



# INFORMATION SHEET March 2020

## BACKGROUND

United Bridge Partners, doing business as “Bay City Bridge Partners” (BCBP), has entered into an acquisition and development agreement with the City of Bay City, MI. The agreement is the first step to convey the Liberty and Independence bridges to BCBP:

- Meanwhile, BCBP has assumed financial responsibility for operations & maintenance (O&M) of both bridges:
  - Using existing bridge tenders and local maintenance providers for seamless transition.
  - Initiating bascule O&M best practices to enhance reliability.
- BCBP provides 100% of project financing with no cost passed on to the City.
- This relieves Bay City of the financial burden of operating & maintaining both bridges, allowing reallocation of approximately \$700,000 currently budgeted annually toward the aging bridges to other city needs.
- BCBP paid Bay City \$2 million, the first installment of a larger \$5 million development fee for both bridges.
- A second, \$3 million payment will occur after development details are finalized and the property rights are transferred to BCBP.

## BCBP'S PLANS FOR THE BRIDGES

- Rehabilitation and modernization of Liberty Bridge:
  - Rehabilitate footings and foundation, substructure, superstructure, bridge deck/roadway connections, scour protection and bascule electrical and mechanical systems.
  - Add bridge performance monitoring.
  - Upgrade warning gates and operator house.
  - Widen existing bike/pedestrian path.
  - Integrate architectural handrail and decorative lighting.
  - Rehabilitate tender house.
- Replacement of Independence Bridge:
  - A new 4-lane bridge with pedestrian and bike path will be built east of the existing bridge.
  - Existing bridge will remain in service until the new bridge is opened to traffic and then demolished.

- Traffic will flow throughout the construction process.
- Slightly taller to reduce the number of times the drawbridge has to be lifted for smaller watercraft.
- 75-year minimum useful life.
- Before construction can begin, a design and permitting phase may take up a year or more.
- Overall construction forecast is two construction seasons.
- Goal to complete both structures in the most economical and shortest time frame with minimal impact to Bay City residents and business owners – projected completion is 2023.
- Plans call for sequencing and phasing the work to keep bridges open during construction.
- BCBP is committed to using local union contractors and workers, local material and equipment suppliers, local engineering/technical consultants and professional services.

## ABOUT TOLLING

The goal is to get drivers to their destinations time efficiently and without the congestion of a traditional toll plaza, therefore:

- Liberty and Independence bridges will have “open road tolling” – no toll booths.
- Drivers install a transponder in vehicle and register it to a prepaid account or credit card. Electronic equipment stationed at one end of the bridge reads the transponder and records the trip – either deducting toll from prepaid amount or charging debit/credit card for payment.
- Transponders can vary from a small sticker to a small box mounted on a vehicle’s windshield.
- The toll system will be designed to be compatible with as many other toll systems as possible, including EZ-Pass and the new MacPass stickers being rolled out for the Mackinac Bridge.
- No cost for the actual transponder. Users will create an account and pre-pay or pre-load for tolls or link to a credit card for payment.



## BAY CITY BRIDGE PARTNERS

- There will be zero prepayment required to obtain a transponder for Bay City residents who meet low-income criteria.
- When a vehicle travels the bridge without a valid collection device, cameras will read its license plate number and invoice the vehicle's registered owner by mail.
- BCBP will offer community outreach events for customers to pick-up transponders and learn more about their use.
- A local BCBP office will provide customers with the opportunity to conduct business face-to-face with knowledgeable BCBP staff.

### COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Before, during and after the renovation of Liberty Bridge and replacement of Independence Bridge, BCBP will conduct a robust public outreach program similar to what we have in place on our other projects around the nation.

BCBP will hire a local general manager and staff who live and work within the community and operate the BCBP office in the downtown business district east of the Saginaw River (location to be determined).

### BCBP TEAM

To accomplish its goals, BCBP has assembled a team of specialists in finance, design, construction, and O&M with extensive bascule bridge experience:

- United Bridge Partners (finance, O&M)
- Kenny-Kraemer JV (construction)
- TranSystems (environmental permitting and engineering)
- Stafford Bandlow (movable bridge design)
- Flint-based Rowe Professional Services Company (design)
- Saginaw-based The Barckholtz Group (public information)



## TOLL STRUCTURE

- Will not take affect for Bay City residents until 5 years after construction is complete. When they do take affect:
  - \$15 per month for unlimited crossings for cars, trucks, SUVs, motorcycles with transponders.  
OR
  - \$0.50 per crossing for Bay City residents with a transponder.
- No tolls ever for Bay City residents who meet low-income criteria, emergency vehicles/first responders, city-owned vehicles, school buses.
- Non-Bay City residents will begin paying tolls upon construction completion as follows:
  - \$15 per month for unlimited crossings for cars, trucks, SUVs, motorcycles with transponders.  
OR
  - \$2 per crossing for non-Bay City residents with a transponder.
  - Pay by Plate for those without a transponder.
- There is no cost to walk or bicycle across the bridges.

