Construction for the third and final section of the Opportunity Corridor that will connect East 55th Street at Interstate I-490 to East 105th in University Circle is well underway. As major construction continues, I-490 will remain closed until 2021. Detour signs are dominantly displayed directing traffic to Woodland or Carnegie avenues to access East 55th Street. North and southbound traffic on East 55th Street will remain open. Specific detours are as follows:

**I-77 northbound detour to East 55th Street northbound:**
- Exit at East 22nd Street / East 14th Street
- Keep left onto East 14th Street
- Keep right onto East 18th Street
- Turn right on Carnegie Avenue to East 55th Street

**I-77 northbound detour to East 55th Street southbound:**
- Exit at Woodland Avenue / East 30th Street
- Keep right onto Woodland Avenue to East 55th Street

**I-77 southbound detour to East 55th Street:**
- Exit at Woodland Avenue / East 30th Street
- Keep left onto Woodland Avenue to East 55th Street

**East 55th Street detour to I-490 westbound:**
- West on Woodland Avenue to East 30th Street

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**Opt-in for Opportunity Corridor and the opportunities it provides**

**I-490 Closure Update**

Karlos Mills, a ward 6 resident, is no run-of-the-mill laborer. The Shaw High School graduate and five-year army veteran was intently focused on overcoming the many life obstacles that blocked his path. In 1994, Karlos, a husband and father of two, successfully joined a program that helped troubled vets get back on their feet. Within a few months he got a job with the East Cleveland Water Department where he developed an expertise in pipe and valve repair work.

Eventually Karlos joined Laborers Union 860, and enjoyed a steady paycheck as a pipe fitter. In 2017 he was laid off from Noce Construction, which had teamed up with the minority run Amroc Construction to work on various building projects in Cleveland.

Fortunately right at that time an Opportunity Corridor newsletter caught Karlos' attention. He read an announcement about a Career Awareness Session designed to introduce attendees to the jobs available through Opportunity Corridor and careers in the construction industry.

"I went to the meeting and was hired by Chieftain Trucking and Excavating Company almost on the spot," he said. "I’m a card carrying union member, and have a good reputation. Don’t be discouraged, face your challenges and you will come out a stronger person. Don’t ever spoil second chances.”

After the Section 2 project was done, Karlos was contacted by his former employer, Noce Amroc to come back to work, where he continues to be gainfully employed.
Collaborating With Community Partners

The OC3 Kokosing Design-Build team along with community partner the Urban League of Greater Cleveland held a Workforce and Construction Opportunity Fair on June 4, 2019 at the Urban League’s Prospect Avenue office. The program is designed to provide OC3 project updates and information to the public, as well as provide on-the-job training project opportunities. Guest speakers included representatives from the Cleveland office of the Minority Business Assistance Center, the Urban League of Greater Cleveland, ODOT, Kokosing Construction, Michael Baker International, Independence Excavating, and the Cement Masons Local 404. Speakers shared with prospective contractors, workers, and residents on how to engage with their firms individually as well as with the OC3 project. A special shout out to Mike Walter of the Cement Masons for representing Cleveland’s local unions.

Connecting with the Community

As construction progress moves forward on Opportunity Corridor Boulevard, neighborhood signature events are a mainstay and continue to play an integral role in the community. In Ward 4, long-term Councilman Kenneth L. Johnson says “it’s great to see continuous progress and improvement and it’s a good thing when transportation is made easier and more accessible, it increases the potential for economic growth and new job creation.” Councilman Johnson is also part of the City of Cleveland’s Transportation Committee. A staple of Ward 4 is the Kenneth L. Johnson Recreational Center on Woodland Avenue which provides city youth with organized and outdoor sports, as well as computer training programs for residents. The summer is off to a big splash as residents enjoy the newly renovated water park.

The City of Cleveland’s Ward 5 Councilwoman Phyllis Cleveland is a champion and supporter of the Opportunity Corridor and hopes that it will inspire economic development and create jobs in the neighborhood known as the “forgotten triangle.” “I will continue to work with the Community Development Corporations (CDC) to attract retail, small businesses and corporations to our area that will provide jobs for our residents and change the trajectory of our future. The transportation inconvenience that the new construction brings is challenging, but we are looking ahead at the benefits that the Opportunity Corridor will bring,” stated Councilwoman Cleveland. The Opportunity Corridor did not deter resident from coming out and enjoying a fun-filled day of family activities and community resources at Ward 5’s 14th Annual Community Festival held on June 29, 2019.

The renaissance that is taking place in Ward 6 is exciting and is indicative of what’s happening throughout the City of Cleveland’s communities. Ward 6 Councilman Blaine A. Griffin recently hosted the Annual Larchmere PorchFest, a one-day free event that promotes unity in the community through arts and music to combat community deterioration and build cohesion. Ward 6 is one of the most diverse wards in the city and the connectivity and transportation benefits that the Opportunity Corridor will provide residents, businesses, and our visitors will improve cross-cultural relations even more,” commented Councilman Griffin. He is also chairman of the city’s Health and Human Services Committee.

