

ENHANCING SAFETY IN ELKO

NDOT recently completed a traffic roundabout to increase safety and travel on an Elko-area road.

On State Route 227, known as Lamoille Highway, traffic traveling between Elko and the communities of Spring Creek and Lamoille has increased. Increased traffic has led to heightened travel speeds, congestion and safety concerns. NDOT has installed a roundabout at the intersection of Spring Creek Parkway and Lamoille Highway to help reduce those concerns.

“The main goal behind this roundabout is to increase mobility and safety,” NDOT District 3 Traffic Engineer Randy Hesterlee explained. “Vehicles driving in roundabouts are driving slower and do not meet at the right angles that you find in four-way stop intersections. Because of this, crashes are often reduced and, if they do occur, are not as severe. Roundabouts also have a higher operational efficiency than many alternatives.”

Installation of the roundabout followed discussions with the public, Elko County Commission, Elko County Regional Transportation Commission, Spring Creek Association Board of Directors and other stakeholders, as well as extensive NDOT educational efforts to provide roundabout information to community members unfamiliar with the type of intersection.

The approximately \$2 million project was constructed by Eagle Peak Rock and Paving and overseen by NDOT crew 918. The roundabout features a Ruby Mountain-themed centerpiece in the middle designed by Spring Creek High School students.

The Spring Creek roundabout joins other state roundabouts already improving traffic flow and safety in many areas, including in Fernley and on State Route 88 in Minden.



WHAT IS A ROUNDABOUT

One-way circular intersections in which traffic flows around a center island without stop signs or signals, roundabouts provide distinct safety benefits. Because traffic enters and exits through right turns only and speeds are reduced, the occurrence of severe crashes is substantially less. Lower speeds within roundabouts also allow entering traffic to access smaller gaps between circulating vehicles, increasing traffic volume and decreasing delays, congestion, fuel consumption and air pollution.

Further information: www.nevadadot.com/roundabout

NORTHERN EXPANSION: Improving U.S. 95 in Northwest Las Vegas



Dignitaries and transportation officials broke ground on phase 1 of U.S. 95 northwest improvements on Aug. 3. (Photo Courtesy of Las Vegas Sun)



NDOT's U.S. 95 improvements will enhance the freeway where it travels through northwest Las Vegas.

In Las Vegas' bustling northern suburbs, NDOT has just broken ground on phase 1 of the U.S. 95 Northwest Corridor Improvements Project to improve freeway travel, safety and aesthetics.

The project, built in partnership with the City of Las Vegas, will expand and improve U.S. 95 between Washington Avenue and Ann Road, construct a Durango Drive loop ramp and extend high occupancy vehicle lanes into the U.S. 95 northern corridor. The corridor is a vital link for commuters traveling between downtown Las Vegas and the city's northwest communities, with the number of vehicles using the corridor nearly doubling in the past decade alone.

"The area has greatly expanded over past years with new residential areas and commercial developments," NDOT Senior Project Manager Jenica Finnerty explained. "This project will help allow the freeway to safely and efficiently accommodate the development seen in recent years, as well as any future developments."

The approximately \$69 million project to be overseen by NDOT crew 926 and built by Capriati Construction is expected to complete in 2012. The project is part of five phases of improvements to the northern U.S. 95 corridor. Currently, NDOT and partners are also completing a new interchange at U.S. 95 and Horse Drive. Other future phases of improvements, such as widening U.S. 95 from Ann Road to Kyle Canyon Road, a system-to-system interchange at the U.S. 95/Clark County 215 northern beltway intersection and a new service interchange at Kyle Canyon Road, will be constructed over coming years as needed to accommodate increased development and traffic.

The improvements will reduce congestion, drive time and environmentally-damaging emissions

from stop and go traffic. The projects will also serve to beautify the corridor, improve driver safety and comfort as well as enhance freeway interchanges and access into residential and commercial areas.

"It's going to change the quality of life out here," Las Vegas City Councilman Steven Ross said at an Aug. 3 groundbreaking ceremony. "People are going to commute to and from work safer. The amenities- the beautiful landscaping, the sound walls, the bridges- it is all going to be just a spectacular thing."

More information: www.us95nw.com

U.S. 95 NORTHWEST CORRIDOR IMPROVEMENTS PHASE 1

Washington Avenue to Ann Road

- Widen U.S. 95, including Gowan Road bridge, to accommodate three general purpose lanes, one high occupancy vehicle lane and auxiliary lanes in each direction
- Construct a Cheyenne Avenue loop ramp to accommodate heavy westbound Cheyenne Avenue to southbound U.S. 95 traffic
- Improve Rancho Drive/Ann Road interchange by constructing braided northbound exit ramp and southbound entrance ramp
- Construct a Durango Drive loop ramp to accommodate heavy westbound Durango Drive to southbound U.S. 95 traffic
- Construct landscape/aesthetic improvements and sound walls

VOTE FOR I-15 NORTH DESIGN-BUILD PROJECT AS NATION'S BEST!

