

Way to Go

CHANGING LANES

In the heart of Las Vegas, U.S. 95 improvements are one of NDOT's most vital congestion-relieving projects. Recent lane changes allowed motorists to easily use the roadway while construction continued.

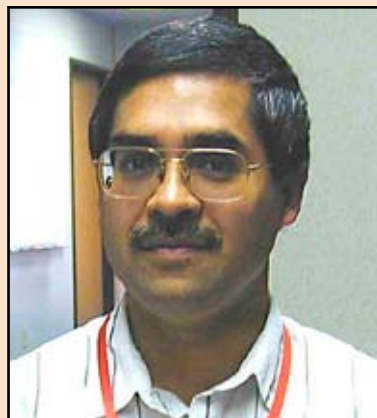
"The lane changes keep the traffic going without disruption. The planning and progress are to be complimented on," a recent e-mail thank-you read.

FOR A GOOD CAUSE

Following flooding in the Valley of Fire, Glendale Crew 124 members **MaryAnn Sharp, Ray Lovins, Martin Avila, Oscar Henderson, Andy Green, Mike Thorness** and **Ed Michael** repaired and swept the roadway.

The cleaning cleared the way for the National Multiple Sclerosis Society's Bike Tour fundraising event held just following the flooding.

"Thank you to your wonderful team for getting I-15 ready for our cyclists," National Multiple Sclerosis Society Special Events and Development Coordinator Nicole Rainey said.



A NEW PTOE

District 1 Assistant Traffic Engineer Karim Yousuf is one of NDOT's many certified professionals after receiving his Professional Traffic Operations Engineer certification. The certification recognizes just over 1,500 certified Professional Traffic Operations Engineers nationwide with the specialized traffic operations knowledge and skills needed to safeguard life, health and property.

SNOW-BE-GONE

During cold northern Nevada winters, dedicated NDOT snow removal efforts make local resident Terri Elmore's daily commute between Silver City and Reno much safer.

"I was surprised to see how well the highways were maintained during an extremely cold and wet night. Thank you for making driving much safer for everyone," the commuter recently wrote.

"I want to thank you for the condition of the roads this morning. Keep up the great work," another area resident, Monica Gordey of Reno, also wrote in thanks.

COUNTING THE THANKS

NDOT main headquarters' telephone line receives many important questions every day. One NDOT professional fielding the calls is **Customer Services Manager Ed Wilson**. Ed was thanked recently for assisting Jon Sandler of Clear Channel Communications with a request for in-depth traffic counts.

"He was truly a joy to deal with on an important project."

Welcome to NDOT

Arthur Center – Panaca
David Cosio – Las Vegas
Randy Foster – Las Vegas
Donald Hilton – Reno
Jerry Hoover – Reno
Randall Hummer – Reno
Michael Kinder – Carson City
Ray Luciani – Carson City

Thanks for Serving!

Darrel Hadley, 25 years, Las Vegas
Douglas Harris, 26 years, Reno
Ronald Saunders, 30 years, Carson City
Thomas Sorhouet, 29 years, Tonopah



Centerline is published by The Nevada Department of Transportation

Meg Mincolla
Public Information Officer
1263 South Stewart Street
Carson City, Nevada 89712
(775) 888-7172

Governor Jim Gibbons
Transportation Board Chairman

Members:

Brian K. Krolicki
Lieutenant Governor
Catherine Cortez Masto
Attorney General
Kim Wallin
State Controller
Jim Thornton
Tom Gust
Fr. Caesar Caviglia

Susan Martinovich, P.E.
Director
www.nevadadot.com



News stories may be reproduced with credit to Nevada Department of Transportation.



NEVADA BRINGS NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION TO LAS VEGAS



A federal commission recently met in Las Vegas to discuss creative ways to keep freeway traffic, and funding, running smoothly in the future.

The national transportation spotlight recently focused on Nevada with a Las Vegas hearing of the National Surface Transportation Policy and Revenue Study Commission to discuss vital transportation issues.

"The Nevada Department of Transportation has taken the lead in identifying the transportation needs for the state, especially in the Las Vegas Valley, and it is quite an accomplishment for NDOT to bring this hearing to southern Nevada," Governor Jim Gibbons said.

NDOT Director Susan Martinovich was the first presenter, discussing environmental, right-of-way and federal funding impacts on project delivery. Pointing out that major retail and residential developments can often be planned, zoned, designed and built in the time it takes a highway project to simply complete National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) review, NDOT's director expressed how federal review requirements can slow vital road construction.

"The reason why this is of such concern is that time is money," Martinovich said. "Delays result in inflation cost increases, materi-

als costs exceeding inflation, extra costs to mitigate project impacts and additional right-of-way costs."

