

## Way to Go

### ROADWAY ROCK BECOMES SCHOOL MEMORIAL



From left to right, NDOT engineers Brad Durski and Peter Booth, Fisher Sand and Gravel project managers Norm Bessler and Mike Scronce and Principal Lee Conley stand behind the memorial rock.

NDOT and Interstate 580 project contractor Fisher Sand and Gravel teamed up to donate a memorial rock for a Carson City third-grader who tragically died in a fire-related accident.

The process began when NDOT Field Operations Engineer Brad Durski and other NDOT staff gave a tour of the south Reno-area project to fifth-grade students from Seeliger Elementary. School Principal Lee Conley and parent-teacher association members thought of using

a rock from the construction area to commemorate the school's fallen student.

Durski and NDOT human resources employee Rob Easton then helped coordinate the request. The large memorial rock was placed in the Carson City schoolyard by Fisher Sand and Gravel, and will soon be adorned with a commemorative plaque from the school. NDOT also donated 20 small road-grade directional signs to display in school hallways.

### CLEANING UP

When Las Vegas resident Teresa Bern contacted NDOT about homeless gathering along Rancho Drive underneath U.S. 95, NDOT's Dave Sangster and District 1 specialty crews continued their dedicated work to steer homeless away from the dangerous freeway underpass using no trespassing signs and removals.

"Please extend my thanks to the people who helped our neighborhood," wrote the thankful resident.

### FREEWAY SERVICE PATROL THANKS

Las Vegas visitor DC Bowman made a new year resolution to finish any unfinished business. He helped fulfill the resolution by recently sending a letter thanking Freeway Service Patrol operator **Dan Stafford** for the help when DC's tire went flat on a Las Vegas freeway last summer.

"It was so hot, I burned my hands trying to change the tire," the Las Vegas visitor wrote. "It was on the hottest day of the year, and he changed my tire. Many thanks!"



### Welcome

Isabel Alarcon, Las Vegas

Kelly Doyle, Carson City

Marty Espinoza, Carson City

Brent Gardner, Elko

Nino Iannacchione, Carson City

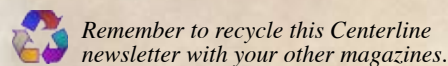
Nicholas Sayan, Carson City

Jerry Turner, Las Vegas

Charles White, Las Vegas

### Thanks for Serving!

Gary Anderson, 32 years, Carson City



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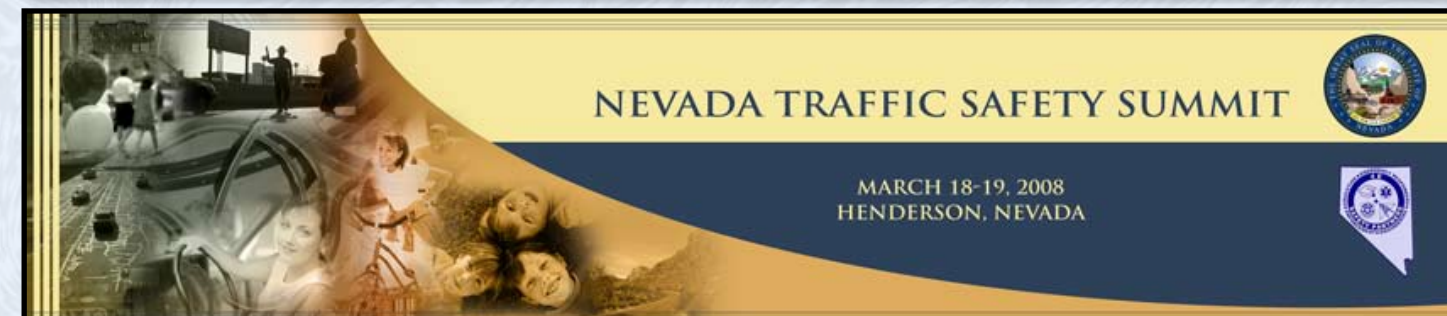
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### NDOT PUTS STRATEGIC HIGHWAY SAFETY PLAN INTO ACTION



"On March 10, 2007, I received a phone call that I hope no one else receives," Las Vegas resident Kelly Thomas-Boyers said. "They said my son was in a car accident. When I heard the word 'ejected,' I knew his life would be changed."

