

PEOPLE, PLACES &

# PROGRESS

THE NEW FREDERICK DOUGLASS MEMORIAL BRIDGE

FALL EDITION

## REMAKING THE BRIDGE

BETWEEN  
CULTURES,  
COMMUNITIES,  
AND PEOPLE

### MEET THE APPRENTICE

1-on-1 interview with  
SCB's rising star

### MOVE THIS WAY

CONSTRUCTION IS KICKING OFF! WE'VE  
GOT THE MOVES TO HELP YOU NAVIGATE  
CONGESTION AND GET YOU GOING IN  
THE RIGHT DIRECTION.

## MESSAGE FROM

# THE DIRECTOR

This year marks what would be the 200th birthday of social reformer and community leader, Frederick Douglass. As an icon in our collective American history and an important pillar in our city, it brings us great honor to reconstruct a symbol that commemorates the very ideal Douglass championed: bridging people together.

Mayor Bowser often reminds us that as we approach the great task of rebuilding this 68-year-old memorial over the next 4 years, we should never forget that in the process of laying new bricks and creating better ways of transport, we're doing something much more significant.

Together, under the Mayor's leadership, we're building on the foundation that was laid more than six decades ago by once again utilizing a bridge to unite our cultures, connect our communities, and help our people - young and old - to live better.

Reconstruction of the Frederick Douglass Memorial Bridge is the largest public infrastructure project in the District Department of Transportation's history. A countless number of small, disadvantaged, woman and minority-owned businesses based in our great District will take part in this journey, all contributing a special piece toward the ultimate goal.

From designers to communicators, engineers to inspectors, directors to apprentices, we're remaking the bridge between cultures, communities, and people.

The story we'll write is one steeped in equality and connection, but most importantly - it is rooted in the fundamental and shared theme of progress championed by Mayor Bowser.

This issue of Progress Magazine shares engaging stories on how wastewater management on the project will improve water quality of the Anacostia River, how more than 26 small businesses contributed to the design work of this historic bridge, and finally, how this project is helping a talented D.C. resident transition from apprentice to journeyman.

We hope you'll read each story, become inspired, and consider the progress that you too can achieve toward remaking this bridge alongside us.

**We have to do  
with the past  
only as we can  
make it useful to  
the present and  
the future.**

**FREDERICK DOUGLASS**



*Jeff Marootian*

**Jeff Marootian**

**DIRECTOR, DISTRICT DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

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## FEATURED STORY

# MOVE THIS WAY!

**We're kicking off  
construction to remake a  
68-year-old bridge!**

Here's everything you need to know about upcoming construction and traffic impacts. Learn how we're working to get you where you need to be with a few new surprises along the way.

For more than a decade, planning efforts have been underway to transform the South Capitol Street Corridor into a grand urban boulevard that meets the needs of local residents while redefining its function as one of the prominent gateways to the District.

With this vision in mind, the District of Columbia Department of Transportation (DDOT), in cooperation with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), is remaking the Frederick Douglass Memorial Bridge (FDMB). Through Fall 2018, construction will ramp up to gradually make this vision a reality. Temporary activities include everything from road closures and lane modifications to pavement and sidewalk removal.



# WHAT'S THE 411?

**Here's what to expect over the next several months and how you can prepare:**

- Construction of new Frederick Douglass Memorial Bridge (FDMB) over the Anacostia River.
- Construction of new traffic oval west of the bridge connecting South Capitol Street SE/SW, Potomac Avenue SE/SW, and Q Street SW.
- Construction of a new traffic oval east of the bridge connecting South Capitol Street SE/SW, Suitland Parkway, Anacostia Drive access road, and Howard Road SE.
- Realignment of South Capitol Street SE/SW from Firth Sterling Avenue SE to the traffic oval.
- Reconfiguration of the Interstate I-295 Interchange with Firth Sterling Avenue SE, Suitland Parkway, and Howard Road SE.

## SIDE-BY-SIDE CONSTRUCTION

**As construction ramps up on the new bridge, motorists will be able to continue to use the current bridge.**



## PHASE 1 & 2

# CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY

Here's the bottom line: Construction is kicking off NOW and will take place through March 2019! These areas will be impacted:

### WEST OVAL

- South Capitol Street SE/SW
- Q, R, P and Half Streets
- Potomac Avenue SE

### EAST OVAL

- South Capitol Street SE/SW – Firth Sterling and Anacostia Park

### I-295 CORRIDOR

- Ramp Reconstruction
- Suitland Parkway

Look out for our hard-working crews doing activities like:

- Shoulder lane closures on I-295
- Crosswalk closures
- Sidewalk removal
- Pavement removal
- Median removal
- Traffic shifts east and north

And some things are only temporary: roadway installations, pavement installations, ramp installations.

### WE'VE GOT YOU COVERED

Our plans are designed to keep you safe, ensure traffic flow, and minimize any disruptions to your day! You'll have to bear with us, because a little disturbance is inevitable. Just keep in mind that when it's all complete, you'll be moving in a better and faster direction! In the meantime, we're doing things to mitigate traffic and maintaining accessibility to important landmarks and resources.

