

PEOPLE, PARTNERSHIPS &

PROGRESS

THE NEW FREDERICK DOUGLASS MEMORIAL BRIDGE

WINTER 2019 EDITION

REMAKING THE BRIDGE

BETWEEN CULTURES,
COMMUNITIES, AND PEOPLE



**REAL PARTNERS,
REAL PROGRESS**

SETTING THE STANDARD FOR WHAT
TEAMWORK TRULY LOOKS LIKE

**BETTER
BENEFITS**

DDOT'S PROGRAMS
PROVIDE LASTING
BENEFITS TO RISING
CONSTRUCTION
PROFESSIONALS

MESSAGE FROM

THE DIRECTOR

December is known as a month of reflection, gratitude, and celebration. It is important to take time out of our busy schedules to reflect on the progress we've made over the past twelve months, and consider what lies ahead in the coming year.

This year, we're especially proud of the things that, in many areas of our lives, we sometimes take for granted: good people, great communities, and the opportunity we all have as District residents and public servants to work together.

As champions of bridging communities together, both Mayor Bowser and Frederick Douglass remind us that above all else, this season is about people - recognizing and celebrating the needs of those in our community, and also considering how we'll one day build a bridge with those we have yet to meet.

This issue of Progress magazine spotlights this very ideal by reflecting on the *People, Partnerships, & Progress* that have made 2018 a year worth celebrating.

Our Winter edition tells the story of

- A 20-year-in-the-making partnership between the District Department of Transportation and the Federal Highway Administration,
- How one local DBE partner is taking a popular ballpark and soccer stadium into consideration when designing traffic flow systems and why its president feels especially fortunate to work on the Frederick Douglass Memorial Bridge project,
- What our teams are doing to remake the bridge with a local bookstore and its surrounding community,
- And most importantly, the progress that's being made in our communities as a result of our efforts.

In the words of Frederick Douglass, "You are not judged by the height you have risen, but from the depth you have climbed."

We hope you'll read each story in this issue and celebrate alongside us the progress we've made together this year to remake the bridge between cultures, communities, and people.



Jeff Marootian

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DIRECTOR, DISTRICT DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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FREDERICK DOUGLASS

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FEATURE STORY

REAL PARTNERS, REAL PROGRESS

Few partnerships in business or in government turn out to be just that. When it comes to getting the job done to remake the Frederick Douglass Memorial Bridge, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the District Department of Transportation are setting the standard for what teamwork truly looks like. Simply put, we're all in – together.

We sat down with Christopher Lawson of FHWA, the primary Federal partner in advancing the Frederick Douglass Memorial Bridge project, to learn about his team's role in remaking the bridge between local and federal agencies and finally bringing real progress to life.

What is your role at FHWA?

I represent Federal Highway as the Division Administrator for the District of Columbia. In this role, I am responsible for partnering primarily with the District Department of Transportation (DDOT) to deliver the Federal-aid Highway Program (FAHP) in Washington D.C., and ensuring that the \$170 million annual program is properly administered. My office partners with DDOT on project planning, design and construction, right-of-way acquisition, and environmental compliance in accordance with federal-aid laws and regulations. One of my goals in this partnership is to create a positive working environment for our cross-functional teams - ranging from engineers to community planners and civil rights specialists - and provide them with opportunities to enhance their technical aptitude and leadership skills.

"I think I've been able to excel in this type of career because of my ability to build lasting relationships with just about anyone whom I've had the pleasure to work with."

The Federal-aid Highway Program delivers grant assistance, technical expertise, specialized training, knowledge of cutting-edge innovation, and policy guidance to state and local highway agencies. The federal-aid partnership is unique in that the FHWA works side-by-side with agencies to assist in bringing important transportation projects to life.





Vinh Hoang, Area Engineer; Carlos Castro, Bridge Engineer; Chris Lawson, Division Administrator; Tarsem Lal, Senior Major Projects Engineer

How is FHWA partnering with DDOT on the new Frederick Douglass Memorial Bridge?