Other presenters, such as Arizona Department of Transportation Director Victor Mendez, spoke to transportation needs created by skyrocketing population growth, as well as creative financing options for highway projects, including public-private partnerships.

The 12-member commission of federal, state and local government officials and metropolitan planning and transportation industry experts, chaired by U.S. Secretary of Transportation Mary Peters, has the momentous task of examining the condition and needs of the nation's surface transportation system. They are also exploring short- and long-term alternatives to replace or supplement the fuel tax as the federal Highway Trust Fund's principal revenue source. The commission's deadline for submitting recommendations is later this year. Log on to www.surfacecommission.gov for more information.



NDOT RECOMMENDATIONS

NDOT Director Susan Martinovich offered recommendations to speed up the federal review process, while recognizing federal agencies as vital NDOT partners:

- Evaluate federal funding processes to remove duplicate/unnecessary steps
- Develop a risk/analysis checklist to determine what type of NEPA involvement will be necessary for all projects
- Set timelines for Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) review and approvals
- Allow state departments of transportation to develop NEPA documentation, with final legal review by the FHWA

Other recommendations stressed flexibility in federal funding and review procedures.



Lake Tahoe area roads underwent improvements last year.

NDOT PROJECT NAMED ONE OF NATION'S BEST

Near world-renowned Lake Tahoe, an NDOT improvement project has received its own recognition with a National Asphalt Paving Association "Quality in Construction" award.

The approximately \$10 million NDOT project open-graded, paved and micro-surfaced, as well as improved drainage on State Route 28 from the California state line to Ponderosa Ranch, and State Route 431 (Mt. Rose Highway) from State Route 28 to the Mt. Rose Summit.

While maintaining high-grade workmanship and materials, NDOT and contractor Granite Construction put top priority on preserving the environmentally-sensitive Tahoe basin. Construction and drainage remnants were hauled out, and roadside vegetation was preserved to the highest extent. Portable sound barriers and jack hammer mufflers reduced construction noise. To avoid disrupting summer tourism and commuter traffic on two-lane State Route 28, the majority of paving work was done at night and completed 12 days before the June 29 deadline.

The award is given annually to only 10 hot-mix asphalt highway construction projects that overcome unique obstacles to showcase dedicated workmanship and top-quality hot-mix asphalt.

"Our goal always is to provide the most fiscally-responsible and high-quality projects, and this project did both," NDOT Resident Engineer Peter Booth explained.

SAFETY IS SPOTLIGHT IN SEARCHLIGHT

In the town of Searchlight, NDOT has broken ground on a widening project to improve safety and traffic flow along the vital U.S. 95 corridor.

The work will widen the existing two-lane U.S. 95 into a four-lane divided highway from the northern Searchlight limits to two and a half miles south of town. In town, a dedicated center turn lane and curb, gutter, sidewalk and storm drainage improvements will also be added.

"Cars get going too fast on this rural two-lane highway, resulting in head-on collisions," NDOT project designer John Bradshaw explained. "We look for this to be a huge safety improvement-it's money well spent."

The approximately \$11 million job will not only improve safety, it will put Nevada's best face forward on the important interstate corridor that sees over 9,000 vehicles per day, including economy-boosting tourist traffic and commercial trucks bypassing the restricted Hoover Dam crossing.

The current project is expected to be completed by early 2008, with Neil Kumar serving as NDOT resident engineer. Recent NDOT improvements already widened U.S. 95 from Railroad Pass to northern Searchlight town limits.



Searchlight road improvements will improve travel for trucks and passenger vehicles.



National Work Zone Awareness Week is April 2-6. See your NDOT Safety Manual for safety precautions to keep you safe in the work zone.

From the Road to the Radio:

NEW NDOT PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS

NDOT is taking public safety from the road to the radio with new public service announcements.

The 15- and 30-second announcements, broadcast on radio stations throughout Nevada, feature important road safety messages, from seatbelts to construction zone safety. They also highlight NDOT's recently-launched 511 Nevada Travel Info system.

Featuring the voice talents of NDOT's own Director Susan Martinovich, Public Information Officer Bob McKenzie and others, the commercials began airing in early March and will continue for a year with important new safety messages each quarter.

The public safety messages were funded by NDOT's logo sign program at no taxpayer expense.



New Roofs Top Battle Mountain Station



Atop the Battle Mountain maintenance station, new roofing is protecting crew and equipment from the elements.

The 1950-era fuel depot tar roof and 1968 vehicle storage building roof contained asbestos, and the 6-bay vehicle storage roof was leaking onto lower ceiling levels.

But now, a \$130,000 re-roofing job begun in December has safely removed old roof and siding panels and replaced it with new, long-lasting metal roofing and siding, leaving both buildings asbestos-free and protected from harsh northeastern Nevada weather.