



BREAKING GROUND ON NORTHBOUND 395



NDOT Director Susan Martinovich officially breaks ground on the northbound U.S. 395 project.

NDOT recently broke ground on the Northbound U.S. 395 Improvement Project to improve travel and safety on Reno's main north-south freeway artery.

In an April 19 ceremony, NDOT Director Susan Martinovich and others ceremonially kicked off the project and recognized national Work Zone Awareness Week.

"April 19-23 is Work Zone Awareness Week," Martinovich said at the event. "We remind motorists to drive safely in the area of this important project and everywhere else they travel."

The project area encompasses nearly three miles of northbound U.S. 395 from Moana Lane to the Interstate 80 interchange. The project will restripe the existing freeway from three to four lanes between Moana Lane and Villanova Drive. Widening will take place from Villanova Drive to I-80. Bridge widening, ramp reconstruction and enhanced signage, electronic message signs, landscape/aesthetics and drainage round out the improvements.

Another major project accomplishment will be relocating the I-80 westbound exit ramp to just north of the present location. Currently, drivers access I-80 eastbound and westbound from the same ramp. The move will separate the two exit ramps, making for safer and less concentrated merging.

"There were nearly 900 crashes on northbound 395 between 2006 and 2008," NDOT Project Manager Jim Gallegos said. "This project is aimed at making the drive on 395 safer and easier by reducing weaving."

The urban section of freeway is northern Nevada's most congested, seeing as many as 145,000 vehicles daily in both directions. Without the improvements, it will take an estimated 16 minutes to travel the three miles northbound between Moana Lane and I-80 in 2012. The project is expected to drastically reduce commute time to three minutes, saving 13 minutes.

Carefully-planned detour and incident response plans are another important construction component.

The approximately \$31 million widening project, overseen by NDOT crew 913 and awarded to Granite Construction Co., is expected to complete in 2012.

More information: www.northbound395.com



Construction gets underway on the northbound U.S. 395 project.

THE PAST MEETS A FUTURE HIGHWAY



NDOT archaeologist Patti DeBunch (retired) flashes a smile while recording archaeological data in the Stewart Indian Cemetery.

In Carson City, the past is coming face to face with a future highway. Nestled just 1,000 feet from the planned last leg of the Carson City Freeway is the Old Stewart Indian Cemetery.

The cemetery was used until the 1940s as the final resting place of Washoe, Shoshone and Paiute tribe members, particularly those connected to the historic Stewart Indian School. With the final phase of the Carson City Freeway planned to be constructed near the cultural site, NDOT wanted to diminish any visual impact on cemetery surroundings.

The Department's archaeological preservation efforts have now garnered the Federal Highway Administration's Exemplary Human Environment Initiative award, and helped preserve the historic resting place for future generations.

NDOT partnered with the Nevada Indian Commission and the Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California to research, document and clean up the cemetery. NDOT Architectural Historian Elizabeth Dickey, Native American Coordinator Sabra Gilbert-Young and Archaeologist Suzan Slaughter spent months documenting and researching over 250 graves. Also assisting were NDOT Environmental staff Patty Brisbin, Chris Young, Sharon Powers and the now-retired Patti DeBunch and Dan Rice. Digital copies of early 1900s Stewart Indian School student report cards, newspaper articles, telegrams and other documents were transferred to the Washoe Tribe. Using the Department's new ArcMap GIS program, the group also created a cemetery map with birth dates, death dates, tribal affiliations, gender and more for each

grave site that can be used to find patterns in mortality and burial customs.

But, the preservation efforts went beyond that. NDOT archaeologists provided hands-on training in preserving the cemetery to approximately 50 volunteers from the Washoe tribe and the Stewart Indian Colony Youth Group. Young children removed overgrown brush while teenagers documented graves, recorded inscriptions, evaluated grave marker condition and reset and repaired broken markers with the instruction of a stone mason. Washoe tribe elders shared with their children and grandchildren in remaking the burial site. The approximate \$3,000 cost of preservation was minimal thanks to volunteers and donated supplies.

"It really gives a sense of accomplishment," Dickey explained of the preservation efforts. "I received a call from a woman whose uncle was buried in the cemetery. We didn't know anything about him, except that his grave marker said 'Albert, Age 2, 1930.' Now, we know who his family is and that his grandmother is also buried in the cemetery. I feel very honored that people trust us to record part of their family history. A lot of that history is still very painful for family members."

As funding becomes available, the final phase of the Carson City Freeway is planned to continue from Fairview Drive to the intersection of U.S. 50 West and South Carson Street, completing the freeway bypass around downtown Carson City. Over the next two years, contractor Q&D Construction will construct two bridges in preparation for the final phase of freeway construction projected to begin in 2014.



Pictured from right to left, NDOT staff such as Elizabeth Dickey worked closely with Nevada Indian Commission Director Sherry Rupert, Stewart Indian School Buildings Supervisor Larry Hale and Chris Gibbons of the Nevada Indian Commission to preserve the historic Stewart Indian Cemetery. Not pictured: Darrel Cruz, Washoe Tribal Historic Preservation Officer

DOING WELL IN WELLINGTON

Spotlight on NDOT Crew 235

Nestled in the sprawling Smith Valley, between Gardnerville and Yerington, lies the ranching community of Wellington and NDOT Crew 235.

“I have a very safety-conscious, eager-to-work crew,” explained Supervisor Steve Stringham.

The five-man crew, with more than 50 years combined road work experience, maintains approximately 140 miles of road, including State Route 208 from Holbrook Junction to Wilson Canyon, State Route 338 from Wellington to the California state line and several farm district roads.

