



ON THE EXPRESS TRACK: I-15 IMPROVEMENTS



This photo illustration shows how the express lanes, when finished, will provide dedicated lanes for through traffic.

The Nevada Department of Transportation is putting Las Vegas interstate improvements on the express track with the recent groundbreaking of the Interstate 15 express lane project.

The project will build two express lanes in each direction of I-15 between Russell Road and Sahara Avenue. Separated from regular travel lanes by 3-foot-high 'candlestick' delineators, through traffic will make the five-plus mile journey past the resort corridor in the designated express lanes. With through traffic separated from vehicles exiting within the resort corridor, weaving, merging and congestion will be reduced.

"Many of the 250,000 vehicles who drive through the project area every day do not exit in the project area," NDOT Project Manager Jeff Hale said. "The project will give them a smoother ride, and give those exiting onto the Strip easier access and more consistent traffic flow."

The lanes will be built to take advantage of existing NDOT freeway right-of-way.

Funding for the approximately \$21 million project came from Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority room tax revenue apportioned by the 2007 State Legislature. The project is being built by Capriati Construction and is expected to complete in mid-2009.

The express lanes may eventually become part of a proposed demonstration project to examine the effectiveness of congestion pricing as a way to provide much-needed transportation improvements amid funding deficits.

PAINTING OUT GRAFFITI

Below: The south Reno mural on the U.S. 395 northbound soundwall bursts with color. On right: Teenage artists from the Youth ArtWorks organization gather in front of the mural they created near the Boys and Girls Club.



NDOT continually wages war against graffiti vandalism on state roadways, particularly in Las Vegas and Reno. Two new murals on the back of Reno freeway soundwalls were unveiled in September as part of the Department's anti-graffiti efforts.

Located at the Interstate 80/U.S. 395 intersection and on U.S. 395 in south Reno, the artwork will test if graffiti vandalism is reduced on muraled walls. Similar murals in Sacramento, Philadelphia and other areas have reduced graffiti.

Designed and painted by over 20 local teenage artists in the Youth ArtWorks organization, one mural facing the Boys and Girls Club building depicts animated childhood scenes developed with input from the club, while the other portrays daylight progressing across a Nevada landscape. Coatings were placed on both murals to protect against weathering and provide for easier maintenance.

"These teenage artists have not only created a work of art, but have also been introduced to a productive career in the arts and a productive means of contributing to their community," Youth ArtWorks Executive Director Kristin Moffitt-Steedman explained.

NDOT Landscape Architect Supervisor Lucy Joyce and District 2 staff, including Maintenance Supervisor Tom Lumpkin, worked closely with Youth ArtWorks and the Boys and Girls Club of Truckee Meadows to develop the artwork and location for the murals.

The murals are one part of NDOT District 2's continuing efforts to overcome graffiti. The district has dedicated nearly 1,500 man hours to Reno-area graffiti removal in the past year and a half.

The murals were funded by NDOT's Community Match Program which provides matching funds to local public agency-sponsored projects such as landscaping, scenic beautification, transportation art, community gateways and other roadside features.



SAFETY SIGNS

Wear your Personal Protective Equipment – Protect your home, as well as yourself, from workplace chemicals.