FHWA's D.C. Division office partners with DDOT in its traditional role of providing federal funding to advance the project from planning through construction. The Division also offers DDOT technical expertise on the design/build procurement process, including preliminary design and cost estimating. We've been happy to act as stewards to assist DDOT in delivering this historic project. During my tenure as DA, I've had the pleasure of personally working with every DDOT Director since 2010 to advance the project, meet important deadlines, and solve technical and programmatic challenges. Two professionals in our office are dedicated to ensuring the construction success of this project, and our partnership: Vinh Hoang, Area Engineer, and Tarsem Lal, the Specially Designated Project Oversight Manager. Janine Ashe, the Division's Civil Rights Program Manager, also regularly coordinates with DDOT to ensure compliance with the Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Program and Title VI. Finally, Carlos Castro, the Division's Structural Engineer, works closely with DDOT to ensure that the Frederick Douglass Memorial Bridge is constructed in accordance with approved design and specifications.

How long have you been at FHWA and what were you doing prior to this current role?

I'm proud to say that I've been at FHWA for 24 years. I came here almost directly after graduating from Morgan State University. After a brief stint at the Ohio Department of Transportation in Columbus, Ohio, I joined FHWA in September 1994 and have had the pleasure of working in various offices including: Harrisburg, Pennsylvania; Honolulu, Hawaii; and Richmond, Virginia. During my career, I have served in several positions, including Special Assistant to the

Administrator and Acting Director of International Programs. I have completed special assignments at the National Transportation Safety Board, and was present during the terror attacks on our nation on September 11, 2001, and at the World Bank. I've also been fortunate enough to shake hands with many important people, most notably during my time as Special Assistant when I met President George W. Bush, President Barack Obama (and wife First Lady Michelle Obama), and Vice President Joe Biden.

What does this project mean to you personally?

I am proud to be a part of the largest public works project in the history of Washington, D.C. that will not only impact me personally, but will have a positive impact on the local community. For example, 51% of new jobs will be designated to residents of Washington, D.C., which presents an opportunity for our neighbors to build experience and develop skills in important construction trades. To serve in this effort is an honor.

What are you most proud of in this partnership?

I'm most proud of DDOT partnering with FHWA to annually convene the Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Forum, which provides opportunities for small women-owned and minority firms to establish relationships with larger, established firms, as well as learn how to do business with DDOT. We are now in our seventh year, and the event has grown significantly with about 600 registrants for the November 2018 Forum.

Let's Get Personal

Chris is an avid boxing enthusiast. With the help of a few professional boxers and trainers, his eight-year old son, Christian, is developing the same enthusiasm!



DBE SPOTLIGHT:

LOCAL DBE CKI & ASSOCIATES IS REMAKING THE BRIDGE

Veteran engineering professional Ming Ching and his partners Vincent Kumordzie and Suzan Iqbal founded CKI more than 20 years ago to provide construction engineering and construction management services to transportation projects in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area. With more than 75 years of combined experience in engineering design, construction and project management, they have performed safety inspections and condition rating for more than 600 in-service bridges since the inception of their business.

Ching, who serves as the company's president, is taking the lead at CKI on providing quality control and construction management services for the new Frederick Douglass Memorial Bridge as the Construction Auditor/Engineer. In this role, he is responsible for ensuring that quality assurance and quality control minimum requirements for testing and inspection are fully met and the workmanship for the plans and specifications comply with the contract's requirements.

"I walk and drive over the bridge every day and will use the new bridge once it's built. I honestly didn't know the significance of this project until I read the first (Progress) newsletter. I'm very honored to work on this project that will replace a 68-year-old bridge in our nation's capital."

The Frederick Douglass Memorial Bridge project is particularly significant to Ching because it is engaging the community and helping residents to get jobs in construction through the Construction Management Program. Additionally, he personally has an opportunity to train and groom new engineers in the construction field. He believes it is both a highly rewarding and a challenging project, but one that he welcomes.

