

CENTERLINE

A Monthly Newsletter for the Employees of NDOT

CRAIG ROAD PROJECT NAMED
NEVADA'S BEST

Following NDOT's award-winning Craig Road project, railroad tracks now travel safely underneath the busy Las Vegas thoroughfare.

NDOT's Craig Road project, completed ahead of schedule in July 2009, took a vital North Las Vegas road up and over railroad tracks. Now, the project is elevated once again with an award as Southwest Contractor magazine's best Nevada transportation construction of 2009.

The project's centerpiece is a grade separation spanning Union Pacific Railroad tracks. The cast-in-place, pre-stressed box girder bridge now rises 40 feet above the railroad tracks, carrying traffic safely over the railroad and helping to alleviate congestion from traffic that previously had to stop at the tracks.

"Before the project, traffic backed up on both sides of Craig Road, and even onto the freeway, when a train went by," NDOT Resident Engineer K.D. Warach, P.E., explained.

The project also widened over one mile of Craig Road, expanding the major thoroughfare from four to six lanes between Berg Street and Pecos Road. Also included were retaining walls, ramp and landscaping improvements, as well as major utility work such as the installation of a new water line to service Nellis Air Force Base.

All of the work was accomplished two months ahead of schedule, thanks to dedicated teamwork between NDOT, contractor Frehner Construction and partners City of North Las Vegas, the Regional Transportation Commission of Southern Nevada and Nellis Air Force Base.

"The project used a formal partnering process successfully to resolve issues quickly and therefore finished the project 60 days ahead of schedule," Warach said.

The approximately \$34 million improvement project is already enhancing travel and safety on the busy road that sees more than 50,000 vehicles daily.

Independent design and construction experts reviewed more than 60 construction projects before selecting the Craig Road project as one exhibiting transportation construction and design excellence. The project will now move on to the national "Best of the Best" construction awards competition to vie for the national spotlight.

PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS



From left to right, NDOT's newest professional engineers, Joselio Ramirez, Sajid Sulahria and Ken Mammen, gather around a set of plans.

NDOT engineers Ken Mammen, Joselio Ramirez and Sajid Sulahria have reached a benchmark of their professional career by recently being certified as Professional Engineers.

The P.E. license is given to those who have undergone rigorous engineering training, received a Fundamentals of Engineering certification and the required years of professional engineering experience. Then comes the P.E. exam itself. The exacting eight-hour test demands a breadth of knowledge of all civil engineering areas, with a particular depth of transportation engineering knowledge. The high P.E. licensure standards ensure both engineering expertise and education for all of those designing our nation's infrastructure. But, the high standards take preparation to fulfill.

Sulahria and Ramirez often studied together, using reference materials from the NDOT Research Library.

"I really appreciate the opportunity the Department allows as far as great library resources and moral support from co-workers," Sulahria says.

As for Mammen, he says he has also been studying the engineering principles covered in the exam throughout his 20-year NDOT career.

All three agree that the license has been a long-term personal goal that opens doors to professional opportunities and advancement.

With their professional licenses, both Sulahria and Ramirez fill the senior hydraulic engineer position they were previously underfilling as Staff III engineering interns.

Beginning in June 2010, Nevada's P.E. license will require a bachelor's degree in engineering instead of the 10 years of professional engineering work experience that previously fulfilled the experience requirement.

MOVING DAY

A Universal Steel Tensile Testing Machine has been replaced from the NDOT headquarters Materials building, and due to its very large stature, the only way to remove it was through a hole in the roof.

In fact, the machine, used for testing steel strand and rebar strength for bridges and other structures, was originally installed in the 1960s through the existing trap door in the roof.

"Its replacement, which is currently out to bid, will also be installed through the roof," explains Principal Materials Engineer Mike Griswold. "We are going to have to increase the size of the hole as the replacement machine will be bigger than the original."

The new machine, estimated to cost around \$300,000, is expected to be installed in June. In the meantime, rebar will be shipped to the Materials Division laboratory in Las Vegas. Steel strand strength tests will be conducted by a private contractor since the Las Vegas facility is not equipped for that testing.



CVISN PROVIDES VISION OF NEVADA MOTOR TRANSPORT FUTURE



Some reports have found that one approximately 80,000-pound commercial vehicle has the same effect on roadways as 26,000 or more passenger vehicles.

Nevada's trucking industry carries the goods and commerce on which the state relies. But, the hundreds of thousands of heavy vehicles that travel the state yearly can substantially impact the safety and condition of state roads. That is where the Nevada Commercial Vehicle Information Systems and Networks (CVISN) program comes in to both support the trucking industry and protect Nevada roads.

