



July 2010

THE NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

CENTERLINE

A Monthly Newsletter for the Employees of NDOT

Public Meeting Details Three Las Vegas Road Improvements



I-15 PROJECT NEON - www.ndotprojectneon.com
Project Manager: Phil Slagel

- Reduce congestion
- Expand access to downtown and HOV network
- Improve safety

F STREET CONNECTION - www.lasvegasnevada.gov/fstreet
Project Manager: Jenica Finnerty

- Reopen F Street to restore additional access between downtown and west Las Vegas

I-515 PROJECT - www.i515project.com
Project Manager: Ed Miranda

- Reduce congestion
- Enhance interstate ramps/interchanges
- Improve safety

In the heart of Nevada's largest city, three proposed NDOT projects are planned to improve interstates and access to downtown and west Las Vegas. And Las Vegas residents were updated on the three projects at a first-of-a-kind NDOT public information fair.

Project Neon, one of the projects presented at the June 26 meeting, would improve travel and high occupancy vehicle connections on Interstate 15, as well as enhance the interstate's connectivity into downtown Las Vegas. Proposed Interstate 515 improvements would improve interchanges and travel on I-515 through downtown Las Vegas and the city of Henderson. Meanwhile, the F Street Connection would reopen F Street under I-15 between downtown and west Las Vegas. All three projects are currently in the environmental review stage in which an environmental analysis gathers input on potential social, environmental and economic implications before construction details are finalized.

"We hold public meetings often to gather feedback and update and educate the public on particular

projects, including these three projects," NDOT Director Susan Martinovich explained. "But, this information fair is a unique idea we developed to give the community information on how all three of these projects connect together, and to comment on any impacts they see that the improvements may have."

At the meeting, NDOT project managers joined with partner agencies such as the City of Las Vegas to answer questions on the three projects. NDOT environmental, civil rights and right-of-way experts also provided information on Department policies and services to protect and assist those affected by road improvements. Meanwhile, NDOT transit and landscape/aesthetics staff offered insight on efforts to beautify road corridors and enhance mobility through mass transit. The Regional Transportation Commission of Southern Nevada was also present to provide southern Nevada transit and transportation updates.

In all, the meeting brought approximately 40 citizens and stakeholders together to learn of NDOT's efforts to move Las Vegas transportation forward.

MAKING CONNECTIONS IN SOUTH RENO



From left, NDOT Assistant District 2 Engineer for Construction Peter Booth, Director Susan Martinovich, Resident Engineer Shane Cocking and Project Manager Adam Searcy join together in the June 2 groundbreaking ceremony.

In the commercial heart of southern Reno, NDOT recently broke ground on the U.S. 395 Meadowood interchange project to improve travel through one of the city's most congested traffic hubs.

"Right now, you essentially have two of Reno's largest arterial streets intersecting in the middle of one of the city's densest shopping areas," said NDOT Project Manager Adam Searcy, describing southern Reno's Virginia Street and McCarran Boulevard intersection and adjacent sprawling retail district, including Meadowood Mall. "Improvements are needed."

The project will use a multi-prong approach to enhance traffic flow around the busy commercial

hub. The existing I-580 interchange at Neil Road will be converted to a split diamond interchange, with the current southbound off-ramp and northbound on-ramp eliminated. Instead of funneling heavy traffic through the interchange into the congested shopping district, two new connector roads will be built between Neil Road and Meadowood Way to carry through traffic past the busy area. A new freeway interchange will also be built and Meadowood Way extended from South Virginia Street to Kietzke Lane under U.S. 395, further alleviating congestion and enhancing connectivity.

"At the end of this project, we will have additional freeway access and connector roads in and out of the shopping district," NDOT Resident Engineer Shane Cocking explained. "We'll also reduce traffic at the McCarran and Virginia intersection and improve circulation at other nearby intersections."

The project, a partnership between NDOT and the Regional Transportation Commission of Washoe County, will be built by Meadow Valley Contractors and overseen by NDOT construction crew 913. Funded in large part by federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds, the approximately \$22 million project will create or sustain one hundred-plus construction jobs. The project is expected to complete in approximately two and a half years.

"This project is truly going to move the city and state forward," Governor Jim Gibbons said at the project groundbreaking ceremony, while also recognizing the work and dedication of the project's design, construction and administrative personnel.