What Thomas-Boyers didn't know at the time was that her 21-year-old son, Adam Thomas, would pass away nearly a week later from injuries sustained in the car crash.

The Nevada Departments of Transportation and Public Safety and other partners have made an important step in helping reduce tragic traffic fatalities such as Adam's with a recent Safety Summit.

Over two years, a group of more than 75 Nevada traffic and safety experts developed 20 critical traffic safety strategies, including possible heightened seat belt/DUI enforcement, increased intersection lighting and signage, even possible computer-aided navigation in emergency service vehicles. The strategies were compiled into the Strategic Highway Safety Plan.

NDOT then gathered hundreds of citizens and experts from across the state, from legislators and safety professionals to concerned citizens, to generate ideas on

how to put the safety strategies to work. Those various workshops held throughout the year culminated in a recent Safety Summit, held March 18 and 19 in Henderson.

"The goal of the Strategic Highway Safety Plan is to reduce traffic deaths by 100 in 2008," NDOT Principal Safety Engineer Chuck Reider said. "This summit brought transportation, safety and police organizations together to develop programs, alliances and education campaigns to reduce traffic fatalities by helping motorists drive more safely."

One potential program developed in the summit was possible private business and organization sponsorship to generate funding for additional DUI checkpoints, and an educational program introducing eighth-grade students to the rules of the road.

"I'm impressed with the statewide collaboration," Thomas-Boyers said in a presentation during the summit. "Fight on Nevada, fight on for a safety culture."

More information on transportation safety and the Strategic Highway Safety Plan is available at [www.drivesafenv.com](http://www.drivesafenv.com). The NDOT Traffic Safety division oversaw a contract with consultant PBS&J to assist in the important safety initiative.

### SAFETY FACTS

- Traffic crashes are one of the leading causes of deaths in Nevada and across the nation.
- The societal cost of traffic crashes in the Las Vegas valley was recently estimated at \$2.7 billion a year, or \$1,572 per Las Vegas, by an American Automobile Association study.
- The Nevada Strategic Highway Safety Plan emphasizes enforcement, education, emergency services and engineering.



## ONE-STOP SHOP FOR SOUTHERN NEVADA PROJECT INFORMATION



*The new NDOT southern Nevada combined project information office provides the public easy access to road project information.*

From right-of-way and roadway design to construction lane closures, much goes into NDOT construction projects. NDOT recently unveiled a Las Vegas public outreach office that will serve as a one-stop source for all the important details of many southern Nevada freeway projects.

The new project hub offers maps, timelines, fact sheets, progress updates and animated views of such NDOT southern Nevada projects as the Interstate 15 design-build widening project, I-15 express lanes, U.S. 95 northwest widening project and others. Public information consultant staff are also available at the office to discuss issues, take comments and answer questions.

“These major freeway improvements affect people’s lives,” NDOT Director Susan Martinovich said in a media event announcing the project office. “We want to provide information and hear feedback on these projects that are so important to the transportation infrastructure of Nevada.”

Located in the U.S. 95 widening project office, the new combined project office brings together previously separate public outreach offices into one easy location on Valley View Boulevard, near the U.S. 95 and Interstate 15 intersection. The office is open Monday through Thursday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Fridays from 8 a.m. to noon.

Soon, the one-stop information center will go on-line with the launch of an NDOT Web site where interested citizens can find project information, sign up for e-mail updates and provide feedback on all projects detailed in the project office.

