

MAY 2016 NEWSLETTER

Contract for Section 2 of boulevard signed

The \$35M contract for the E. 105th/Quincy to E. 93rd portion of Opportunity Corridor Boulevard was signed in April. Section 2 was bid as a ‘Design-Build’ project, and the bid was awarded based on ‘best value’ rather than ‘least cost’, which enabled ODOT to better evaluate contractors’ approach to the project, particularly with regard to inclusion goals. Construction should start this fall, with 20% of worker hours to be performed by Cleveland residents (the same as Section 1).



There will be 10,000 hours of on-the-job training as well (Section 1 was 8,500).

- 2% New Business
- 8% Local Business
- 2% Small Business
- 8% Other Disadvantaged (EDGE)

The prime contractor for Section 2 is Great Lakes Construction. There are currently 30 subcontractors participating in Section 2, and this number is expected to increase. Many of the subcontractors are minority-owned firms.

Gaining a career, and a promising future

Spotlight on the Corridor is a regular publication produced by consultants from the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) to showcase how neighborhood residents are actively involved in the Opportunity Corridor.



Conley

This installment profiles Ward 4 resident Jeffrey Conley. Mr. Conley has been in an apprenticeship program through road construction contractor McTech Corp. for nearly 10 months. Since starting, his life has begun to transform. He is continually learning various aspects of construction work, and is more financially stable as he expects his first child. At the end of this four-year apprenticeship, Mr. Conley is confident he will be ready for a fulfilling career.

362 residents placed!

Ohio Means Jobs Cleveland-Cuyahoga County (OMJ|CC) has placed a total of 362 residents from Cleveland Wards 4, 5 and 6 into employment since Nov. 2014!



The success has continued into March, as 29 more residents were placed into jobs. Another 23 residents were approved to receive training services, leading to in-demand positions. OMJ|CC outreach also included 8 targeted recruitment sessions for residents. Six residents received supportive services in the month of March. Without these critical supportive services, many residents would not be able to engage in training or accept employment opportunities.



It's All About Building the Relationships

Cleveland has a deep history of grass-roots engagement and resident empowerment. Opportunity Corridor Partnership and Neighborhood Connections' wealth-building initiative, have joined forces to figure out how to use Neighborhood

Connections' resident empowerment approaches with businesses in lower income neighborhoods. For the past several months we have been working on how we can take action together with small business owners to build their participation and engagement with technical assistance providers. First and foremost, it's all about relationships so we designed a 3-hour bus tour that brought together neighborhood business people, technical assistance agency staff and community development corporation (CDC) staff to tour business technical assistance agencies on Cleveland's east side. This format assured the 25 participants really had a chance to get to know one another.

The March tour drew a great group of people with a wide range of businesses including take-out convenience stores, a day care, an interior design, a barber college, a hardware store, and a dry cleaner. Different business stages were represented, from those working out of their homes, to those looking to expand or open a second location, to multi-generational businesses focused on adapting to the new economy. Technical assistance staff from Urban League, SCORE and several local providers traveled on the bus to the four sites where the providers shared details of their programs. For business owners, the goal was to build familiarity and overcome hurdles they may have felt in approaching a technical assistance agency as well as the opportunity to know a little more about what their CDCs could offer. Most importantly, the 3 hours spent on the bus and touring agencies together gave all plenty of informal time to chat. Participants were enthusiastic about how much they learned and the connections they made.



An Inclusive Prosperity Panel Discussion

This panel discussion - 150 Years and Counting: Renewing Our Commitment to Inclusive Prosperity as a Legacy of Freedman's Bank -- highlighted current work, new approaches, and future directions for efforts to build wealth and entrepreneurship in low income urban neighborhoods. Using examples from Cleveland, Detroit and other cities, the panel shared a sense of urgency for the work of community economic wealth building. Over 100 attendees participated in this event, co-sponsored by Operation HOPE Cleveland, PNC Fairfax Connection, Forward Cities, St. Clair Superior Development Corporation, and hosted by Jumpstart, Inc.

Freedman's Bank was established in 1865 to create wealth building opportunities among formerly enslaved African-Americans. The 150th Anniversary of Freedman's Bank establishment is a milestone for renewed commitment to inclusive prosperity. Plan to visit the Money Museum at the Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland to discover the story of the Freedman's Bank and its legacy in a special exhibit on display through December, 2016.

Connecting Neighborhoods to Regional Economy

In a March Brookings Institution analysis, the Cleveland metropolitan area ranks high nationally for its percentage of residents living in poverty.

In a Plain Dealer interview, Fund for Our Economic Future president Brad Whitehead said the report spoke to the need to connect neighborhoods with high concentrations of poverty to the regional economy. "Too often they are treated like island economies," he said. "It requires an intentional effort to see that they are better connected. We must ensure that our job creation efforts reach into, and are connected with, these neighbors. We have to ensure that our job preparation and job training is linking the rest of these communities to opportunities, especially better job access."