

CENTERLINE

A Monthly Newsletter for the Employees of NDOT

GOING OVER AND ABOVE FOR SAFETY



Photo Simulation

NDOT has begun installation of an overpass for enhanced safety on U.S. 93 in northeastern Nevada.

The safety overpass will be installed over U.S. 93 ten miles north of Wells. Designed to direct mule deer and other large animals safely over the road, the overpass will help reduce collisions and other driving dangers caused as the animals migrate across U.S. 93.

(NDOW) research identified the road as having one of the state's highest vehicle-animal collision rates, with nearly 40 vehicle-animal collisions reported between 2005 and 2008. Research estimates that up to 71 percent of such collisions go unreported to authorities, pointing to a potentially higher number of animal-related incidents.

Spanning 162 feet across the roadway and reaching nearly 23 feet above the road, the 66-foot wide fenced overpass walkway will be covered with earth and native vegetation to replicate the natural environment and encourage animal crossing. NDOW will install three miles of deer fencing on both sides of the overpass to help direct animals to cross at the overpass. The precast concrete arch overpass was designed to connect across the road at a natural ridgeline, further encouraging animals to cross. An informational kiosk developed by NDOT landscape architecture will educate motorists about the area's animal populations.

The approximately \$1.8 million project, to be built by Rafael Construction, will be funded in part by federal economic recovery funds and is expected to complete construction in 2010. Overseeing the construction will be NDOT Crew 908.

"This is a step to significantly reduce vehicle-animal collisions and the suffering, injury and property damage that goes along with these crashes," NDOT Roadway Design Engineer John Bradshaw explained. "This is also a huge conservation effort for the animals, and should increase their chances for survival dramatically. These type of safety projects are gaining importance in many Western states, and those states that have been investing in and building these type of crossings have experienced great success. It is a win-win situation."

NDOT Staff Who Assisted

Daryl James, Kristena Shigenaga, Paul Sinnott, Kent Steele, John Bradshaw, Victoria Harris, Jon Couste, Chris Deal, Fred Kingman, Jessen Mortensen, Cole Mortensen, Lori Bellis, Kelly Anrig (retired), Jim Ceragioli, Katie Ezell, Steve Merrill, Ashley Ablahani, Jeff Palmer, John Salazar, John L'etoile, Sandi Stanio, Reed Gibby

District 3

Kevin Lee, Mike Murphy, Randy Hesterlee, Val Nance, Chris Rupinski, Paul Gomez, Nick Senrud, Dean Decarlo and Crew 908

THIS IS JUST A TEST

To right, NDOT and Attorney General's Office staff review procedures during the recent emergency training exercise. The drill simulated a Reno-area flood such as the 1997 flood pictured below.



A winter day turns warm, melting a large snow-pack and spilling floodwater into northern Nevada's largest cities. Rivers overflow and roads flood. It was all part of a simulated natural disaster during a recent NDOT functional emergency training.

Over 50 NDOT staff and state emergency personnel participated in the July drill designed to evaluate NDOT emergency plans and capability to respond to a disaster. Going through the actions they would take in a real emergency, participants mobilized staff, equipment and funding, notified the public, and kept abreast of the mock disaster to best protect public safety and infrastructure.



"The exercise looked at NDOT communications, to make sure we were best equipped to communicate internally and with the public during an emergency," NDOT Security and Emergency Manager Jim Walker said. "We also looked at our ability to physically set up an emergency operations center in a disaster, and equip and secure that center."

The drill will result in an improvement plan to further prepare the Department for potential emergencies, with the plan eventually being incorporated into ongoing updates to the Department's Emergency Operations Plan.

NDOT security and emergency personnel Chris Joncas, Jim Walker and Vicky Thompson dedicated their expertise and time to planning and development of the drill as a way to help prepare NDOT staff to protect state roads in a potential emergency. The exercise also fulfills federal Homeland Security requirements which could help the state receive emergency response grant money.

"The state's transportation system is so vital in a disaster for getting emergency services in and evacuees out," explained NDOT Maintenance/Operations Project Manager Chris Joncas. "Our emergency and security staff did a great job in making this drill realistic and valuable. It was reassuring to see everyone's dedication to protecting NDOT infrastructure during the exercise."

NDOT EMERGENCY OPERATIONS

Chris Joncas, NDOT Maintenance/Operations Project Manager

Jim Walker, NDOT Security/Emergency Manager

Vicky Thompson, NDOT Engineering Technician

NDOT's security and emergency section ensures that NDOT emergency and security plans are in compliance with state and federal standards. The section conducts exercises to test the readiness of NDOT personnel to respond to emergencies.

