



NDOT ECONOMIC RECOVERY PROJECTS TO BEGIN

Just over a month after signing of the federal economic recovery act, NDOT has kicked off road projects designed to help create and maintain jobs, encourage economic growth and improve Nevada transportation.

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act provides approximately \$201 million in Nevada transportation funding. Thirty percent of that funding is allocated to local transportation planning organizations in Clark and Washoe Counties, while approximately \$7 million must be spent in rural areas.

The first state economic stimulus transportation road project was advertised for bid March 19, and will be followed by four project biddings in April. Numerous other road preservation, enhancement, landscape and safety projects will follow in the summer. Much of the work includes highway preservation projects such as repaving. Such repaving and repairing of roadways before more costly, time-involved repairs are needed has, in the past, saved the department millions each year.

Working closely with Governor Jim Gibbons and the State Transportation Board, as well as state legislative leaders and local government partners, NDOT's economic recovery transportation projects were selected based on ability to advance jobs and economic growth while meeting engineering needs and providing transportation improvements equitably throughout the state. Half of the projects must be federally certified for construction within 120 days (approximately mid-June 2009), while all projects must fall within parameters established in the federal economic stimulus package.

"As one of the nation's fastest-growing states, Nevada has a multibillion-dollar transportation funding deficit," NDOT Director Susan Martinovich explained. "NDOT and our transportation partners have aggressively designed projects to utilize any funding that may come our way, and we are now fully using economic recovery funds to put Nevadans to work and improve our transportation system."



RECOVERY.gov

In a March 12 special meeting, the State Transportation Board approved the following state projects, as well as other projects prioritized by local regional transportation commissions and counties:

- 8 preservation projects valued at approximately \$119,200,000
- 1 safety project valued at approximately \$3,600,000
- 1 landscape project valued at approximately \$9,000,000
- 1 enhancement project valued at approximately \$3,000,000

More information:

www.nevadadot.com/recovery

DOING THE ROUNDABOUT

Roundabouts, like this one on State Route 88 in Minden, have been shown to improve safety and traffic flow.

ROUNDABOUT



The first modern U.S. traffic roundabout was introduced in Las Vegas, Nevada in 1990. Today, the safety and congestion management benefits of roundabouts have led NDOT to incorporate one into safety enhancements planned for an Elko-area road.

On State Route 227, known as Lamoille Highway, traffic traveling between Elko and the communities of Spring Creek and Lamoille has increased. Increased traffic has led to heightened travel speeds, congestion and safety concerns. To enhance safety, NDOT will install a roundabout at the intersection of Spring Creek Parkway and Lamoille Highway.

“Every death on Nevada roads is a tragedy,” NDOT Director Susan Martinovich said. “This roundabout will be a major part of our continuing safety enhancements to help prevent further tragedies on Lamoille Highway.”

One-way circular intersections in which traffic flows around a center island without stop signs or signals, roundabouts provide distinct safety benefits. Because traffic enters and exits through right turns only and speeds are reduced, the occurrence of severe crashes is substantially less. Lower speeds within roundabouts also allow entering traffic to access smaller gaps between circulating vehicles, increasing traffic volume and decreasing delays, congestion, fuel

consumption and air pollution.

The roundabout is scheduled to be built in early 2010, and will join other state roundabouts already improving traffic flow and safety in many areas, including Fernley and on State Route 88 in Minden.

“For our community, it’s proven to be a safe addition that we’ve appreciated having,” Douglas High School Vice Principal Tom Morgan explained of the Minden roundabout.

DRIVING IN A ROUNDABOUT

As you approach, slow down and yield to pedestrians/bicyclists. For multi-lane roundabouts, choose the appropriate lane to use.

Yield to driver’s left. Those in the roundabout have the right-of-way.

Travel counter-clockwise through the roundabout.

Use your turn signal to indicate when exiting.

Further information:
www.nevadadot.com/roundabout

ROLLING OUT SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS IN BOULDER CITY

NDOT's Boulder City U.S. 93 improvement project will widen and enhance the important U.S. 93 corridor.