"There are a lot of moving parts with this bridge – literally. In addition to the bridge itself, we are building out new traffic circles to help with flow of traffic. We've got a popular ballpark and a new soccer stadium in close proximity, so traffic will be a main concern as well as environmental issues to consider, but challenge is good. We're up for it."

Ching and his team have worked on a number of other high-profile construction management projects in the city including the 11th Street Bridge in Southeast and the Streetscapes in Adams Morgan, Columbia Heights and Howard Triangle. They are currently performing construction management inspection work on I-66 and I-395 in Virginia as well as the new Purple Line transit project in Maryland.

DDOT WELCOMES DELEGATION OF

ENGINEERING PROFESSIONALS FROM INDIA

In late September, a delegation of more than two dozen early-career engineers employed at the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways of India visited DDOT to learn more about the Frederick Douglass Memorial Bridge project. The delegation traveled to the District from India to attend a two-week training organized by the U.S. Department of Transportation to learn about best practices in transportation. Subject areas included highway design, innovative financing, congestion management, performance management, and asset management.

Project Engineer Joseph Dorsey and Project Manager Jon Whitney presented a general overview of the project's background, features, plans, challenges and progress. Chris Lawson, District of Columbia Division Administrator for the Federal Highway Administration, was also present

to offer remarks. The delegation asked a number of thoughtful questions ranging from the length of the bridge and project completion timeline, to how the aesthetics were determined and a number of technical questions regarding design. After the presentation, the group visited the project site to observe the progress that has taken place.

In addition to visiting DDOT to learn about the Frederick Douglass Memorial Bridge project, the delegation also had visits with the Virginia Department of Transportation and federal staff at the Turner-Fairbank Highway Research Center. They also participated in a tour of the express toll lanes along I-95, I-395, and I-495. At the Turner-Fairbank Highway Research Center, the delegation took a tour of the various lab facilities and learned about ongoing research efforts.



Project Engineer Joseph Dorsey speaks to a delegation of engineering professionals from India during their D.C. visit.

BETTER BENEFITS

In an age of rising professional expectations, it's good to know that some of us can still learn "on the job." It's one of those intangible benefits that simply can't be quantified or written in a contract. DDOT's On-The-Job Training and Construction Management Training programs aim to provide a "better benefit" than your typical vacation package: equipping women, minorities, and disadvantaged persons with the skills necessary to compete and thrive in the construction industry.

In August 2017, DDOT, in partnership with South Capitol Bridgebuilders, launched the On-The-Job Training Program to provide training opportunities for women, minorities, and disadvantaged persons to increase their participation in every job classification in the highway construction industry. These jobs range from electrical technicians and cement masons to field office record-keepers and landscape workers. The goal is to successfully place individuals in the program as trainees and to provide them with the required training to reach journeyman status.

In this year's inaugural program, eight students (four of them D.C. residents) working on the Frederick Douglass Memorial Bridge Project successfully completed curriculum in either a design or construction classification and now qualify for full journeyman/employment status. The completion ceremony took place on December 5, 2018.

This year, DDOT also launched the Frederick Douglass Memorial Bridge Construction

Management Training Program, a field service and classroom curriculum that provides accelerated instruction and opportunities for District residents to earn certifications and increase chances of employment in the Construction Management field. The program equips jobseekers with new skills that are in demand and allows them to receive certifications in concrete, soils and aggregate compaction, as well as safety and flagging.

During the orientation for the program in September, Don Edwards, CEO of Justice & Sustainability Associates, which leads and manages the program stated, "This program will help change lives. We are launching this program so that residents East of the River can get jobs and help their families by having transferable skills they can use to gain future employment. Each of you have that opportunity today."

Stay tuned for updates on the cohort in the Spring newsletter.



Don Edwards speaking to the first cohort of students enrolled in the Construction Management Training Program.



Graduates of the Inaugural On-The-Job Training Program.



Specifically, MahoganyBooks aims to meet the literary needs of readers in search of books written for, by, or about people of the African Diaspora, and they believe the Anacostia neighborhood was a perfect community to bring that vision to life.

