

NDOT BRINGS AGENCIES TOGETHER TO QUICKLY CLEAR CRASHES



A firefighter stands in front of a crash removal demonstration. The demonstration, held in conjunction with the Traffic Incident Management agreement signing, illustrated new quick crash clearance technologies.

NDOT has joined with other southern Nevada transportation and safety agencies to sign an agreement for quicker and safer clearance of the over 15,000 traffic accidents that occur each year on major Las Vegas roads.

The Open Roads Partnership Agreement was signed last month by NDOT, Nevada Highway Patrol (NHP), Clark County, the City of Las Vegas, Las Vegas Metro Police Department and the Regional Transportation Commission of Southern Nevada's FAST and NHP emergency and traffic command center. The agreement lays out how the agencies will work together to reach new accident clearance goals, from a 30-minute maximum time for minor, non-injury crashes to 90 minutes for fatal incidents. The agreement also defines how NDOT will assist the NHP and FAST to provide traffic control, remove vehicles and material spills and identify detour routes.

"The agreement puts into writing many of the ways that our agencies already work together, and sets specific clearance time goals," Joe Martinez, NDOT assistant

district engineer for maintenance, said.

"Currently, the majority of incidents involving property damage are cleared in 10 minutes," NHP Major Phil Tilt explained. "While that is a very quick response, any incident that requires closing our roadways has great impact. This is an opportunity to continually enhance our response and the safety of our roads."

"By quickly clearing crashes, we will also help alleviate congestion and make the commute safer and quicker," NDOT Deputy Director Scott Rawlins said.

The agreement marks a major milestone for the Traffic Incident Management Coalition (TIM). Overseen by NDOT through consulting firm Iteris Inc., the TIM brings 40-plus representatives from various first response agencies together in monthly meetings to develop traffic incident management advances that include improved communications, coordination and cooperation while developing combined agency policies and procedures for quick accident clearance. Further information is available at <http://local.iteris.com/tim/>.

DID YOU KNOW? The Federal Highway Administration has described traffic congestion as one of the single largest threats to national economic prosperity and way of life, costing the United States an estimated \$200 billion per year and accounting for approximately one-quarter of all congestion on U.S. highways.

PLANNING AHEAD: 2028 LONG-RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN

Where will you be in 2028? NDOT's recently-completed 2008-2028 statewide long-range transportation plan helps answer that question for the state transportation system.

The 20-year policy planning document is a comprehensive look at Nevada's transportation system, from highways, aviation and bicycles to pedestrians, mass transit, rail and freight through 2028. The plan also details the public input and principles that guide the Department in all it does, from safety, customer service and asset management to mobility and environmental stewardship.

Development of the plan began in 2004. Public meetings were held across the state, over 500 public survey responses were tallied, and numerous meetings with metropolitan planning organizations, cities, counties, tribes, and other state agencies were held, all to help establish a shared vision for Nevada's transportation system.

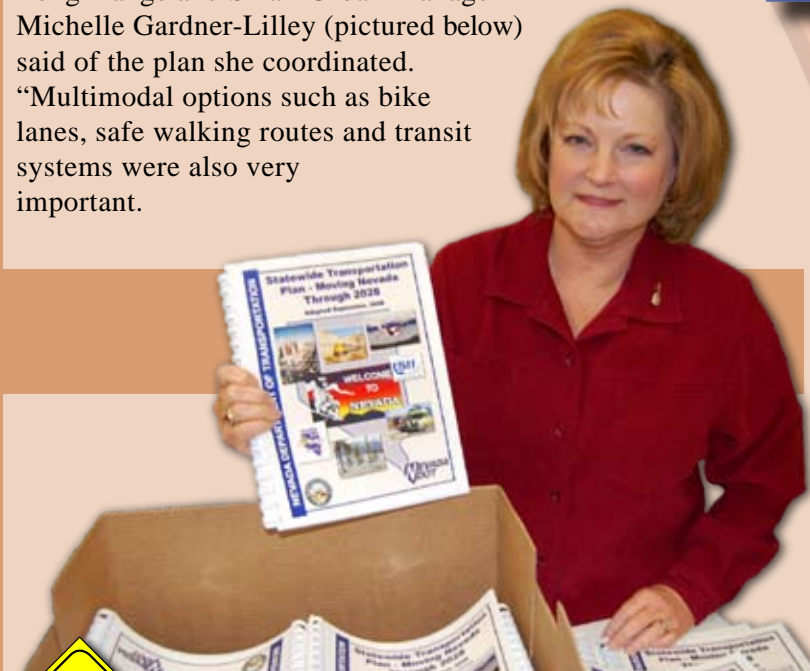
"We heard from our citizens, businesses and government agencies that they want safe accessibility and mobility to enhance Nevada's economy, while preserving our way of life and environment," NDOT Long-Range and Small Urban Manager Michelle Gardner-Lilley (pictured below) said of the plan she coordinated. "Multimodal options such as bike lanes, safe walking routes and transit systems were also very important.



