



PROGRESS

UPDATE December 2020

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Bay City Bridge Partners (BCBP) was a proud major sponsor of the Buy BC gift card stimulus program. Through the program, consumers purchased 4,400 gift cards from 70+ participating establishments with more than \$110,000 in revenue injected back into Bay County businesses.



The legislation was supported by a wide variety of local businesses and organizations as well including the Bay Area Chamber of Commerce, Bay Future, Consumers Energy, Great Lakes Bay Regional Alliance, IBEW Local 692, IBEW Local 948, LiUNA Local 1098, McLaren Bay Region, Michigan Sugar, Operating Engineers Local 324, Saginaw County Chamber of Commerce, Saginaw Valley State University, and UA Local 85.

Since January 2020, BCBP has reimbursed the City for all maintenance and repair services and funded and conducted thorough inspections of both bridges. "Despite the COVID-19 pandemic and its impact on businesses and municipalities, we have been able to move forward on this project with great optimism," says Kevin Bischel, BCBP delivery director.

NEW LAWS PAVE THE WAY FOR BETTER LIBERTY AND INDEPENDENCE BRIDGES

Thanks to new legislation recently signed into law by Governor Whitmer, we are ready to move full steam ahead on our unique public-private partnership with the City of Bay City to lease Liberty Bridge and Independence Bridge and improve both structures.

Before now, no such laws existed in Michigan allowing municipalities to engage with private investment companies to improve aging infrastructure and to authorize tolling.

Senate Bills 1215-1218 were introduced in mid-November by Senator Ken Horn (R-Frankenmuth), Jeremy Moss (D-Southfield) and Wayne Schmidt (R-Traverse City). The Michigan Senate unanimously passed the bills, and the Michigan House of Representatives approved them by a 95-15-1 vote.

"It was so encouraging to see bipartisan support for something that brings Bay City an innovative solution to a longstanding problem," says Dana Muscott, Bay City manager.

The environmental and design phases of the project come next and will be completed in accordance with city, state and federal requirements. Material staging and limited construction work will likely begin in mid-late 2021. Full construction on both bridges is scheduled to begin in 2022 and will take place over two construction seasons.

"The region and state's economic success relies on a safe and reliable infrastructure that starts with roads and bridges. Bay City's bridge repair needs are beyond available funding at all levels of government. These bills alleviate some of that burden on local governments and the state budget while securing a major economic route for our region." – Senator Ken Horn



WHAT'S NEXT



PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- United Bridge Partners, doing business as BCBP, signed the original acquisition and development agreement with the City, effective 1/2/2020, after a transparent, competitive procurement process that began in 2017.
- Resulting projects provide innovative solutions to keeping both bridges open and operational.
- BCBP will lease the bridges from the City and then improve the structures.
- Agreement includes control and protection provisions to ensure that BCBP completes construction, inspects, maintains and operates the bridges in accordance with federal and state regulations.
- BCBP is providing 100% of project financing with no cost or risks passed on to the City.
- The agreement outlines the tolling structure and future adjustments. No tolls will be charged to Bay City residents with a transponder until five years after construction of both bridges is complete. In addition, no tolls will be charged to Bay City residents below the poverty guidelines, Bay City school buses, police, fire, emergency or medical vehicles. No tolls will be charged during any declared state of emergency. When tolling eventually goes into effect, Bay City residents with a transponder will pay discounted tolls of \$0.50 or a \$15/per month flat rate.
- The project is projected to provide a significant economic stimulus to the local economy through \$100+ million investment and the creation of 1,000+ jobs in Michigan (direct and indirect).
- BCBP is committed to local union contractors and workers, local material and equipment suppliers, local engineering/technical consultants and professional services for both bridges.



**BAY CITY
BRIDGE
PARTNERS**

PLAN FOR BRIDGES

[Giving New Life to Liberty Bridge
from Top to Bottom:](#)

- Footings, foundation, substructure, superstructure, and bridge deck rehabilitated
- Underwater protections added to protect foundation from erosion caused by moving water
- Bascule electrical and mechanical systems improved
- Operator house and warning gates updated
- Bridge performance monitoring added
- Beautification elements added such as architectural handrails and decorative lighting
- Bike and pedestrian access improved

[Building a Better Independence Bridge](#)

- Brand new four-lane bridge will be built to last a minimum of 75 years
- To keep traffic flowing, existing bridge will stay in service and not be demolished until new bridge is open
- To reduce the number of times the drawbridge has to be lifted for smaller watercraft, the new bridge will be slightly taller
- Access for bikes and pedestrians included



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