

PEOPLE, PLACES &

# PROGRESS

THE NEW FREDERICK DOUGLASS MEMORIAL BRIDGE

JUNE 2018 | SPECIAL EDITION



## REMAKING THE BRIDGE

BETWEEN CULTURES,  
COMMUNITIES, AND PEOPLE



## MEET THE TEAM

Exclusive interviews with the men and women behind the District's largest public infrastructure project in history.

68

Age in years of current Frederick Douglass Memorial Bridge

\$441M

Total cost to rebuild it

2021

Estimated year of completion

# THIS IS WHO IT TAKES

TO (RE)MAKE THE BRIDGE  
BETWEEN CULTURES, COMMUNITIES, AND  
PEOPLE. LEARN THEIR ROLES, DISCOVER THEIR  
PASSION, SEE THEIR IMPACT.



"I didn't go into civil engineering to make money; I got into this industry to be a servant."

# DELMAR LYTLE

THE WATCHTOWER AKA "THE DECK"

Delmar Lytle's official title is the South Capitol Street Program Manager. In this role, he ensures the overall project runs smoothly and ultimately the citizens of the District of Columbia get the infrastructure investment that has been entrusted to the contractor to deliver. He sees his role as essentially the person who sits in the watchtower and oversees all the work on the project.

Delmar joined DDOT in September 2014 as program manager for the Anacostia Waterfront Initiative, where he was responsible for overseeing and shepherding the Riverwalk Trail, the South Capitol Trail, Barney Circle the Pennsylvania Avenue – Potomac Avenue intersection and the infancy stages of the new Frederick Douglass Memorial Bridge.

He was then tasked in May 2015 with solely focusing on bringing the bridge to fruition.

When you ask him what it means to him personally to work on a project of this magnitude, he states, "I didn't go into civil engineering to make money; I got into this industry to be a servant. Civil engineers deliver what's necessary for society to survive – bridges, facilities, roadways, storm water and waste water management – the things we often take for granted that many developing countries don't have. Once the bridge is complete it will bring satisfaction to actually see motorists traveling safely across the bridge."

*Delmar moved to the District in 2009 from his hometown in Southern Illinois. He is not from North Carolina like everyone assumes.*

# JOSEPH DORSEY

THE TRESTLE

“I am honored by this opportunity to work on a bridge that connects two parts of the city that are within viewshed of the nation’s most powerful structure – the U.S. Capitol. It’s symbolic of the whole corridor.”



*Joe was born and raised in the District. During his time as a full-time student at Morgan State University, he held down three jobs – a cashier at Shoppers Food Warehouse, optician at Lens Crafters, and a manager at a local urban retailer.*

Joseph “Joe” Dorsey serves as one of the key project engineers where he oversees design, compliance and administrative functions of the project including public information. As a project engineer, he works with the design team and the program manager to identify issues and concerns and coordinates with the appropriate subject matter experts to find the answers. He essentially helps the team find solutions.

As the head of public information, Joe also oversees the Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE), On-the-Job (OTJ) Training, SEP 14 (local hiring preference) Compliance and the construction management contract, which includes engineers, inspection staff, and community outreach personnel. In this respect, he helps the team avoid hurdles by shepherding them through the correct procedures and protocol and aligning them with the appropriate people to engage.

Joe was involved in the early stages of the project where he managed the NEPA (National Environmental Policy Act) environmental assessment, which is required before the design phase. He also contributed to some of the initial phases of the design. He has been with DDOT for 10 years, and most recently served as the supervisory maintenance and operations planner for the Asset Management Division where he oversaw the annual work plans for the maintenance of road work, sidewalks, paving, bridges and alleys. Excited to return to the project, he sees the Frederick Douglass Memorial Bridge as a signature bridge for the city.

Joe studied civil engineering at Morgan State University in Baltimore, MD.



“

ERROL WILLIAMS

IT WILL BE A  
SIGNIFICANT  
ACCOMPLISHMENT  
SIMPLY BECAUSE  
OF WHO THIS  
BRIDGE WAS  
NAMED AFTER.

