

TRANSPORTATION NOTICE Pyramid Highway/US 395 Connection Project Notice of Availability of Final Environmental Impact Statement

The Regional Transportation Commission of Washoe County (RTC), in cooperation with the Nevada Department of Transportation (NDOT) and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), has prepared a Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) that addresses the potential impacts of the Pyramid Highway/US 395 Connection Project in Washoe County, Nevada. Alternatives evaluated in the FEIS included Pyramid Highway improvements between Queen Way and Calle de la Plata and a new connection between Pyramid Highway and US 395 (referred to as the US 395 Connection). The US 395 Connection would start at Pyramid Highway either near Disc Drive or Sparks Boulevard, run west to Sun Valley Boulevard along three alternative alignments (On-Alignment, Off-Alignment, or Ridge Alignment), cross Sun Valley Boulevard at either a northern or southern location, and terminate at the US 395/Parr Boulevard interchange, which would be modified to accommodate the new US 395 Connection. Alternatives to access the new US 395 Connector in the Sun Valley area included a new interchange on Sun Valley Boulevard or immediately west of Sun Valley Boulevard in the area of the planned West Sun Valley arterial roadway.

While the alternatives evaluated in the FEIS followed the same alignments as those evaluated in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement, design elements of the FEIS alternatives were modified based on updated traffic data. The road improvements now are designed as arterial-type facilities instead of freeway-type facilities, which allows for narrower roadway footprints and an overall downsizing of the alternatives. Other design changes included eliminating all frontage roads and several interchanges previously proposed along Pyramid Highway. As a result of the analyses conducted in the FEIS, Arterial Alternative 3 has been identified as the preferred alternative. This alternative includes arterial improvements on existing Pyramid Highway, with the US 395 Connection starting near Sparks Boulevard and running along a ridge alignment, with a southern crossing of Sun Valley Boulevard.

THE FEIS IS NOW AVAILABLE FOR REVIEW. You can review the FEIS in several ways during the comment period that begins June 29, 2018 and ends July 30, 2018, as listed below:

FEIS viewing locations:

- Spanish Springs Library, 7100A Pyramid Lake Highway, Sparks, Nevada
- Sparks Library at 1125 12th Street, Sparks, Nevada
- Sun Valley General Improvement District Offices at 5000 Sun Valley Boulevard, Sun Valley, Nevada
- RTC Offices at 1105 Terminal Way, Suite 108, Reno, Nevada
- NDOT District II offices, 310 Galletti Way, Sparks, Nevada
- RTC's website at: <u>www.pyramidus395connection.com</u>
- NDOT's website at: <u>https://www.nevadadot.com/doing-business/about-ndot/ndot-divisions/engineering/environmental-services/environmental-documents-and-projects</u>

Copies of the FEIS are also available by request from NDOT Headquarters, Environmental Services Division, Room 104, 1263 S. Stewart St., Carson City, NV 89712; telephone: (775) 888-7013.

You may submit comments on the FEIS at any time during the official public comment period in the following ways: Mail your comments to Steve Cooke, Environmental Services Chief, NDOT, 1263 S. Stewart St., Carson City, NV 89712, FAX your comments to Steve Cooke at (775) 888-7104, or email your comments to Steve Cooke at <u>SCooke@dot.nv.gov</u>. All comments must be received by July 30, 2018 to be considered as part of the official project record.

IF RIGHT-OF-WAY IS NEEDED: The Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970 will govern the acquisition of any right-of-way necessary for this project. More detailed information on right-of-way acquisition and relocation assistance can be obtained by calling or visiting the Nevada Department of Transportation, Right-of-Way Office, 1263 South Stewart Street, Room 320, Carson City (775) 888-7480.

After comments on the FEIS are received and considered, FHWA will prepare a Record of Decision (ROD) that will provide responses to comments, and identify the Selected Alternative for the Pyramid Highway/US 395 Connection Project improvements and the basis for its selection. The ROD will conclude the NEPA process for this project. Public and agency involvement will continue as appropriate as the project moves into the final design and construction phases.