

CENTERLINE

A Monthly Newsletter for the Employees of NDOT

IMPROVING TAHOE ROADS

Nevada highways and interstates are vital thoroughfares supporting Nevada travel and commerce. Their heavy amount of traffic make it difficult to close the roadway for an extended time. But, one NDOT project successfully did that to improve an important Lake Tahoe route.

Snow-filled Tahoe winters ravage roads with freezing and thawing conditions; conditions often leading to cracking and rutting. This was the case on two-lane State Route 28 before an NDOT three-inch overlay project. The resurfacing project completely closed SR 28, on Tahoe's north shore between U.S. 50 and Sand Harbor, four days a week May 3 through May 22. While the full closure ended May 22, the road project continues through July 2 with lane restrictions and construction delays. The road opens to traffic each Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

NDOT selected the closure as the best option to increase safety and reduce impact to road users. The closure will allow for complete resurfacing of seven and a half miles of roadway in eight weeks as opposed to the more than 16 weeks that would be necessary if only one lane were closed. The closure will also help bring the project to an end before important events that draw visitors and commerce to the Tahoe area, such as the Lake Tahoe Shakespeare Festival. Another benefit: without the need to switch traffic and construction barriers, road crews are able to more quickly finish the project by grinding at night and paving during the day.

"The project has so far been a successful one," NDOT Resident Engineer John Angel explained of the \$5 million in improvements being undertaken by contractor Granite Construction Company and overseen by his NDOT Construction Crew 911.

"The contractor constructed a quality roadway seldom matched on flat desert surface in a section of roadway with very tight turns and roadway grade changes," added Assistant Resident Engineer Jerry Vradenburg.

Other NDOT employees who contributed greatly to the project success include Bill Ezell, Laura Wise, Devon Wirtz and Natalie Caffaratti of NDOT Roadway Design, Jeff Cobb of NDOT Construction, Kathy Mechum of Traffic, Roshelle Olson of Materials, Hydraulics' Joselio Ramirez and others.



Scenic Lake Tahoe is the perfect backdrop for a near-completed State Route 28 project as pictured in late May.

LIGHTS ON IN ELY



City, county and other officials joined in a June 3 groundbreaking ceremony, including City of Ely Mayor Jon Hickman (far right), NDOT Assistant District Engineer Kathie Weaver (third from right) and NDOT District Engineer Kevin Lee (fourth from right).

Shovels hit the dirt recently for a groundbreaking ceremony on an NDOT project that will install a new stoplight in Ely.

The signal will be placed where the U.S. 6 bypass intersects U.S. 6, U.S. 50 and U.S. 93 and funnels into the heart of Ely. The well-traveled route, also known as Great Basin Boulevard, receives the majority of traffic coming into and leaving town; approximately 8,000 vehicles daily. Commercial trucks traveling through north-eastern Nevada often cross the intersection, while fast food establishments, gasoline stations, a U.S. Post Office and nearby school generate local traffic.

The intersection improvements began in 2002 with installation of conduit and streetlights. The current project will complete the installation with a signal controller, cabinet, heads and mast arms, pedestrian signal poles, traffic loop detectors and emergency preemption system allowing emergency vehicles to more safely travel through the intersection when responding to emergencies. The intersection itself will be improved with upgraded Americans with Disabilities Act-accessible ramps, enhanced and additional crosswalks and new sidewalk at the southeast corner.

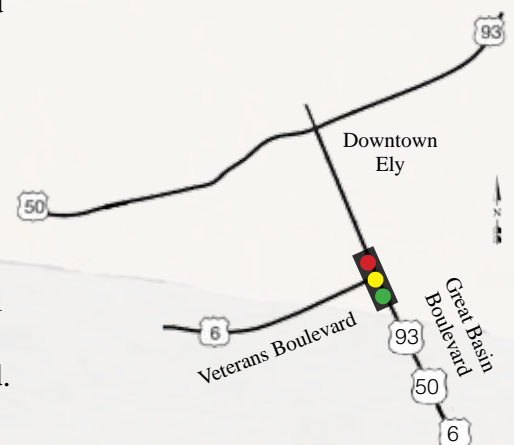
NDOT roadway design personnel Victoria Harris and Jon Couste designed the roadway portion of the project while design employees Scott Carroll and Bill Walker developed the signal system.

“We saved approximately \$30,000 by using salvaged signal poles and mast arms in good condition,” Carroll explained. “The signal poles were installed as streetlights a few years ago so they could be upgraded to traffic lights once warranted.”

The project was initially requested by the City of Ely through NDOT’s project submittal program which invites government agencies and non-profits to submit applications for road improvements on functionally-classified public roads.

“Responding to the City of Ely’s request, the Department dedicated money because the project is such an important improvement for the area,” explained Kathie Weaver, NDOT assistant district engineer and resident engineer for the project.

The approximately \$200,000 project, to be built by contractor PAR Electrical Contractors, is a cooperative agreement between NDOT and the City of Ely. The Department has executed right-of-way acquisition and will oversee construction and fund the project up to \$300,000, while the City of Ely will operate, maintain and provide power for the signal once completed. The project is expected to complete in late summer.