For example, temporary roadways and crosswalks will be set up to ensure bicycle and pedestrian access from Nationals Park to the D.C. Streetcar stop near Eaton Road SE and from Nationals Park to the Anacostia Metro Station.

### MORE PLANS TO GET YOU MOVING

- Alternative crosswalks
- Temporary roadways to accommodate the same number of lanes for motorists
- Pavement markings
- Traffic channeling devices
- Road signs
- Traffic advisories and updates
- Pull-off areas
- Temporary traffic signals

**For up to date traffic alerts and more information, follow us on social media at @newfdmb on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.**



# SOUTH CAPITOL STREET

## ROADWAY EXHIBIT

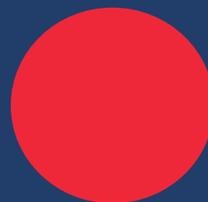
### HERE'S HOW YOU CAN PLAN

It's critical that you tune into special news and announcements regarding traffic, safety and other impacts to your daily commute. Visit our site ([www.ddot.dc.gov](http://www.ddot.dc.gov)) and be sure that you're signed up for alerts. That's where we'll deliver the 411 to you so you can plan ahead to make sure you keep your day moving! Here are some other helpful suggestions:

- Check out our traffic advisories. Visit our site for more information: [www.newfrederickdouglassbridge.com](http://www.newfrederickdouglassbridge.com)
- Look out for new traffic signs marking current and upcoming construction areas
- Pay attention to changes and closures during off-peak hours
- Anticipate ramp closures during off-peak hours

### TRAFFIC ALERTS

**Don't forget to sign up for traffic alerts at [DDOT.DC.GOV](http://DDOT.DC.GOV)**





# DESIGNING HISTORY

**The Frederick Douglass Memorial Bridge has been standing for 68 years. When the city decided to rebuild it, they looked locally for the best and brightest design talent.**

They landed on not one, not two, but 26 Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (DBEs) within the D.C. metropolitan area to design this new DC landmark. They are all working with lead designer AECOM, a multinational engineering firm, which has delivered such major projects as LAX Airport in Los Angeles to the Etihad Towers in the United Arab Emirates. This talented design team is focused on delivering an iconic District landmark that will stand out for generations to come. Read on to learn how DC-based DBE Capitol Development Design, Inc. accepted the challenge to redesign history!

**When my company was first hired to work on this project, I didn't realize that it was the biggest infrastructure project in D.C.'s history. I'm happy, proud, and honored to be a part of it.**

**MARWAN MUSTAFA**

Vice President, Capitol Development Design, Inc.



## Did you know that there's a lot more that goes into the design of a bridge than the architecture?

In addition to the beautiful arches, designing a bridge involves everything from drainage and soil exploration to utility coordination and quality assurance services.

Capitol Development Design, Inc. contributed utility location survey efforts toward the new design of the Frederick Douglass Memorial Bridge. Utility location involves identifying and labeling public utility mains that are underground. More specifically, their survey consisted of locating

the marks placed on the ground by the utility designating personnel and making sure those markings reflected their locations relative to other features like curbs and gutters, manholes, and buildings. On a project of this magnitude, several surveys (taking up to four days to complete each) are conducted throughout the course of the pre-construction phase.

Capitol Development Design was founded in 1994 and specializes in civil design, geotechnical engineering, utility designation, utility test pitting, materials testing and inspections, and other surveying services.



ca. 1950. "A 1950 Pontiac Silver Streak leads the way in a grand procession marking the opening of the now Frederick Douglass Memorial Bridge on South Capitol Street." DDOT DC Historic Photograph Collection.

# THE APPRENTICE

Meet Dontae Faulkner, the newest pile driver apprentice on the Frederick Douglass Memorial Bridge team.

As a longtime resident of Ward 6, Dontae feels great pride in working on a project that will have a tremendous impact on the very city that raised him. We sat down with Dontae to learn more about his apprenticeship and how he's building a future in construction.

## ***Why did you decide to become an apprentice with the District Department of Transportation?***

I have a universal license for HVAC work so I was previously working for an HVAC company. Having a family, I realized that I needed the benefits of being unionized. I want to retire someday and I know that being a part of a union can make that transition easier. There aren't many opportunities out there for those in my field to take part in these benefits, so I went to an open call for a program called Project Empowerment.\* I went in for the interview and out of 60 people, I was one of the seven they chose to hire! I was given the option to pursue a career in pile driving based on my area of interest and my past experience at a construction company doing pile driving work. I later heard about the opportunity to become an apprentice on the Frederick Douglass Memorial Bridge project and jumped right on it!

## ***What do your day-to-day activities look like as a pile driver apprentice?***

My work day begins in the front of the crane, building the trestle to create a foundational bridge. I help to prepare the trestle by making sure the holes that are drilled into the steel support beams are in their proper place. I also cut holes in the steel in a way that makes sure it can hold the weight of the structure. I'm also taking care of all the prep work to ensure the job gets done right.

