

CENTERLINE

A Monthly Newsletter for the Employees of NDOT



Runners celebrate the recent opening of the Carson City Freeway phase 2A during a September fun run event.

CARSON CITY FREEWAY: SECOND PHASE OPENS

Phase 2A of the Carson City Freeway (U.S. 50 East to Fairview Drive) recently opened following fun run and ribbon-cutting celebrations. The freeway, when complete, will improve capital city travel by routing through-traffic around the city's main street.

More than 500 walkers, runners and bicyclists joined in the Sept. 19 Carson City Freeway Fun Run to enjoy an outing on the freeway prior to opening. Meanwhile, Governor Jim Gibbons, NDOT Director Susan Martinovich, Carson City Mayor Bob Crowell and other dignitaries gathered Sept. 24 to commemorate the opening at an official ribbon-cutting event.

"This is a tremendous addition to the commercial viability of this city," said Governor Gibbons while also recognizing the work of all those involved in freeway construction. "Today is the realization of that hard work."

"This project will help reduce traffic congestion on Carson City's main street which carries nearly 30,000 vehicles per day through the downtown area," NDOT Project Manager Jim Gallegos explained. "The rerouting of the commercial truck traffic to the freeway will play a large role in the redevelopment of the downtown area."

Phase 2A contractors Road and Highway Builders constructed the project with oversight from NDOT construction crew 907. Phase 2A construction began in fall 2007.

The next and last section of the Carson City Freeway, Phase 2B, is planned to complete the bypass by connecting to U.S. 50 at the southern end of Carson City as funding becomes available. More information is available at www.ccfreeway.com.



Carson City Freeway Phase 2A

Comprising the central portion of the Carson City Freeway, the newly-opened section consists of approximately two miles of

separated two-lane freeway from U.S. 50 East to Fairview Drive.

Phase 2A Features

- ✿ Completed Carson City Freeway/U.S. 50 East interchange
- ✿ Partial Fairview Drive interchange
- ✿ East Fifth Street overpass
- ✿ Connection of the bicycle and pedestrian path to safely cross under freeway
- ✿ 100-year drainage system to channel storm runoff and provide water quality treatment

IMPROVING SAFETY IN SEARCHLIGHT



On left, construction is seen as it began in early 2004 on the northern end of the U.S. 95 project near Railroad Pass. To right, the finished highway completes the southern end of the project near the SR 163 Laughlin cut-off this year.

In the southern tip of the state, NDOT has just completed the fourth and final phase of a nearly decade-long initiative to improve safety and travel on U.S. 95 near Searchlight.

The recently-completed phase 4 of the Searchlight improvement project widened 17 miles of U.S. 95 from south of Searchlight to the State Route 163 turnoff to Laughlin, transforming a previously two-lane thoroughfare into a four-lane divided highway. Two southbound lanes were constructed, while the existing two-lane road was resurfaced to create northbound lanes. Also included were drainage improvements, a widened U.S. 95/SR 163 intersection and center and outside turning lanes in the town of Cal-Nev-Ari.

Following the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, Hoover Dam was closed to commercial trucks. The national security measure led many commercial vehicles to detour through Laughlin and onto U.S. 95 near Searchlight.

“Traffic has been increasing and, with the previous two-lane rural highway, many people were going faster than they

should and taking big risks,” NDOT Roadway Design Engineer John Bradshaw said. “We had a unique opportunity with this project to create a long stretch of four-lane divided highway with very desirable lane and shoulder widths, as well as a wide, flat median and shoulders, which will inevitably improve safety on this portion of U.S. 95. And, we did it all through some of the state’s most sensitive ecological and tortoise habitat.”

The approximately \$50 million phase 4 project by Road and Highway Builders began in August of 2008, and was overseen by NDOT crew 906. Together with the first three project phases, the improvements will enhance safety for the over 8,000 vehicles daily who travel the highway between SR 163 and Searchlight.

U.S. 95 Widening Total project length: 57 miles

Phase 1- from Searchlight to 18 miles north
Began late 2002 ~ Total length: 18 miles

Phase 2- from 18 miles north of Searchlight to Railroad Pass
Began early 2004 ~ Total length: 18 miles

Phase 3- from northern Searchlight town limits
to 2 ½ miles south of Searchlight
Began early 2007 ~ Total length: 4 miles

Phase 4- from 2 ½ miles south of Searchlight to SR 163
Began mid-2008 ~ Total length: 17 miles



WIND POWER

Sitting high atop northwestern Nevada's nearly 9,000-foot Fox Mountain, a new wind turbine is an example of NDOT energy conservation and innovation.