This feedback was incorporated into the plan to reflect the opinions of our system users."

"Whether it is our daily commute or the freight system that delivers our groceries, transportation is vital to everyone," NDOT Director Susan Martinovich explained. "This plan is the shared vision that will guide planning of our transportation system through 2028."

The plan was developed in accordance with the current federal transportation funding bill. The full plan is available at www.nevadadot.com under "Reports and Publications".



SAFETY SIGNS

We use our hands every day. Take every precaution to avoid putting hands where they can be caught in a "hand trap".

HENDERSON LANDSCAPING PROJECT COMES UP A WINNER



The Interstate 215/515 interchange in Henderson is the gateway to the southern Nevada city. An NDOT landscape and aesthetics project was recently recognized for enhancing the interchange, and the city itself.

Nevada's American Public Works Association chapter named the landscaping effort state Transportation Project of the Year under \$5 million, and presented the award to NDOT Landscape Architect Supervisor Lucy Joyce at a recent State Transportation Board meeting. (Joyce is pictured holding the award in photo at right).

The approximately \$4 million project, completed in May 2007, joins abstract elements of the City of Henderson logo with wildlife images from the city's bird preserve. Painted and stained surfaces, multi-color rock and drought-tolerant plants bring more color to the 60 acres of landscaping.

A partner in the project, the City of Henderson reimbursed NDOT for a portion of utility set-up fees, and

contributes to ongoing landscape maintenance and utility costs.

The project was developed using NDOT's landscape and aesthetics master plan established in 2002. The plan incorporates landscape and aesthetics as important aspects of state highways; reflecting scenic, historic, aesthetic and environmental elements of the area.

"Landscape and aesthetics are an important part of our roadways," Joyce said. "The aesthetic benefits can not only improve and define corridors, cities, and tourism, but can help relax drivers," Joyce said. "In addition, they help improve air quality and provide dust control."



KudosKorner



ANGELS OF THE HIGHWAY

NDOT employees not only protect state roads with construction and maintenance expertise, they also protect drivers with a helping hand.

Richard McGregor was traveling near Winnemucca when his vehicle lost transmission fluid. District 3 maintenance employees **Joe Roysdon, Randy Coy** and **Lonnie See** (pictured above from left to right) were part of the NDOT team that offered extra transmission fluid and made sure the traveler was able to call a tow truck when it was found that his vehicle would need major repairs.

"I wanted to express my appreciation for the efforts of your employees in trying to assist me in that very tenuous situation," McGregor said.

HELPFUL INFORMATION

When a citizen recently requested transportation information, Chief Traffic Engineer **Tom Moore** was there to help with courtesy and promptness.

"It reaffirms my belief that Nevada is the best state in which to live," thankful citizen David Osborne said.

HOUSEHOLD GOODS

When Donald Tedesco recently moved to the Lake Tahoe area, his furniture delivery company refused to make the drive into the mountains. The resident called District 2, where contract dispatcher **Michael Liles** offered to call the delivery driver to explain the safe routes available.

"He went out of his way to assist me, and he made my first impression of Nevada a great one," wrote the new resident in thanks.

A GOLD STAR FOR BLUE DIAMOND

State Route 160, otherwise known as Blue Diamond Road, provides a vital connection between Las Vegas and the expanding bedroom community of Pahrump. As southwest Las Vegas continually grows, NDOT staff work diligently on many improvements to the important southern Nevada corridor.

"Thank you for the great job you do upgrading highway 160," Pahrump resident Roger Simon said. "[It's] a real pleasure to drive."

Welcome

Cecil Coplan, *Wells*
Mark Douglas, *Battle Mountain*
Bernard Elvin, *Wells*
William Hylton, *Wells*
Kenneth Johnson, *Reno*
Myron Marr, *Carson City*
Shannon McKnight, *Reno*
Andrew Sensi, *Las Vegas*
Dilene Smith, *Carson City*
Jason Voigt, *Las Vegas*

Thanks for Serving

Mark Acuirre, *34 years, Las Vegas*
Tom Lumpkin, *31 years, Reno*
Sandra Morse, *22 years, Carson City*
Scott Saunders, *19 years, Reno*
Luis Wolfert, *26 years, Las Vegas*

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