PROJECT ENGINEER,  
DISTRICT DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

”

# MEET THE ABUTMENTS!

EVERY STRUCTURE NEEDS A SUPPORT SYSTEM, WHICH IF LEFT WITHOUT THE STRUCTURE WOULD NOT EXIST. THE SUPPORT TEAM OF THE FREDERICK DOUGLASS MEMORIAL BRIDGE IS COMPRISED OF RA'ADIA DONNELL, LACRECIA FIELDS AND CLIFFORD LOWERY. EACH OF THEM HAS VERY DIFFERENT ROLES, BUT **THEY WORK TOGETHER TO FORM ONE POWERFUL SUPPORT SYSTEM.**



”[This project] is an opportunity to gain experience, knowledge and growth.”

# RA'ADIA CLOYD

Raàdia Cloyd, who serves as the Office Engineer, is responsible for document control of the project. In this role she is responsible for managing the project library of internal documents and updating materials that will be used in the field, which include permits. Raàdia saw this opportunity to work on the bridge as a chance to transition “from the field to the piles”.

Prior to joining the team for the Frederick Douglass Memorial Bridge she conducted field inspections for the 11th Street bridge. She sees this as an opportunity to gain experience, knowledge and growth. She started off her career in engineering as a draftsman creating engineering drawings and she sees this as her new challenge.

*She loves to conquer new challenges for each of her birthdays. Before her last birthday she spent the year learning how to swim. She's now in pursuit of archery before her next birthday.*

"A native Washingtonian, she's excited to have a hand in building this historic bridge in her city."



# LACRECHIA FIELDS

*She's a self-proclaimed comedian because she loves to keep people laughing. She believes laughter is the best medicine.*

Lacrechia Fields is a project inspector and auditor who is responsible for making sure that the work in the field is being performed properly to meet D.C. specifications. The work she inspects can range from pile driving and concrete placement to utility and roadway work.

Lacrechia began her career in construction at DDOT nearly 20 years ago when she joined an apprenticeship training program established by the Federal Highway Administration and the D.C. Department of Public Works (DPW) to engage women in nontraditional work. Under this program, NEW – nontraditional employment for women, she spent one year in training with 12 other women and the next year she was the only woman hired to work on the Q Street/Dumbarton Bridge. As a native Washingtonian, Lacrechia is excited to have a hand in building this historic bridge in her city.



# CLIFFORD LOWERY

"It's an amazing thing to watch my city transform."

As a civil engineer technician, Clifford Lowery is responsible for performing the testing of quality assurance and quality control in the field. It is his role to ensure the contractor is testing the materials on the job ranging from soil base, to concrete to asphalt per the contract specifications. Prior to joining the Frederick Douglass Memorial Bridge team, Clifford served for 15 years as the president of his union, the AFGE Local 1975 for DOT employees.

He began his government career in 1987 where he worked as a plant inspector for an asphalt and concrete plant through DPW. Clifford states, "Being a lifelong D.C. resident, it's an honor and privilege to be a part of such a historic infrastructure undertaking that will virtually transform that entire part of town. It's an amazing thing to watch my city transform the way it has."

*He is the co-host on an internet politics talk radio show every Wednesday night, which he's currently working to get syndicated to other stations. Many of his friends are journalists and politicians on the Hill, to many people's surprise.*

# An old man going a lone highway,

Came, at the evening cold and gray,  
To a chasm vast and deep and wide.  
Through which was flowing a sullen tide  
The old man crossed in the twilight dim,  
The sullen stream had no fear for him;  
But he turned when safe on the other side  
And built a bridge to span the tide.

"Old man," said a fellow pilgrim near,  
"You are wasting your strength with building here;  
Your journey will end with the ending day,  
You never again will pass this way;  
You've crossed the chasm, deep and wide,  
Why build this bridge at evening tide?"

The builder lifted his old gray head;  
"Good friend, in the path I have come," he said,  
"There followed after me to-day  
A youth whose feet must pass this way.  
This chasm that has been as naught to me  
To that fair-haired youth may a pitfall be;  
He, too, must cross in the twilight dim;  
GOOD FRIEND, I AM BUILDING THIS BRIDGE FOR HIM!

**-The Bridge Builder**  
by **WILL ALLEN DROMGOOLE**

*Good friend, I  
am building this  
bridge for him!*

JUNE 2018

# **(RE) MAKING THE BRIDGE**

*Between cultures,  
communities, and  
people.*

SPECIAL EDITION  
ISSUE