



Josh Littleton, Carpenter for Bell & Associates Construction on the I-40/White Bridge Road/Robertson Road/Briley Parkway Phase Two Interchange Modification project in Nashville

Josh Littleton

Standing atop a pier on White Bridge Road, 24-year old Josh Littleton skillfully directs a massive 60,000 pound bridge beam into place on a narrow pier located high above Robertson Road in west Nashville. It's a familiar scene for Josh who helped build the first phase of the I-40 interchange modification project back in 2004-2005. "It was my first job. I hired out of high school on the first phase and I'm glad to be back working

to finish the project." Littleton said.

The job came at a good time for Josh. With work scarce, Josh and his co-workers were lucky to work 20 hours a week. "I needed a job, so it helped me out a whole lot," said Littleton. But Littleton sees more than just a paycheck with this project, "It's helping me build character. If you enjoy what you're doing, you work hard at it and you strive to do better it builds character in a person."

Back atop the pier, the delicate dance of workers, cranes and massive beams has drawn the attention of some Nashvillians, with at least one father spending a morning watching the work with his young son. But Josh says it's hard to notice the people on the ground when you're performing one of the most dangerous jobs in highway construction. "We are all very safety oriented. The team, looks out for each other and we stay focused." Standing on a pier only five feet across with a 60,000 pound beam swinging into place may be dangerous, but Josh says he loves his job. "It's rewarding work. Years down the road you can look back and say, 'I helped build this.'"

It's one of many projects Littleton will help build. Bell and Associates is also training Josh to be a foreman.

The I-40/Briley Parkway/White Bridge Rd. interchange improvement project is the second most expensive Recovery Act funded project in Tennessee at \$32 million and one of the largest in scope. When it's finished the improved interchange will reduce congestion and improve the commute of thousands of people each day.