SAFETY ON THE CENTERLINE



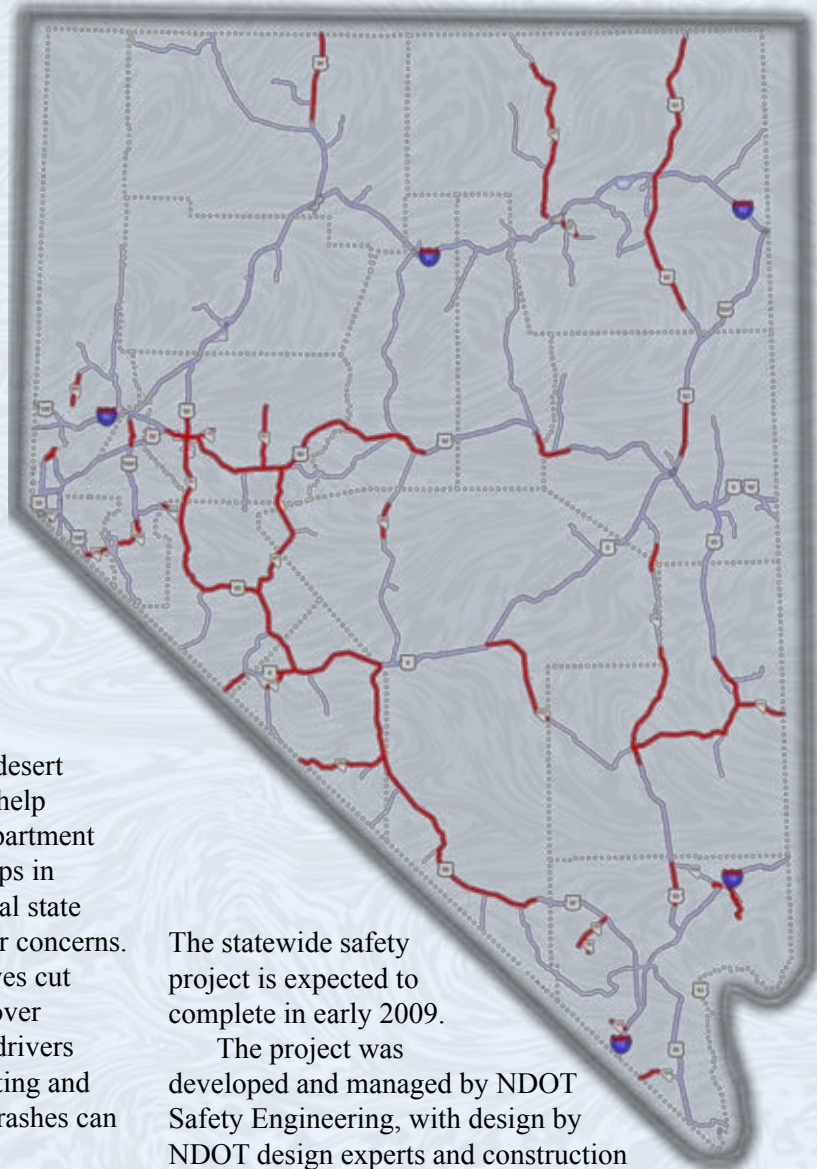
Rumble strips, similar to those currently on U.S. 395 south of Reno (above), will be installed on the state roads noted in red on the map.

Along Nevada's rural routes, the routine desert backdrop can lull drivers into inattention. To help steer motorists toward safety, the Nevada Department of Transportation will soon install rumble strips in the center of over 1,300 miles of two-lane rural state roadways with high fatality and injury rates or concerns.

Consisting of 12-inch wide parallel grooves cut into the medians of a roadway, tires running over the strips produce sound and vibration when drivers unintentionally veer out of their lane. By alerting and allowing motorists to correct their vehicles, crashes can be reduced.

"NDOT's installation of edgeline rumble strips on the edge of roadways has helped reduce interstate run-off-the-road crashes by 42 percent, and these new median rumble strips are also expected to help save lives," NDOT Director Susan Martinovich explained. "But, it is important to remember that safety is the responsibility of every driver, and we urge motorists to always drive safely and attentively."

The work, to be performed by MKD Construction, is part of an approximately \$2 million contract to install centerline rumble strips on certain state rural roads.



The statewide safety project is expected to complete in early 2009.

The project was developed and managed by NDOT Safety Engineering, with design by NDOT design experts and construction overseen by NDOT engineering staff throughout the state.

The Nevada Strategic Highway Safety Plan identifies centerline rumble strips as one cost-effective way to reduce crashes and increase safety on the state's roadways. Led by NDOT and the Office of Traffic Safety, the plan brings law enforcement, transportation agencies and safety advocates together to define ways to reduce Nevada traffic injuries and fatalities. The plan is available for view on-line at www.drivesafenv.com.

DID YOU KNOW?

- There were 172 fatalities in Nevada last year related to motorists drifting out of their lane of traffic.
- Fifty-five percent of 2007 Nevada run-off-the-road fatalities occurred in rural areas.

REV IT UP!



A recent motorcycle show and shine at NDOT headquarters gave employees a chance to show off their motorcycles. Audience favorites were chosen by NDOT staff.

From right to left, Daryl James' Triumph Rocket III bike won the over 2000cc category, Bill Schulz won the scooter division with his Yamaha Vino, Larry Goldman's Harley Heritage Springer took the 1000-2000cc class and the under 1000cc division was won by Tina Laubler's Honda Shadow Spirit.

TIRELESS HELPERS

Retired Air Force Colonel John Harpster and his wife were recently traveling near Wells when their tire blew out. After realizing their cell phone did not work to call for tow service, they saw **John McDonald** and **Charles "Chic" Wolfe** of the Ruby Valley maintenance station. Finding that the motorist could not perform the repair, the NDOT maintenance professionals immediately helped.

"Working in the dust, heat and difficult conditions, they were able to remove the blown tire and have the spare installed," the thankful motorist wrote. "They did us a great service."



NDOT staff without state e-mail can provide input to Nevada's Spending and Government Efficiency Commission by logging on to

<https://www.cisweb1.unr.edu/survey/workplace.aspx>

before Nov. 21.



Welcome

Sharon Dean, Las Vegas

Thanks for Serving

Michael Bouza, 30 years, Carson City

Rich Johnston, 28 years, Carson City

Walter Polvado, 32 years, Sparks

Kathy Poore, 27 years, Reno



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