

Way to Go

A WARM AND HELPING HAND

Not used to extreme Nevada temperatures, Hawaii resident Frank Kohler found himself traveling through Tonopah on his motorcycle without warm-weather clothing. Luckily, Tonopah Landscape Crew 147's **Pat Murray** saw him at a rest stop and offered hot water and a pair of gloves to warm the traveler's freezing hands.

"Mr. Murray has a great and helpful attitude. It is wonderful to know you have employees of his character and kindness working for you!"

HELPING THE COMMUNITY

NDOT employees work hard to help citizens with any freeway issues or concerns. One employee in particular, District 1 Maintenance Supervisor **Sam Ball**, was recently thanked for his dedicated assistance.

"Sam is an excellent ambassador and point of contact for the citizens of Las Vegas. He has taken extra effort and time to ensure that I am updated on every step of his efforts to resolve the issues brought to his attention," Las Vegas resident Michael Lee said.

STRETCHING FOR SAFETY

Sometimes, safety is just a stretch away. Every year, District 1 training pros Russ Brisebill and Chris Cosio bring safe stretch training to each district maintenance station. The one-hour training illustrates safe lifting procedures and how stretching before work helps reduce accidents and injury.

"Stretching before work improves flexibility and strengthens reflexes. It's an important start to the workday," Cosio explains.

Those interested can find stretching exercises posted on the Safety SharePoint site at <http://sharepoint1/078/default.aspx>. Remember to carefully undertake any exercise!

WIPING OUT GRAFFITI



In District 1, graffiti is an ever-escalating and dangerous crime, as evidenced by a recent shoot-out of two rival Las Vegas graffiti gangs.

When the NDOT Graffiti Abatement Team quickly provided photos of incriminating graffiti placed on NDOT roadways just prior to the shooting, the evidence helped secure the vandals' indictment by grand jury. "The community is now safer due to the teamwork demonstrated by the NDOT Graffiti Removal Program members," a commendation from Las Vegas Metro Police said.

Pictured above, the team accepts congratulations from NDOT Deputy Director Rudy Malfabon (pictured third from left). The teams' names are withheld to protect identities while they wage the fight against vandalism.

Welcome

Mizuho Anderson, *Carson City*
 Jason Atkin, *Ely*
 Michael Bishop, *Reno*
 Sean Johnson, *Reno*
 Mark Kalling, *Carson City*
 Cameron Lewis, *Ely*
 Justin Manning, *Ely*
 Fady Mehanna, *Carson City*
 Victoria Ostin, *Carson City*
 Gerald Smith, *North Fork*

Thanks for Serving!

Diane Currier, 22 years, *Carson City*
 Carol Davis, 32 years, *Carson City*
 Monty Reber, 30 years, *Mt. Charleston*
 Kenneth Swanson, 26 years, *Carson City*
 Rick Washer, 28 years, *Reno*



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CUTTING THE RIBBON ON U.S. 95 IMPROVEMENTS

NDOT's U.S. 95 widening project in northwest Las Vegas recently reached a milestone with completion of Rancho Drive-area improvements that allow for smoother "Spaghetti Bowl" travel.

The opening of a wider U.S. 95 bridge over Rancho Drive and new connector ramps between Rancho Drive and I-15, all brought together by a new Rancho Drive single point urban interchange, were recently celebrated with a ribbon-cutting ceremony. Representatives of both Nevada's Congressional delegation and Governor Jim Gibbons were joined by Clark County Commissioner Lawrence Weekly and City of Las Vegas Councilmembers Lois Tarkanian and Larry Brown at the event.

"This is a wonderful day in the city of Las Vegas," Commissioner Weekly said of the road improvements. "Words are not enough to express our gratitude to all the people of NDOT."

NDOT Director Susan Martinovich spoke of teamwork during the ribbon-cutting ceremony. "The key to the project's success was Resident Engineer Tim Ruguleiski and his staff, as well as Project Manager John Terry," Martinovich explained.

The new improvements were part of phase 3C of the U.S. 95 widening project. The phase's reconstruction of the U.S. 95 bridge over Rancho Drive helped add capacity lanes to the freeway. Meanwhile, improvements to the I-15/Rancho Drive connector ramps help eliminate the weave of traffic. Soundwalls and



From left to right, Clark County Commissioner Lawrence Weekly, NDOT Director Susan Martinovich and City of Las Vegas Councilmembers Lois Tarkanian and Larry Brown cut the ribbon on Rancho Drive-area improvements to U.S. 95.

Intelligent Transportation System improvements were also part of phase 3C. The improvements will make for a safer, more efficient drive for the over 200,000 vehicles daily who travel U.S. 95 between Rancho Drive and Martin L. King Boulevard. Frehner Construction began the approximately \$63 million phase of construction in June 2005.

Phase 3C improvements signal near-completion of the overall U.S. 95 project. The entire project, which expands the freeway between Martin L. King Boulevard and Craig Road, is expected to complete at the end of the year. Continuing are phase 4B and 5, which widen the freeway from east of Valley View Boulevard to the Rainbow Boulevard interchange. Nevada's first high-occupancy vehicle, or HOV, carpool lanes will also be included as part of the improved U.S. 95 corridor. The entire \$500 million U.S. 95 widening project was funded by a combination of federal and state dollars.



GOLFING FOR A GOOD CAUSE



The foursome of John Greene, Dave Manning, Scott Bohemier and Larry Kelly (pictured left to right) took first place in the charitable tournament.

The NDOT Golf League recently hit the golf green to raise some green for charity.