NDOT Emergency Operations Plans: available to NDOT employees on the Department's Maintenance and Operations SharePoint Web page

HOOVER DAM BYPASS BRIDGING THE GAP

PROJECT BENEFITS

- *Improves safety by removing trucks and through traffic from Hoover Dam pedestrian area.*
- *Improves truck travel on U.S. 93 and improves tourist travel to Hoover Dam.*
- *Improves and speeds travel between Las Vegas and Phoenix.*
- *Improves Hoover Dam facility, worker and visitor operations.*
- *Protects Colorado River waters.*

To right, arch supports for the Hoover Dam Bridge are now connected and awaiting the upcoming bridge completion.



The Hoover Dam Bridge has recently reached a milestone. The arches extending from both the Nevada and Arizona sides were physically connected in August. The bridge, officially named the Mike O'Callaghan-Pat Tillman Memorial Bridge, is scheduled for completion next fall.

Managed by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), the 1,900-foot bridge is just 1,600 feet downstream of the Hoover Dam. As a vital trade route, the current U.S. 93 highway across the dam can no longer accommodate the nearly 15,000 average daily vehicles it now sees. The winding two-lane road is being replaced by a more direct, four-lane freeway that will speed interstate commerce and traffic as well as help secure the dam from accidents or threats.

"We are really excited about the progress and momentum on the project and are focused on the opening of the bypass in 2010," said FHWA Project Manager Dave Zanetell. "The arches were connected on Aug. 10 and the removal of the supporting cable system was completed on Aug. 27."

With removal of the supporting cable stay system, the arch is now self supporting and free standing.

Nevada has been a vital partner in the multi-agency improvement project, with a 2.2-mile freeway approach graded on Nevada land. A similar approach freeway was built on the Arizona side of the bridge.

"One of the strengths of the project is the efforts and collaborative spirit of the multi-agency and multi-stakeholder team, of which NDOT is a huge and thriving force on the project," Zanetell stated.

Items still to be completed include setting the precast columns, erecting the steel girders and the casting of the roadway deck and barriers. The bridge remains on schedule for completion in late August of 2010, with opening of the full bypass expected by November 2010.

KudosKorner

CHIEF'S COIN



Many NDOT employees played an important role in assisting with the fallen officers memorial wall profiled in the June 2009 "Centerline."

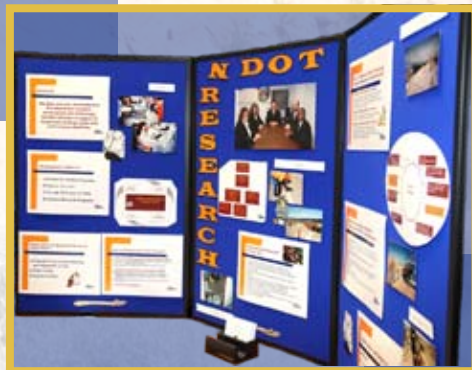
The Nevada Highway Patrol recently presented NDOT District 1 Engineer Mary Martini with the "Chief's Coin," a special commendation recognizing NDOT District 1 employees who assisted, including Ernie Hinojosa, Pete Keovorabouth, Joe Alhwayek, Shawn Smith, Albert Chavez, Hector Deleon, Teresa Canada, Richard Knudsen, Omar Barney and Roberto Franceschi.

RESEARCH DAY

A Look Into Transportation's Future

New products and programs, transportation library resources and more were all part of the NDOT Research Division's Research Day in mid-August.

Approximately 60 people participated in the event that provided speakers and informative displays and offered a glimpse inside the research that will help shape the future of Nevada transportation.



TRIAL VICTORY

After a vehicle hit a cow on U.S. 95 north of Winnemucca, a lawsuit was filed against NDOT alleging it was negligent in maintaining, safeguarding and barricading the roadway. Deputy Attorney General Karissa Vero defended the Department, showing that NDOT had no prior knowledge of any break in the fence or cow on the roadway.

Chief Deputy Attorney General Daniel Wong said, "Karissa prepared all of the witnesses and evidence, went in and won a defense verdict. Great job Karissa!"

Welcome

Mark Caffaratti, Carson
Phillip Prieve, Carson

Thanks for Serving

Gary Ballew, 15 years, Carson
Raymond Bennett, 25 years, Sparks
Jeffrey Dunn, 23 years, Carson
Kristen Friberg, 24 years, Carson
Douglas Pope, 34 years, Tonopah

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