After the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Division established the national CVISN program, Nevada was one of the first western states to begin implementation in the 1990s. After Nevada's multi-agency CVISN team successfully established electronic registration, tax payment capabilities and more for motor carriers, Nevada received an additional nearly \$2.4 million in federal grant money to fund new motor transport improvements. In 2008, the Nevada CVISN team, led by NDOT, came together again to develop further motor carrier advancements to utilize the grant money. Currently the team is developing the Nevada Expanded CVISN Program Plan, a plan outlining 19 projects to be deployed within the next two to 10 years.

While looking ahead, CVISN partners also oversee several current motor transport improvements. One of those improvements, an enhanced over-dimensional

vehicle permitting system, will speed motor carrier permitting, improve safety and preserve infrastructure.

"NDOT processes nearly 40,000 oversize and overweight vehicle permits every year, not including hundreds of thousands of standard truck combinations, and NDOT permit agents personally analyze each permit," NDOT Records and Over Dimensional Vehicle Permits Manager Jeff Richter explained. "CVISN enhancements will streamline processing and allow data sharing between agencies. It will include 24/7 Web-based capability and will support a future route analysis capability that compares truck load characteristics to roadway restrictions such as bridge load capacity and work zones. To support these initiatives, we will soon introduce a new standardized highway restriction reporting process statewide. All in all, we will have a more effective and safe system for motor carriers."

Another current CVISN project is remote truck monitoring stations that can give Nevada Highway Patrol troopers remote, mobile capabilities to enforce commercial vehicle safety and licensing. One example is the concept of a "Virtual Weigh Station" in which passing trucks could be remotely weighed, classified and identified.

CVISN Partners

*Nevada Department of Transportation Nevada Department of Motor Vehicles
Nevada Department of Public Safety Nevada Motor Transport Association
Federal Motor Carrier Safety Division - Nevada office*

CVISN Goals

- *Improving efficiency through electronic commercial vehicle screening*
- *Integrating systems to improve the accuracy, integrity, and verifiability of truck driver credentials*
- *Focusing safety enforcement on high-risk operators*
- *Enabling on-line application and issuance of credentials*

KudosKorner

APPLAUDING ONE OF OUR OWN



When NDOT Central Records Supervisor Karen Williford recently celebrated 40 years of service to the state of Nevada, her dedication was recognized in a ceremony, and with a commemorative tree.

“Thank you to Don Glover, Reggie Kile, Michelle Austin and Julie Duewel who helped with the commemoration ceremony,” Records and Over Dimensional Vehicle Permits Manager Jeff Richter said.

IN MEMORY



Coni Musgrave celebrates the fall season in a Halloween costume.

NDOT is mourning the loss of one of our own with the recent passing of Coni Musgrave.

Coni served as a dedicated employee in NDOT’s accounts payable section for the past five years. Coni’s co-workers and friends will remember her as a wonderful person and co-worker who will be greatly missed.

One particular co-worker remembers times spent speculating with Coni if the northern Nevada winter weather would hold until everyone made it safely home from work.

“Now she is home; no more suffering,” the co-worker says.

IMPROVING OUR ROADS AND ECONOMY

In January, NDOT obligated all \$201 million of the state’s American Recovery and Reinvestment Act highway funds one month ahead of schedule, making Nevada one of the first three states to obligate all ARRA highway funding. All 17 Nevada counties shared in the funding, resulting in approximately 70 projects statewide. More than \$120 million went to projects in Clark County and an estimated \$26 million went to the construction of the I-580/Meadow Interchange project in Washoe County.

Many NDOT staff members worked for a full year to complete right-of-way, environmental clearances, design, construction and administration for many of these projects which are now putting Nevadans to work and improving our roads.

Welcome

Margaret Boutilier, *Carson City*
Don Cortez, *Reno*
Debra Ebsen, *Carson City*
Anthony Gantt, *Las Vegas*
Trinity Harris, *Las Vegas*
Jeremy Hudson, *Big Smoky*
Craig Hutton, *Reno*
Anthony Lorenzi, *Carson City*
Sara Martel, *Carson City*
Maureen Mensing, *Reno*
Nicholas Niemi, *Winnemucca*
Michon Presco, *Reno*
Bernardo Renteria, *Las Vegas*
Martin Strganac, *Las Vegas*
Tyler Thew, *Carson City*

Thanks for Serving

Raymond Benally, *27 years, Reno*
Jon Bunch, *31 years, Carson City*
Charles Campbell, *27 years, Las Vegas*

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