During the long winter months, the motoring public trusts the crew to safely remove the sometimes massive amounts of snow. Shoulder work, chip jobs, flush seals, sign repair and the like keep the crew busy in the summer months, and keep area roads safe for motorists.

The peaceful Smith Valley is home to many retirees, farmers and ranchers contributing to the alfalfa hay, cattle and sheep industry. Thankfully, Stringham and his crew have a positive working relationship with the community. “We are well thought of and like to help them as much as possible.”

And that’s exactly what they did during the flood of 1997. When the main road into Wellington, SR 208, washed-out, Crew 235 faced quite a challenge.

“Needless to say, this was a big disruption to the area traffic flow,” Stringham said. “We had to maintain an alternative dirt road through Mason and Smith



Wellington crew members, from left to right, are Tony Gutierrez, Tom Stern, Robert Tracy, Brent Slobe and supervisor Steve Stringham.

Valley for three months while repairing the main road.”

After the flood, SR 338 became the federal bypass route during any emergency U.S. 395 closures.

“We work safe and get the job done,” Stringham explained. “And it really helps to be blessed with productive equipment, a nice maintenance yard, and most importantly, a great community.”

Words of Thanks for Crew 235

We would like to let you know how much NDOT Crew 235 has helped our rural farming area of Smith Valley and vicinity over the past decades.

This NDOT facility and crew have kept this rural area functioning during all types of adversity and has always been very proactive and receptive to any concerns.

Supervisor Steve Stringham has always been very polite in representing NDOT when keeping the community informed by attending local Smith Valley Advisory Board meetings.

During the winter months, the crew has always kept roads clear of snow, which makes it easier for residents and emergency services to safely drive.

Lately, their efforts in widening State Route 208 along with the sloping of hillsides has been a great improvement to public safety.

-Gary and Toni Garms, Smith, Nevada



Like a well-rehearsed dance, Wellington crew members expertly crack seal area roads on a recent spring day.

KudosKorner

AASHTO AWARD 25 + Years



The American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials annually recognizes state transportation employees who have reached 25 years of DOT experience and currently serve in a leadership role.

Pictured above at left, District 1 Engineer Mary Martini was presented an AASHTO recognition for her 25 years of service from State Transportation Board member Frank Martin (left) and NDOT Deputy Director Rudy Malfabon (right).

Pictured at right, Assistant Director of Operations Rick Nelson (left) and Chief Structures Engineer Mark Elicegui (right) were recognized for 25 years of transportation service by Governor Jim Gibbons.

IN MEMORY Larry Wright

NDOT Location Engineer Technician Larry Wright recently passed away.

In his position as aerial photographer and Lidar surveying specialist, Larry was known as a fix-it guru who could build and repair all things mechanical and electrical. Larry's love for flying and his knowledge of flight operations made him doubly valuable in planning and executing aerial photo missions.



Always the hard worker dedicated to completing every task, Location Division chief Russ Law reminisces that the diligent NDOT employee should have sued comedian Larry the Cable Guy for use of the motto "get 'er done."

Larry's 10-year NDOT career exemplified his strong work ethic. His time at NDOT also garnered many friends and co-workers who now mourn his loss.

Welcome

Lisa Ables, *Reno*
Dennis Alvarez, *Las Vegas*
Jeremy Ashton, *Las Vegas*
Cody Black, *Reno*
Jon Burns, *Carson*
David Facemyer, *Las Vegas*
Brandon Isenhardt, *Carson*
William Kemp, *Ely*
Dennis Kind, *Reno*
Gregory Lawrence, *Reno*
Mary Lee, *Carson*
Roger Lee, *Carson*
Jesse Lidder, *Reno*
Everett Martinez, *Elko*
Gabriel Martinez, *Battle Mountain*
Michael Mendoza, *Reno*
Bryan Mitchell, *Battle Mountain*
Gary Molnar, *Elko*
Brent Parr, *Las Vegas*
Albert Russo, *Las Vegas*
Paul Shock, *Carson*
Kenneth Theiss, *Reno*
Kevin Williams, *Carson*
Philip Wortman, *Reno*

Thanks for Serving

Woody Abbott, 25 years, *Carson*
Ricky Atkin, 29 years, *Lund*
Terry Bellander, 23 years, *Ely*
James Bunch, 20 years, *Carson*
Joseph Christensen, 26 years, *Ely*
Joan Darden, 17 years, *Carson*
Patricia DeBunch, 20 years, *Carson*
Gregory Evans, 17 years, *Eureka*
Howard Fisher, 28 years, *Carson*
Isidro Gomez, 32 years, *Elko*
Jeanine Johnson, 30 years, *Las Vegas*
Christopher Miller, 25 years, *Carson*
Lawrence Pellini, 25 years, *Wells*
Gary Phillips, 15 years, *Carson*
Todd Scott, 31 years, *Elko*
Ted Smith, 35 years, *Reno*
Steven Stearns, 33 years, *Carson*
Robert Welsh, 31 years, *Reno*
Ken Wiley, 26 years, *Elko*

State Transportation Board

Governor Jim Gibbons • *Transportation Board Chairman*

Members:

Brian K. Krolicki, *Lieutenant Governor*
Catherine Cortez Masto, *Attorney General*
Kim Wallin, *State Controller* • Tom Fransway
Frank Martin • Paul Morabito



Susan Martinovich, P.E., *Director*

Meg Ragonese, *Public Information Officer* • (775) 888-7172

Julie Duewel, *Photographer*
NDOT Multi-media, *Graphic Design*