Opt-In For Opportunity Corridor
**FREE Career Development Workshops**

Don’t miss out on the next Opportunity Corridor Section 3 Project’s (OC3) FREE Career Development Workshop Series; Creating Opportunity & Improving Your Job Skills. The Workforce Development series is a community initiative by the Kokosing Design-Build team with Wyatt Brownlee, the Diversity and Inclusion Outreach Consultant for OC3.

The workshops are designed to provide community residents with the necessary job preparedness skills that are essential in today’s competitive job market.

**Veterans have access to FREE transportation while participating in workshops**

**Workshop Dates:**
- Sept 9 – Sept 26, 2019
- Jan 13 – Jan 30, 2020

Workshops are expected to take place daily, Monday through Thursday from 1 p.m. until 3 p.m. and will run three consecutive weeks. There are no weekend workshops (Friday, Saturday or Sunday).

The workshops are facilitated by Maurice Stevens, OC3 Workforce Development Specialist, and sessions are planned throughout 2019.

Registration will be required by contacting Maurice Stevens, at 330-687-6129. Parking is free and refreshments will be available.

At the conclusion of the workshop is a job fair.

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**Kokosing Design-Build Team Subcontractor Mentoring Program**

In collaboration with the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT), the Kokosing Design-Build-Team (Kokosing DBT) developed a Diversity Inclusion Outreach Plan and Strategy to mentor new, small, local and EDGE (NSLE) sub-contracting and sub-consulting firms. Brownstone Grey, LLC, as part of the Kokosing DBT serves as the project’s Diversity, Inclusion and Outreach Consultant (DIOC) and is responsible for managing the project’s Diversity, Inclusion and Outreach Plan (DIOP). The program will be administered and facilitated by Brownstone Grey, Artessa Building Group, and SCORE Cleveland over the life of the project. SCORE Cleveland will be the primary mentoring component of this team.

Founded in 1965, SCORE Cleveland (Service Core of Retired Executives) is a national organization and resource partner of the SBA (Small Business Administration). It provides free unlimited mentoring and business workshops to Northeastern Ohio residents by using a 100% volunteer team. The Cleveland chapter has over 60 volunteers from diverse business backgrounds.

The goal of the program is to help grow NSLE in size and scale by greatly enhancing their capability and capacity as a business to handle increasingly significant projects, including prequalification in new categories. The process begins with the Kokosing DBT identifying four businesses participating on the project including one small business, one new business, one local business and one EDGE business. At least one construction company and one design firm will be selected from the committed four companies. The Kokosing DBT will select these businesses based on; 1) their willingness to participate in the mentorship program and 2) an initial analysis that the Kokosing DBT plans to conduct to establish baseline information for all subcontracting partners meeting the required criteria.

For additional information and details please contact, Wyatt Brownlee, President of Brownstone Grey LLC at (216) 526-8693 or email at wb@brownstonegreyllc.com

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**Stay In The Loop**

The Opportunity Corridor Inclusion Advisory Committee (OCIAC) provides the community with updates and information on OC3’s progress. The committee is comprised of a diverse group of government officials, corporate and community members, residents and stakeholders that meet monthly. OCIAC works with entities who have close ties and interests with the Opportunity Corridor while supporting its diversity and inclusion efforts.

Meeting Location: **Friendly Inn, 2386 Unwin Road, Cleveland, Ohio 44104.**

**REMAINING MEETING DATES AND TIMES FOR 2019:**
- August 21 (1:30p - 3p)    Sept 18 (1:30p - 3p)
- October 16 (3:30p - 5p)   Dec 18 (1:30p - 3p)

**Note:** The Committee will not meet in November
Artessa Building Group, LLC is a NEW company based on the criteria of being established within five years of performing work or have never worked on a project for ODOT.

Joe Lopez, President of Artessa Building Group, LLC, is working in conjunction with Brownstone Greystone, LLC, lead Diversity and Inclusion partners to Kokosing Construction Company’s OC3 Design-Build team to aid in the development of new, small, local, and EDGE (NSLE) firms committed to the project.

Through the business development efforts of the Artessa Group and Brownstone Greystone, Eli Trucking, a New firm, is currently working hard on the OC3 project providing professional hauling services. Artessa’s collaboration with local union leadership, the Spanish American Committee, the Hispanic Business Center, SCORE, Urban League and other stakeholders is proving beneficial in increasing NSLE participation.

“The pool of talented firms in Northeast Ohio is abundant,” said Mr. Lopez. “With the collaboration and commitment of ODOT, Kokosing Construction and others, engagement and success are achievable. Local, state and national attention is on Ohio’s Opportunity Corridor and through a local unified effort we will set the benchmark in developing higher standards for others to emulate. Our goal is to identify, develop, enhance and create sustainable firms for this project and beyond.”

Joe Lopez