## ***How long have you been with the program?***

This September marks my third year in the program. I took a pre-apprenticeship class that allowed me to go directly into second year apprenticeship. (The program is four years).

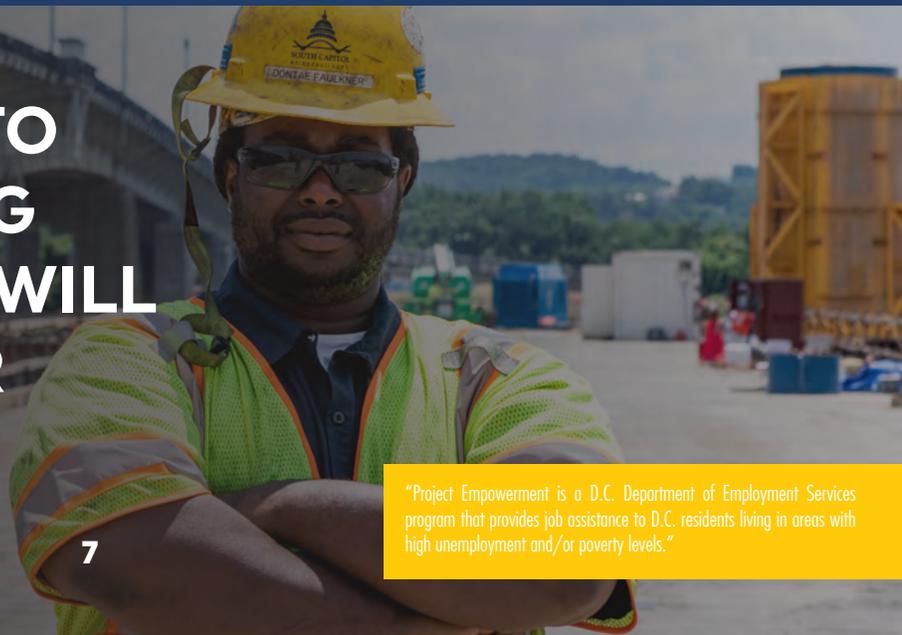
## ***What do you see yourself doing after you complete this project and the program?***

I see myself becoming a full journeyman working in the field. I'm also thinking about going back to school to study engineering. It will give me the ability to see the work from both sides. I'll be able to bridge the gaps between the engineers creating the plans and those working in the field to make those plans come to life.

## ***What does it mean to you as a District resident to be working on a project of this magnitude?***

I have a 12-year-old and she has to travel over this bridge to go to summer camp. I often think to myself if she stays here (in D.C.) when she gets older, she'll be able to say, "Look at what my dad helped to create!" Her kids will be able to say the same thing about their granddad.

**"IT FEELS GOOD TO BUILD SOMETHING THAT YOU KNOW WILL LAST EVEN AFTER YOU'RE GONE."**



# WATERING THE STORM

The rain in DC isn't slowing and neither are our stormwater management efforts. Swim down our river stream of facts to learn more about the impact of stormwater on our city. Read how we're getting ahead of it all to improve the water quality of the Anacostia River.

## THIS IS WHAT HAPPENS WHEN IT RAINS

1

**RAIN FALLS FROM THE SKY AND HITS THE GROUND.**

2

**THE GROUND'S DIRT, GREASE AND CHEMICALS MIX IN WITH THE WATER.**

3

**THE NOW POLLUTED STORMWATER FLOWS INTO SEWERS.**

4

**SEWERS RELEASE UNTREATED AND UNFILTERED WATER INTO RIVERS, LAKES AND STREAMS.**

First, what is stormwater and why does it need to be managed? You'd think that a little rain never hurt, but you'd be surprised at the adverse impact that, when unmanaged, it can have on our environment. Stormwater is excessive rainfall that does not soak into the ground, but instead flows over the land's hard surface into the nearest water body through storm drain channels.

Stormwater is a problem because it carries a lot of pollution along with it wherever it flows. In urban areas such as the District, much of the land is covered by impervious surfaces such as streets, buildings, parking lots and driveways. During rain storms, these impervious surfaces prevent rainfall from soaking into the soil.

Instead, this stormwater drains into man-made drainage systems consisting of inlets and underground pipes commonly referred to as "storm sewers." Stormwater entering storm sewers does not receive any treatment before it enters the Potomac and Anacostia Rivers.

The team behind the construction of the new Frederick Douglass Memorial Bridge is doing its part to implement stormwater management systems that help to improve water quality in a key body of water we'll all eventually drive over every day - the Anacostia River.

Efforts include the new design of green infrastructures and low-impact developments (LIDs). These structures will provide water quality treatment and runoff retention along all roadways currently untreated prior to reaching the Anacostia River. That means no more brown-tinted, chemically-corrupted hydration for our fish. No more wondering how unsafe it might be if a little overflow got into your boat. No more views of a beautiful, yet dirty river.

**Put simply, we're cleaning up our stormwater before it flows any further.**

Want to join us in improving the environment? Visit [doee.dc.gov](http://doee.dc.gov) to learn about how you can implement stormwater practices in your house, school or neighborhoods through the District's RiverSmart program.

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