### PROJECTS HIGHLIGHTED IN PROJECT INFORMATION OFFICE

**I-15 Design-Build Project • U.S. 95 Northwest Widening • I-15 Express Lanes  
I-15 South Corridor Study • I-515 Corridor Study  
Boulder City Bypass Corridor Study • Project Neon**

*Many of these projects are in the preliminary planning or environmental stages.*

**The dedication of all NDOT staff benefits not only the department, but all motorists on Nevada state roads. Here are the NDOT employees who have served the department with the top years of service. Their long-term service and dedication is applauded.**

- Ralph Lopez, Reno, 43 years
- Daniel Nollsch, Carson City, 39 years
- Karen Williford, Carson City, 38 years
- Joseph Gnibus, Nixon, 38 years
- Kent Mayer, Carson City, 37 years
- Kenneth Date, Reno, 37 years
- Timothy Tobias, Carson City, 36 years
- Ted Smith, Reno, 33 years
- Mark Aguirre, Las Vegas, 33 years
- Richard Aranguena, Winnemucca, 33 years

## NDOT PROJECT NAMED “TRANSPORTATION PROJECT OF THE YEAR”



*From left to right, Interim Resident Engineer Elizabeth Jackson, Assistant District 1 Engineer for Construction Mohamed Rouas, crew 902 members Johnny Mack and Jake Wyrick, District 1 Engineer Mary Martini and crew 902 members Travis Wadeson and Tom Stevenson gather around the transportation project of the year award.*

They helped smooth transportation in Las Vegas’ ever-growing southwest corridor. Now, two Interstate 15 interchanges have been named 2007 Nevada transportation projects of the year.

The Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE) recognized the Blue Diamond and East Silverado Ranch Boulevard interchanges for the positive impact the projects have had on southern Nevada transportation.

### BLUE DIAMOND INTERCHANGE

Where I-15 meets State Route 160 south of the Vegas Strip, the Blue Diamond interchange was built to accommodate an ever-growing amount of traffic between Las Vegas and the expanding bedroom community of Pahrump. The NDOT project replaced the previous two-lane rural highway interchange with a new eight-lane diamond interchange. The project also included construction of additional Interstate lanes, hydraulic features, pedestrian and bicycle facilities and other improvements.

NDOT crew 902 worked over two years overseeing the project.

“The phasing of this project was extremely well-planned,” crew 902 Interim Resident Engineer Elizabeth Jackson explained. “We kept traffic open almost continuously, all while tearing down the previous bridge and replacing it with another.”

For keeping the project running smoothly, the crew credits weekly status meetings that brought all stakeholders together,

from construction contractors and NDOT project managers to utilities stakeholders and others. Another distinguishing element of the project, says the crew, are stunning southwestern landscape features that have already made the interchange a landmark.

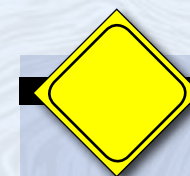
Another vital element of the project was a dedicated NDOT design and development team. More information on the team is available to NDOT employees through the Public Information page of the NDOT SharePoint Web site.

The ITE award adds to the collection of awards earned by the project. The American Public Works Association named the interchange Nevada’s public works transportation project of the year between \$10 and \$100 million. The interchange was also selected as the year’s best transportation project by Southwest Contractor magazine.

### EAST SILVERADO RANCH BOULEVARD

Located just south of the Blue Diamond interchange, the East Silverado Ranch Boulevard interchange was also named an ITE transportation project of the year. The Clark County project reduced residential traffic congestion on the Blue Diamond interchange by offering additional freeway access points.

NDOT Crew 914’s Mike Bridges, as well as NDOT design and Las Vegas right-of-way and permit office personnel, all assisted to ensure that any project-related activity on NDOT right-of-way met state specifications and provided the safest, most effective interchange possible.



## SAFETY SIGNS

*April 7-11 is National Work Zone Awareness Week. See your NDOT safety manual and [www.workz.onesafety.org](http://www.workz.onesafety.org) for important safety tips.*