SMALL BUSINESS HIGHLIGHT:

MAKING THE BRIDGE WITH MAHOGANYBOOKS

Our Small Business Spotlight series is all about sharing the stories of the businesses who will one day reap the rewards of bridged communities, connected neighborhoods, and more streamlined transit. In this first installment, meet an independent community bookstore that's making #Progress in its own right. MahoganyBooks is the result of founders Derrick and Ramunda Young's love for culture, community and literature and their desire to see it empower others as it has empowered them. They share what they are most looking forward to with the remake of the Frederick Douglass Memorial Bridge.

Derrick and Ramunda started their bookstore online 11 years ago with the hope of one day being able to open a brick and mortar store in a community that would embrace their love of books, history and culture just as much as they did. They found that community they now call home for MahoganyBooks a little over a year ago in Anacostia, a neighborhood in Southeast, less than a mile away from the Frederick Douglass Memorial Bridge. The neighborhood where Derrick, a native Washingtonian spent a lot of his childhood visiting his grandparents who lived there, is filled with history and culture.

Specifically, MahoganyBooks aims to meet the literary needs of readers in search of books written

for, by, or about people of the African Diaspora, and they believe the Anacostia neighborhood was a perfect community to bring that vision to life. The couple prides themselves on providing a space that offers a cultural and historical exchange with unique and engaging events as well as a comfortable environment where their customers can sit down and read a book as if they were at home.

On the significance of the bridge to their bookstore, Ramunda stated, "Frederick Douglass was a writer who wrote numerous books that are critical pieces to our community and culture. For us to be across the bridge and have a store that is full of books written by Frederick Douglass and other authors that reflect and represent all of what he fought and stood for and wrote about, I feel like that connects us to him and the bridge itself. It's a full circle."

Be sure to visit MahoganyBooks, which is located within the Anacostia Arts Center at 1231 Good Hope Road, SE Washington, D.C. They also assist corporations, nonprofits and government offices to secure bulk book orders for guest lecturers, professional development, schools and more. You can learn more about them at www.mahoganybooks.com.

#PROGRESSPREVIEW

We've been making progress on all fronts, even though you may not have noticed it all from your corner of the city. Check out the #ProgressPreview below to see what our teams and our communities have been up to. If you want to stay in the know throughout this journey, be sure to sign up for our newsletter at www.newfrederickdouglassbridge.com and follow us on social media @newfdmb. Oh, and you can always catch our teams #IRL at your next public meeting!



Check out the soffit slab as well as the trestle and pile work that's been happening over the past several months to build the foundation for the bridge under the water.

COMMUNITY HIGHLIGHTS

In September, we held community meetings in Ward 6 and Ward 8 to update each community on the progress of the project and what to expect in the coming months. Residents and other interested attendees had an opportunity to ask questions and engage with the project team one-on-one to learn more about this historical project. Join our mailing list at www.newfrederickdouglassbridge.com to be the first to receive community updates.



South Capitol Street Program Manager Delmar Lytle presents opening remarks to Ward 8 residents.



The Walsh Group Design Build Project Manager, Eric Hayes, outlines plans for the bridge at the Ward 8 Community Meeting.



CONSTRUCTION, DECONSTRUCTED

Ramp up your construction knowledge with these definitions and fun facts. Don't forget to take notes - this won't be the last time you hear construction lingo! Stay tuned for news on our upcoming Facebook trivia contest!

A PILE is a long cylinder or pole, which is made of concrete or steel and serves as part of the foundation of a structure. They are hammered into the soft soils beneath the bridge until they reach a hard layer of compacted soil or rock. Once placed, piles act as a steady support for the structure built on top of it.

TRESTLE BRIDGES are temporary bridges built to help facilitate construction of the permanent bridge. Bridge builders use them as a means of support to transport materials, drive piles, and erect the steel arches of the permanent bridge.

THE DECK is the surface of a bridge on which cars, trucks, bicycles and other vehicles ride. It may be constructed of concrete, steel, open grating, or wood. The new bridge uses a suspended bridge deck, which suspends from the main structural elements, the arches.



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