It is a major western states route and part of the Canamex North American trade corridor. Where U.S. 93 travels through the east side of Boulder City, the Nevada Department of Transportation is increasing safety with road widening and enhancements.

Safety will be enhanced with new, longer acceleration lanes. Lighting improvements will make for more visibility and safety in the corridor. Meanwhile, raised medians will improve safety by preventing motorists from turning onto certain side streets, while left-hand turn bays will be built to provide dedicated lanes to turn into three residential streets.

“There are a lot of turning movements into residential developments on either side of the highway, and this will improve travel for automobile traffic getting in and out of the developments,” NDOT Resident Engineer Wayne Kinzer explained.

The majority of work on the approximately \$1 million project, built by contractor Capriati Construction, has been accomplished during overnight hours to allow motorists ease of access on the important road. The project, at a length of over one mile, is projected to be completed by the end of April. NDOT Crew 922 oversaw construction.

The project is in preparation of the new Hoover Dam bridge's expected opening next year, after which an estimated 2,000 trucks per day are forecast to travel through the U.S. 93 Boulder City route. Since September 11, 2001, such vehicles have been required

to bypass Hoover Dam through Laughlin. Ultimately, NDOT plans to develop a Boulder City Bypass to skirt this truck traffic around residential Boulder City, although construction funding is not yet available for the project.

NDOT SOUTHERN NEVADA CONSTRUCTION INFORMATION

Information on NDOT southern Nevada road construction projects is available on-line. Log onto www.nevadadot.com and select “Southern Nevada Construction Report” for updated project information and construction traffic closure details.

SAFETY SIGNS

April 6-10 is National Work Zone Awareness Week. See your NDOT safety manual and www.workzonesafety.org for important safety tips.

KudosKorner



TREE REMOVAL SERVICE

Where State Route 341 makes a windy, mountainous connection between historic Virginia City and south Reno, **NDOT Crew 234** (pictured above) recently removed dead trees that were obstructing the roadside.

“This was not only a safety issue, but helped reduce the dry, dead fuels as well,” Nevada Division of Forestry Captain Bill Moline wrote, thanking the crew for their work.

DANGEROUS CARGO

Recently in northeastern Nevada, a commercial vehicle stopped for a safety violation was found to have nearly 115 pounds of marijuana concealed among legitimate freight. **NDOT District 3** staff was right there to assist in removing the illegal drugs from the street.

“Supervisor II Phillip Mendive operated the equipment that troopers needed to safely unload the trailer,” Nevada Highway Patrol Lieutenant Thomas Merschel wrote. “His hard work led to the successful recovery of all of the illegal contraband.”

FOR SAFETY'S SAKE

Overseen by NDOT Principal Safety Engineer Chuck Reider, the **Nevada Strategic Highway Safety Plan** brings Nevada transportation, enforcement and safety agencies and groups together to help reduce Nevada traffic fatalities.

“The subcommittee believes that this is exactly the kind of work that will benefit Nevadans greatly over time,” Nevada Senator Dennis Nolan wrote of the Legislative Commission’s Subcommittee to Study Transportation Issues. “Thank you for your fine work and commitment to improving the safety of Nevada roads.”

Nevada traffic fatalities declined by 53 in 2008 due in part to the work of Strategic Highway Safety Plan members. More information is available at www.drivesafenv.com.

Welcome

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Kevin Chatfield, *Reno*
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Richard Knudsen, *Las Vegas*
Michael Mayberry, *Carson*
Carolyn Morton, *Carson*
Kevin Parke, *Las Vegas*
Erik Reed, *Las Vegas*
Aaron Schulman, *Carson*

Thanks for Serving

Edward Green, *15 years, Winnemucca*

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Meg Ragonese
Public Information Officer
1263 South Stewart Street
Carson City, Nevada 89712
(775) 888-7172
mragonese@dot.state.nv.us

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Transportation Board Chairman

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