State could receive \$10,000 for charity or scholarship donation

Many NDOT staff dedicated themselves to bringing the I-15 North Design-Build Project to a successful and early completion. Now, the freeway widening, completed ahead of schedule on Las Vegas' busiest freeway, is in the running for America's Transportation Awards People's Choice Award and supporters can vote for the project to be named the nation's best.



Traffic moves smoothly on I-15 near where NDOT's I-15 North Design-Build Project improved travel.

The American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials has recognized the freeway improvements as one of the nation's top 10 road projects for timely completion and innovative construction. The approximately \$250 million project, overseen by NDOT crew 916 and built by North Corridor Constructors, a joint venture between CH2M Hill and Las Vegas Paving Corporation, widened and improved the I-15 corridor north of the spaghetti bowl to improve traffic flow. The project also included very strong collaboration between NDOT and the Regional Transportation Commission of Southern Nevada FAST division. The FAST operations center is a cooperative partnership of NDOT and the Regional Transportation Commission of Southern Nevada to operate and maintain the valley's dynamic message signs, freeway ramp meters and traffic cameras.

The project marked the first time NDOT used the design-build strategy of constructing early project

phases as final project elements are being designed. The process helped shave a year off construction. In addition to public support, innovative construction and dedicated partnering also helped contribute to an additional eight-month time savings, allowing the project to be substantially completed after only 28 months in December 2009.

"There is so much work, dedication and expertise that goes into a successful road project of this size," said NDOT Director Susan Martinovich. "This recognition truly goes to NDOT staff and partners who worked so hard on this important project. Partnering with our contractors, implementing 'outside-of-the-box' strategies, and receiving support from the public also made this project a huge success."

The NDOT project competed against 43 road projects across the nation to be named one of the top 10. The project is now in the running for the America's Transportation Awards Grand Prize and the People's Choice Award, to be presented this fall. If the project wins either award, the State of Nevada would receive a \$10,000 cash prize to donate to a charity or scholarship fund.



To Cast Your Vote

You can vote for the project to win the People's Choice Award by logging onto www.americatransportationaward.org before Oct. 18.

Here's how:

- Log onto www.americatransportationaward.org
- Select the "Cast Your Vote" button
- Select the "Vote for this Project" button next to "NV: I-15 Las Vegas Design-Build Project"
- Click on the "Submit" button to cast your vote

You can vote as many times as you wish!

KudosKorner

SHARING THE WEALTH OF INFORMATION

NDOT employees daily dedicate their time and expertise to enhancing Nevada transportation. Many NDOT employees also dedicate time sharing their wealth of knowledge with interested citizens and groups across the state, garnering thanks as they share vital transportation information and updates.

"Thank you so much for your presentation on (road) signage," AARP Driver Safety Program Coordinator Bill Perry wrote to NDOT Chief Traffic Engineer Tom Moore. "Your discussion regarding other aspects of highways, byways and arterial and feeder roads was most enlightening."

"Thank you for the most informative presentation about the 511 system in Nevada," Perry wrote to NDOT Maintenance/Operations Project Manager Chris Joncas. "The content is of import to (AARP)

driver safety program leaders."

"I would like to extend my sincere gratitude for your attendance at our safety meeting and giving us a presentation on the wind study for Washoe Valley," Amador Stage Lines Director of Safety Chris Knight wrote to NDOT District 2 Traffic Engineer Mike Fuess and Operations Engineer Jae Pullen. "The education you provided gave us a new and much needed understanding of how high winds affect our travel (on U.S. 395)."

WORTH A THOUSAND WORDS



A picture is worth a thousand words.

NDOT Photographer Julie Duewel was recently recognized with two awards for photos illustrating the dedication of NDOT employees and the importance of our transportation system.

Her photo of Wellington crew 235 was named the best overall photo submitted in the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials' Faces of Transportation competition. Julie also received third place in the "quality of life" category for her photo of community members participating in the September 2009 Carson City Freeway Fun Run.

The photos won against nearly 100 other photos from 24 state departments of transportation.

Welcome

Matthew Banes, *Carson*
Melanie Ewart, *Carson*
Joseph Ramirez, *Elko*



All NDOT employees-
Remember to always be attentive and follow safe practices in road work zones and all work locations.



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Susan Martinovich, P.E., *Director*
Meg Ragonese,
Public Information Officer • (775) 888-7172

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