

DBE SPOTLIGHT:

TREKNOT ORGANIZATION, IBERIA MILES

Iberia Miles and her son Alphonzo Hampton founded TreKnot in 2014. TreKnot, formed out of a combination of her son's nicknames, was legacy-driven from the beginning. Not just for her family, but for the small businesses for which she advocates. TreKnot's primary goal: to help small businesses get work and people get jobs.

"We found that because we're a small business we know the challenges of small businesses. The number one challenge in this arena is getting them in front of the decision makers for large projects such as the Frederick Douglass Memorial Bridge project. They need a point person, an advocate to help them get a foot in the door that otherwise would always be closed to them. When we help them get through the door, they get a contract. Making that difference for a small business is what makes all that we do worthwhile."

Since their work began on the New Frederick Douglass Memorial Bridge project in September 2019, TreKnot has provided oversight and reporting tools for the Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) and On-the-Job-Training (OJT) Programs. They're also in the process of vetting and providing an introduction to businesses in the District that have the skill sets and resources to support the bridge project.

"We've wanted to work on this project since the beginning. As a long-time resident of this area, the District holds a special place in my heart. We wanted to create a collaborative effort that provides a win-win for everyone – both the bridge and the hard-working small business owners who have a lot of offer. We're building something big here and it requires teamwork."

In addition to federal and local regulation compliance, small business vetting and reporting services, TreKnot also has an expertise in process management, administrative support, community outreach and workforce development. They are currently working on projects that include the I-295 Malcolm X revitalization project in the District, the Hampton Roads Bridge Tunnel expansion project in Virginia Beach, VA; and the Clean Water Partnership

with Prince George's County. Additionally, for the last three years in a row, TreKnot has worked with the Anacostia Waterfront Initiative to produce the District Department of Transportation's DBE Summit, the largest DBE event in the District.

Fun Fact

This is not Iberia's first bridge project. She also worked as a contractor on the 11th Street Bridge project.