I-580/MEADOWOOD COMPLEX IMPROVEMENTS REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION OF WASHOE COUNTY RENO, NV



MESSAGES FROM THE ROAD

Today, it is estimated that 75 percent of cell phone owners use text messaging. Meanwhile, e-mail continues as a key form of human communication.

These are some of the reasons that NDOT recently launched 511 ClearPath road alerts by text message and e-mail.

In 2006, NDOT unveiled the 511 Nevada traveler information system which provides instant, free road reports, including current construction, traffic and road incident updates, simply by dialing “511” or logging onto www.nvroads.com. More than two million calls for road information have already been placed into the system.

And now, NDOT’s new ClearPath system allows motorists to receive state road weather and incident alerts directly through e-mail or text. The alerts include chain controls, wind advisories/prohibitions and incident or weather-related road closures (construction not included at this time). The alerts are free, excluding any text message fees imposed by individual phone carriers. They’re also completely customizable, allowing users to choose the section of road and even day of the week and time of day they wish to receive the alerts.

NDOT’s Maintenance and Operations division oversaw development of this important addition to the 511 system. They also recently enhanced the existing 511 phone number and road condition website.

“The on-line map icons and road segments are now easier to identify and locate,” NDOT ClearPath project manager Chris Joncas explained. “Plus, in the next few months, we’ll upgrade the phone system’s automated speech recognition so it more easily recognizes voice commands and hands-free requests for road information.”

The 511 road conditions alerts are also now being posted on NDOT’s statewide Twitter social media website at www.twitter.com/nevadadot.

The system’s maintenance and long-distance charges are currently funded by NDOT’s roadside logo sign program at no taxpayer expense.



To sign up, simply log onto www.nvroads.com, select the “ClearPath” icon and register to receive reports on the road segments of your choosing. Whether by e-mail, text message, phone or Internet, all drivers are reminded to know before they go and get updated road conditions before, not while, driving.

ClearPath System Features

- Sign up for road alerts by e-mail and/or text message
- Alerts include snow tire and chain restrictions, wind warnings and advisories and weather or incident-related road closures
- Customizable by segment of state road desired
- Customizable by day(s) of week/time of day desired to receive alerts
- Customizable by type of road condition (snow tire and chain restrictions and/or wind advisories)
- Free, excluding text message fees imposed by phone carriers

KudosKorner



PUTTING NEVADA ON THE MOVE

The first Nevada Moves Day was held April 28 to encourage schoolchildren across Nevada to experience the benefits of walking and bicycling.

In all, 34 schools in seven counties took part, many hosting assemblies or walk-to-school events.

“Physical activity at an early age, such as walking or bicycling to school, helps reduce heart disease, diabetes and other obesity-related diseases,” explained NDOT State Safe Routes to School Coordinator Rebecca Kapuler, who initiated the Nevada Moves Day event. “Plus, it can help reduce the up to 25 percent of morning rush hour traffic that involves children being dropped off at school.”

CARING ABOUT COMMUNITIES

NDOT District 3 staff, including **Phillip Mendive, David Brown, Merlin Gonzales, Tom Wright, Onesimo Arevalo, Landon Harris, Pat Bottari, Sean McEntire, Robert Walker, Sandy Spencer** and **Angela Carter**, pitched in to help with the Elko Cleanup Day. Some swept streets and removed trash bags collected by cleanup volunteers, while others assisted in other cleaning and planning activities.

“I am so grateful to the many families and friends, businesses and clubs, city, county, state and tribal organizations working shoulder to shoulder to make a real difference,” Assistant Elko City Manager Delmo Andreozzi wrote.

In Fernley, NDOT Crew 225 helped with the city’s cleanup by removing temporary political and business signs on state right-of-way.

“The City of Fernley expresses its sincere appreciation for NDOT’s assistance through your generous donation to the Fernley Clean Sweep Citywide Cleanup,” declared a certificate of appreciation from the city.

Welcome

James Moore, Carson

Thanks for Serving

Gary Carrigan, 25 years, Las Vegas

Dennis Hemmert, 33 years, Winnemucca

Daryl James, 30 years, Carson

Tana McGuire, 21 years, Reno

Dan McMartin, 25 years, Carson

Sharon Powers, 23 years, Carson

Daniel Rogers, 24 years, Reno

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