The league's 29th Annual Dick Morris Memorial Golf Tournament raised \$9,441 for the Children's Heart Foundation of Nevada. Nearly 150 participants joined in the tournament, which was won by the foursome of Larry Kelly, John Greene, Dave Manning and Scott Bohemier. Held at the Dayton Valley Golf and Country Club, the annual event memorializes Dick Morris, a former NDOT employee who passed away from a heart condition.

Nearly 100 Nevada businesses and NDOT employees generously donated to help the event raise money for the Children's Heart Foundation, a foundation aimed at improving the care and quality of life for Nevada children who are born with or develop heart problems. The foundation's services include providing a carefree camp experience for children with heart conditions, supporting pediatric cardiology education and research, and lending support to families dealing with a child's heart problem.

"Once again, NDOT employees joined in to generously help a great cause," Kent Steele, event organizer and NDOT project scoping employee, said.

DIVE INTO THE NDOT FAMILY SUMMER BASH

The 5th annual NDOT family picnic is coming Saturday, July 14 to Bowers Mansion Park in the picturesque Washoe Valley.

Picnic fun includes delicious barbecue food, volleyball and watermelon-eating, tug-of-war and water bucket relay contests, as well as a swimming pool, playground, bounce house and face painting for

children. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for children. Family tickets are just \$30. Every ticket purchased can be entered for a raffle for free gift cards, dining and entertainment giveaways.

For tickets, contact (775) 691-7887 or (775) 691-8024 in Reno, or (775) 888-7123 or (775) 888-7498 in Carson City.

NDOT CELEBRATES OUR SERVICE MEMBERS

NDOT was recently recognized for going above and beyond to support employees' service to the National Guard and Reserve.

The Nevada Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) selected NDOT to compete nationally for the "Freedom Award" for providing exceptional support to employees serving in the National Guard and Reserve. The award recognizes supportive military leave policies and supervisor training, as well as emotional support shown to deployed reserve military employees, such as e-mail communication and service flags proudly displayed for deployed members by certain divisions. ESGR will announce national 2007 "Freedom Award" recipients this summer.

NDOT was also one of 21 Nevada organizations to receive the "Above and Beyond" Award for surpassing the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA) law that protects Guard and Reserve members from employment discrimination and continues certain benefits during deployment.

"Keeping your health and employment benefits really helps when you are deployed," NDOT Graphic Technician and Air Force Reserve member Michelle Austin explained. "It gives you peace of mind about your job back home."



From right to left, Governor Jim Gibbons joins NDOT Assistant Director of Administration Robert Chisel, NDOT Graphics Technician and Air Force Reserve member Michelle Austin, NDOT Assistant Director of Operations Rick Nelson, and Nevada ESGR Chair Dixie Sue Allsbrook in accepting the "Above and Beyond" Award.

See the upcoming Centerline for information about NDOT team members serving in the National Guard and Reserve.

The Point of No Return. The point of no return happens when an action is too late to change. Take another look at your job tasks and procedures and don't pass into the danger zone!



TRANSPORTATION CONFERENCE ROLLS INTO LAS VEGAS

The NDOT Bridge Division is getting a head start on new federal bridge design requirements scheduled to go into effect for bridges designed after October 1, 2007.

The Federal Highway Administration requires the use of the AASHTO Load and Resistance Factor Design (LRFD) Specifications on the new structures, specifications which provide for uniform levels of safety for all bridge elements and take into account the variability of bridge loads in a more precise manner.

The new design requirements have already been used in designs for newly-advertised contracts, and NDOT bridge designers and geotechnical engineers have been undergoing training on the new methods.

"The LRFD code typically results in relatively minor changes in structural detailing, such as size, spacing and amount of rebar," NDOT Chief Structures Engineer Mark Elicegui explained.

He added that the new requirements will not change NDOT inspection or maintenance practices, practices that contributed to Nevada bridges recently being named the nation's best by Better Roads magazine.

Vital topics and solutions for the nation's western transportation system will be discussed in Las Vegas when NDOT hosts the Western Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials' (WASHTO) Annual Meeting July 7 through 11.

The event is expected to bring up to 400 western-states transportation officials to Las Vegas to discuss transportation issues, from tolling and public-private partnerships to maintenance activities and work zone safety.

While the finishing touches, such as convention center layouts and a network of dedicated and cost-saving NDOT volunteers, are now being put on the event, behind-the-scene preparations have been underway for awhile.

"We've developed this event over the last few years, from finding the most practical convention center rates to researching the best elements of previous WASHTO conferences," NDOT Executive Assistant Holli Chavez explained. "This event will allow us to discuss transportation solutions in an environment that truly reflects Nevada."

The honor of hosting the WASHTO Annual Meeting rotates between each of the organization's 18 member states. Registration, sponsorship and exhibitor fees all offset the cost of hosting the event. Further information is available at www.washto2007.org.

BRIDGES TO THE FUTURE



THE ROCK OF AGES

From 1955 through his December 2006 retirement, Bob Shepherd loyally served the Department with a 50+-year career of construction and bridge inspection, including inspection of the state's first pre-stressed concrete beams.

Now, the NDOT icon has received his own monument, a desert pink sandstone rock that was recently dedicated and placed in the District 1 office rock garden.

District 1 team members donated \$300 to have the rock inscribed with a tribute to the NDOT employee's long-term dedication to the department.

"He was remarkable," Elizabeth Jackson of Crew 902 explained.



Pictured left to right, Crew 902 Assistant Resident Engineer Rick Gainer, Crew 902 Resident Engineer Mike Johnson, Assistant District 1 Engineer Mohamed Rouas, Bob Shepherd and Crew 902 Assistant Resident Engineer Elizabeth Jackson.



SAFETY SIGNS