons and combined sewer crossings; continued other relocation planning activities with utilities and railroads located within the project footprint.
- After consideration of all associated factors, including review of airspace analysis and studies, evaluation of the impacts and potential mitigations, the significance of the new bridge structure to Michigan and discussions with various federal, state and local officials, MDOT issued a Michigan Tall Structure Permit to WDBA on April 9, 2018.
- Submission of required certifications and fulfillment of all necessary FHWA requirements to allow construction to begin on the project. On June 26, 2018, MDOT requested and received concurrence from FHWA for WDBA to proceed to award of the early works contract with the Preferred Proponent team.

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- Participation with FHWA and WDBA in the development of the Project Agreement, along with confidential meetings with the private-sector proponents, review and evaluation of the final technical and financial proposals from the proponent teams, and concurrence in selection of the Preferred Proponent. The selection of Bridging North America (BNA) to design, build, finance, operate, and maintain the GHIB was announced on July 5, 2018. A groundbreaking ceremony was held in Detroit on July 17, 2018 to mark the beginning of advance construction activities via an early works contract with BNA. Planned advance construction activities included design work to progress with foundation construction of the main bridge, test piles, preparation work at I-75, and geotechnical exploration.
- Financial close on a fixed-price contract with BNA valued at \$4.4 billion USD (nominal value), including the final Project Agreement, was announced by the WDBA on September 28, 2018. The announcement also signified that all contractual steps have been completed and that full construction could begin. BNA has presented a 74-month construction schedule and a cable-stayed design characterized by an "A" shape.

Canada provided payment to MDOT during the year for invoices billing work completed through June 2018. Enclosed is a summary of GHIB-related expenditures by MDOT during FY 2018, with Canadian and federal funds as the source. There were no GHIB-related payments or expenses incurred by MDOT pursuant to contracts with any vendors, experts, or consultants that were not reimbursable.

If you have any questions, please contact either me or Phil Browne, Director of Governmental Affairs, at 517-373-3946.

Sincerely,



Mark A. Van Port Fleet  
Director

Enclosure

cc: Governor Snyder  
Lt. Governor Brian Calley  
Senate Majority Leader  
Senate Minority Leader  
Speaker of the House  
House Minority Leader  
Senate and House Fiscal Agencies  
Senate and House Appropriations Subcommittees on Transportation  
Phil Browne

Gordie Howe International Bridge Project  
 Fiscal Year 2018 Expenditures by MDOT

Description	Expenditures
Staff Costs	\$ 4,329,409.09
Travel/Meal Expenses	\$ 54,823.49
Acquisition Costs	\$ 34,156,197.13
Utility Relocation	\$ 16,657,691.64
Fees and Compensation (Consultants)	\$ 28,254,166.92
Telephone/Other	\$ 78,842.64
Total Expenditures	\$ 83,531,130.91
Amount Reimbursable	\$ 83,531,130.91
Amount Funded by State Transportation Revenues	\$ -