



Spotlight on the Corridor



CLEVELAND

By Valerie C. Smart

OC Communications Consultant



James Russell

A Regular Guy who Believes in an A-1 Job and Integrity

James Russell, a Cleveland native, who describes himself as, “just a regular guy...” is the Work Zone Supervisor for the Opportunity Corridor, which is a three-mile boulevard being constructed on Cleveland’s eastside. Mr. Russell, who currently resides in the Buckeye-Woodhill neighborhood surrounding the Corridor, has over 20 years of experience in construction. He acquired this position in March 2015 through a connection with Mark Perkins of the joint venture McTech-Perk who leads the construction of Section 1 of the Corridor.

As the Work Zone Supervisor, Mr. Russell does not take lightly his position. “I set-up the zones that cars travel through that make things less hectic for the road users and pedestrians. Everyone’s safety is of the utmost importance, and I work 7 days a week to do my job to the best of my ability. My motto is, *An A-1 Job and Integrity is a Must,*” said Mr. Russell. Although most of his job is minimizing the effects of work zone activities on the pedestrians and road users, Mr. Russell has an up-close advantage to seeing the benefits of the Corridor.

Because of the Corridor project, “I receive ongoing training that not only benefits me but the safety of those on the Corridor. The new water and gas mains, and volts and electrical conduits are also a benefit to the community. The widening of the road will provide better access and mobility to pedestrians and road users,” Mr. Russell said.

Even with the responsibility of safety at the forefront of his daily activities, Mr. Russell still finds time to enjoy raising his kids, watching television and barbecuing. As he said, “I’m just a regular guy.”

For more stories like this one and to find out additional information about the Opportunity Corridor go to <http://opportunitycorridor.transportation.ohio.gov/>