A cylinder instead of a traditional propeller shape, wind blows against the turbine's vertical air foils, causing them to spin and generate power. The power will provide back-up energy for a radio communications site owned by Washoe County and shared with NDOT.

The radio site connects with the Nevada Shared Radio System (NSRS), a system supporting seamless emergency and maintenance radio communications for the Nevada Highway Patrol, Department of Wildlife, Capitol Police, NV Energy and certain Native American tribes and local agencies. With over 90 sites across the state, the system provides coverage for emergency and public service radio calls on approximately 95 percent of state highways.

Solar panels are currently used to power many remote NSRS radio sites. At approximately six thousand dollars, the wind turbine's cost is equal that of the six solar panels necessary to generate the same amount of power.

"The advantage with wind turbines is that they can run 24 hours a day. Solar panels only produce power in sunlight, an average of only six hours per day," NDOT Communications and Network Manager David Loar said. "There is also a 20-year maintenance free warranty on the turbines, while a solar panel's useful lifespan is about 20 years."

The new Fox Mountain wind turbine will test the potential of using wind energy in other high-wind areas where NDOT plans future radio sites, such as Snow Valley Peak on the Sierra Ridge near Lake Tahoe.

The wind energy initiative began with Loar's Leadership Academy proposal to use the renewable energy source to power certain NDOT maintenance stations. Support from Assistant Director of Administration Robert Chisel, Chief Maintenance and Operations Engineer Bill Hoffman and Information Services Chief Dorothy Martin followed. The idea developed into an ongoing program, overseen by Hoffman and Loar, to investigate potential alternative energy sources that will both help preserve the environment and save the Department money.

"Every penny we spend powering lights is not putting asphalt on the roads or buying fuel," Loar explained. "The less we spend on electrical power, the more we benefit and the better we can keep our highways maintained."

NDOT Information Services' Communications and Network group consists of six network and five radio professionals who engineer NDOT radio, network and telephone systems, including radio and fiber optic communications sites.

FOX MOUNTAIN WIND TURBINE

- Total height of 20 feet, supported by a 6-foot square concrete base*
- Generates 1,200 maximum watts of power*
- Spins vertically instead of horizontally*
- Turbine design is not as potentially dangerous to birds*
- Magnetic instead of traditional mechanical bearings reduce friction, allowing turbine to spin in very low winds*
- Can replace power currently being produced by pollution-emitting coal-fired power plants*
- Produced by Reno-based Mariah Power*



KudosKorner

REMEMBERING ONE OF OUR OWN

NDOT Cartographer Jeffry Dunn recently passed away.

Over his 22-year NDOT career, Jeff not only developed and updated the official Nevada State Highway Map, he also engineered the Lovelock area map which became the basis for all future area maps. Thirteen other distinct maps, from the Milepost and Maintenance District Map to the Rest Area Map, were all meticulously developed by Jeff. Many came to be relied upon by Nevada travelers and others.

Jeff will be remembered as a warm, professional and lively co-worker whose love of sports cars and pizza was perhaps only overcome by enjoyment of his work.

"He was unfailingly positive," co-worker Marianne Farretta said. "His standards, both personal and cartographic, live with us every day."

Take a close look at the 2009-2010 Nevada state map between the Nevada and Oregon border, and you may see Jeff's name transcribed in the design; a reminder of all that he continues to mean to his NDOT co-workers and all those using a state map to traverse Nevada.

TURNING INTO SAFETY

Near the central Nevada-Utah border, Crews 381 and 909 and NDOT staff member Dana Plumb were part of the team which extended the turn lane from U.S. 6/U.S. 50 onto State Route 487 in Baker.

"Living in rural Nevada, we spend a lot of time on Nevada roads," resident Gretchen Baker wrote. "The community is glad to have safer roads, and we applaud your efforts."

TOUR GUIDES

A construction marvel, NDOT's I-580 project interests many individual citizens and groups. NDOT front office, construction, public information and other staff have dedicated time and expertise to provide project tours and a behind-the-scenes look into project construction to many interested groups, from high school engineering students to University of Nevada, Reno alumni.

"This tour was the highlight....," UNR Alumni College Assistant Vice President Brian Whalen wrote, saying that his alumni group "left with much greater appreciation for what NDOT does."



Welcome

Angela Carter, Elko
Dante Gualco, Eureka
Urbashi Karki, Carson City
Jerry Moore, Elko
Nicole Rodgers, Tonopah
Dannie Serfoss, Tonopah

Thanks for Serving

Victor Archuleta, 31 years, Reno
Charlie Cerocke, 30 years, Carson City
Jason Frey, 16 years, Carson City
Richard Ozuna, 33 years, Las Vegas
Mark Timm, 28 years, Carson City
Willie Washington, 22 years, Las Vegas



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