A MEMORIAL TO THOSE WHO SERVE



Bill Hoffman (left) and Steve Teed stand in front of the recently-completed memorial following a May 1 dedication ceremony.

*Nevada has been blessed with the protection of brave men and women. This will be a place of reflection and remembrance for all Nevadans.
- Letter from U.S. Senator John Ensign*

A place to remember those who protect Nevada has become reality, thanks to a recently-completed NDOT project to build a memorial in Southwest Las Vegas to fallen Department of Public Safety/Nevada Highway Patrol (NHP) officers.

The memorial sprang from an NHP request coordinated by NDOT District 1 Engineer Mary Martini and Maintenance and Operations Engineer Bill Hoffman. NDOT Architecture Project Manager Steve Teed designed the memorial and drafter Gene Warren prepared the construction documents. After project plans were approved by the NHP, contractor Affordable Concepts went to work.

“They solicited and coordinated subcontractors and suppliers who donated all of necessary equipment, material and manpower, entirely at their own expense,” Teed explained, recognizing Affordable Concepts Vice President Bob Palochik and project superintendent Rick Green. “Building the memorial did not cost the Department a dime.”

Now, the five-foot-four-inch memorial wall stands directly in front of the Freeway and Arterial System of Transportation (FAST) building in memory of those lost while protecting Nevada highways and citizens. At 44 feet in length, the circular concrete block structure features quarry tile on the outside, matching the FAST building’s exterior. Inside the circular memorial, a plain stucco finish draws attention to engraved brass memorial plaques with the names of those lost. The location incorporated an existing building flagpole and a second flagpole previously used at another NHP building.

Teed described his vision for those who visit the memorial. “I hope that there is a combination of privacy and a feeling of someplace sacred, and yet visitors can look up and see the mountains and sky beyond.”

NDOT Staff Lost in the Line of Duty

Frank H. Buckner 1948	Wilford H. Heaps 1957
Frank S. Boegle 1961	Buddy M. Vidovich 1965
Robert J. Hamm 1965	Jack Mello 1965
Kenneth G. Harris 1966	Wesley J. Gritton 1967
Sigurd Folwick 1967	Michael S. Timko 1971
Michael L. Rush 1972	Steven B. Milich 1972
Walter F. Hayman 1973	Thomas West 1977
Lloyd Hansen 1977	Robert G. Dixon 1978
Clyde A. Hyde 1978	Patrick J. Daily 1978
Leonard L. Vest 1980	Ronald E. Waite 1986
Gerald D. Phillips 1989	Frank E. Fuentes Sr. 1995
Carroll M. Holt 1995	Robert Roach 1995
Anthony R. Thompson 1999	

Kudos Korner

IN THE NAME OF SCIENCE

After NDOT received a request for information for a fourth grade student's science fair project on ice melt agents, Customer Services Manager Ed Wilson quickly responded with an outline of the sea and rock salt used on winter roads.

"Alyssa won third place in the science fair," the fourth grader's proud mother wrote. "The judges liked that she tied in local information. Thank you!"

HOLDING BACK THE WATER

Where U.S. 395 and U.S. 50 intersect in Nevada's capital city, the Carson City Public Works Department recently experienced a water main break that effected businesses and interrupted traffic on the important thoroughfares.

"Without hesitation, (Carson City-area Supervisor II) Steve Williams and his staff jumped in to provide much-needed assistance consisting of equipment, manpower and the knowledge and experience of major traffic control projects," Public Works Director Andrew Burnham wrote.

MATERIAL THINGS

The materials used in Nevada state road construction are vital to both road integrity and driving safety. When contractor A & K Earth-movers requested multiple mix designs for an NDOT road improvement project in Lyon County, the NDOT Materials Division quickly developed the numerous mix design combinations of road material to produce the best roadway with available materials.

"The NDOT Materials Division worked very diligently to complete these designs and turned them around in record time," A & K Vice President Scott Hiatt wrote.

A HELPING HAND

When driving home with her twin three-year-old sons in the back seat, Jan Scarborough's rear tire burst. Before she had even pulled over to the side of the Las Vegas freeway she was traveling, Freeway Service Patrol operator Edwin Medrano was there to help.

"He was very friendly and quickly changed my tire," the thankful motorist wrote. "I just can't thank you enough."

Welcome

Derek Kirkland, Carson City
David Aglietti, Carson City

Thanks for Serving

Jess Alanis, Jr., 24 years, Tonopah
Theresa Anrig, 29 years, Carson City
Richard Aranguena, 33 years, Winnemucca
Patricia Brisbin, 28 years, Carson City
Ednann Fisher, 30 years, Las Vegas
Duane Hamilton, 29 years, Las Vegas
Ray Hubbard, 23 years, Eureka
Donald Knox, 25 years, Las Vegas
Lynda Morrison-Rader, 19 years, Carson City
Patricia Polish, 33 years, Carson City
Daniel Rice, 33 years, Carson City
Keith Richardville, 26 years, Carson City
Bernice Schroer, 33 years, Carson City
Fred Scott, 30 years, Elko
Gary Selmi, 26 years, Carson City
Walter Shaffer, 17 years, Elko
Ken Swanson, 27 years, Carson City



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