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THE NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

CENTERLINE

A Monthly Newsletter for the Employees of NDOT

NEW ASSISTANT ENGINEERING DIRECTOR LOOKS TO FURTHER PROJECT SUCCESSES

Making sure that all NDOT road projects are quality and delivered on time and within budget is the mission of the Department's Assistant Director of Engineering. Following the retirement of former assistant engineering director Kent Cooper, new NDOT Assistant Director of Engineering Bill Hoffman has been named to oversee the important duties.

Cooper retired in late December, following an NDOT career that spanned NDOT program development, planning and engineering. At his January farewell party, Cooper expressed just how much he enjoyed his NDOT co-workers and career, from beginning to end.

"When I started at the Department, I was so happy to have a job. I walked around for three weeks jumping up to reach the hallway ceilings in excitement," he said. "I will miss all of you. It was a very hard decision to leave."

Now, Bill Hoffman has taken the reins, overseeing NDOT's Project Management, Design, Bridge, Environmental, Location and Right-of-Way divisions, and more than 300 dedicated engineering and right-of-way professionals responsible for creating the design plans and specifications used in NDOT road projects.

"Some of our core Department goals include delivering timely, beneficial projects and programs. The NDOT staff behind the engineering and management of our projects are such a key part and are so dedicated to doing that," Hoffman said. "They are some



Bill Hoffman

of the best in the nation. I'm looking forward to working with them to further produce quality projects on time and on budget."

Hoffman began with NDOT in 1991 working on engineering and construction of District 2 projects. He then advanced as a bridge designer and construction quality assurance engineer. In his most recent role as Chief of Maintenance and Operations, Hoffman oversaw NDOT staff responsible for intelligent transportation systems (ITS) to improve traffic movement, safety and information across the state, the I-80 Corridor Coalition Program to improve winter mobility along Interstate 80 and the Maintenance

Accountability Program (MAP) to establish a customer service approach to statewide NDOT maintenance activities. He also oversaw vital motorist services such as NDOT's 511 Nevada Travel Info and Freeway Service Patrol, as well as NDOT's architecture and emergency management and support services for the nearly one million person hours worked yearly by NDOT road maintenance staff.

Hoffman has two bachelor's degrees, including one in Civil Engineering, and is a registered Professional Engineer as well as a third generation Nevadan. Hoffman's grandfather served as Ormsby County (Carson City) Sheriff from 1959-1966. His father, Bill Hoffman, Sr., served in NDOT Planning, retiring in 2001 after a 31-year career.

REDESIGNED NDOT WEBSITE OFFERS EXPANDED TRANSPORTATION INFORMATION AND OPTIONS

The Nevada Department of Transportation has launched a newly-redesigned www.nevadadot.com website that provides quicker and easier access to Nevada transportation information.

The site's 12 previous main navigation links have been reduced to six for easier navigation. New website features include quick links to information on alternate transportation modes, from walking and bicycling to Nevada rail information. Also new is the ability to sign up to receive free e-mail alerts when web pages of interest have been updated. An enhanced map and new zoom features have also been added by NDOT Traffic Operations to the on-line road conditions report, allowing users to zoom into road conditions for their state road of choice.

The new site continues to offer some helpful features from the previous site: up-to-the-minute road conditions, road weather reports, NDOT road project and driving safety information, public involvement and job opportunities, Nevada maps, and business items from road use permits to information on contracting with NDOT.

In the future, the site will be further expanded to offer live video of U.S. 395(I-580) Reno travel conditions and electronic bid submissions for contractors wishing to bid on state transportation projects.

“Not only does the new site provide more features for our users, it also makes it easier for users to find



nevadadot.com

the exact information they are looking for,” NDOT Director Susan Martinovich explained. “Each division will be able to update their division’s web pages nearly instantaneously so that all information on our website is the latest.”

NDOT divisions or groups can contact the I.S. Help Desk if they have not yet registered to update web

pages relating to their area.

The NDOT website receives approximately 10 million page visits every year, making it a vital way to provide transportation information to the public. Many NDOT project and program websites will also be redesigned to incorporate the design of the new www.nevadadot.com site.

“In a recent national Pew Research study, more than 80 percent of Internet users had recently visited government websites,” explained Robert Chisel, NDOT assistant director of administration. “This website was developed to make it easier for Nevadans and visitors to get transportation information and services on-line.”

NDOT’s website was last redesigned in 2004. The new redesign was overseen by IS project manager Sherri McGee, Webmaster Dennis Mitchell and other Information Services staff, as well as the NDOT Public Information Office.

“We hope people will take a look at the site, not just to see the new features but to find the full range of information and services the site offers,” McGee said.

Nevadadot.com

- Approximately 700 informational web pages and files
- Approximately 10 million page visits per year

SALT AND WATER MAKE WINTER ROADS SAFER IN TONOPAH

Brine, an ice-preventing mixture of salt and water, is a vital weapon in the fight to remove ice and snow from Nevada roads. NDOT's Tonopah subdistrict has armed themselves for the fight against winter road conditions with construction of a new brine-making facility.

The new brine equipment consists of a large brine-mixing tub, as well as two 10,000 storage tanks. Inside the tub, salt and water are mixed to produce sodium chloride brine consisting of roughly 23% rock salt to 77% water. The brine is then sprayed on wet winter roads prior to freezing temperatures to delay ice build up. If sustained freezing temperatures do lead to ice or snow on the road, the brine also makes it easier for plows to remove it from the road surface.

"Where you've applied your anti-icing, it effectively creates a layer between the road and ice or snow that forms," Maintenance Manager Kal Boni explained, noting that District 2 staff such as maintenance managers Mike Fipps and Tony Booth provided helpful insight on brine after its continuing successful use in northwestern Nevada. "It not only improves road safety by reducing ice, but helps us get our road surface in normal condition more quickly following a storm."

Another advantage of brine is that it doesn't bounce or blow off the roadway to the same extent as salt and sand, protecting the roadside environment from extra salt and avoiding the cost of unused materials. The brine can also be added to salt and sand to



Photo: Kelci Parks/ Tonopah Times Bonanza

Kal Boni (on right) and John Klapper stand in front of the new brine-mixing facility.

produce a wetter, heavier de-icing mixture that will not as readily be thrown off roadway surfaces.

The approximately 15 by 35-foot brine facility was built last fall in a former truck storage bay tucked in the south of the Tonopah maintenance station. The brine mixing machine and storage tanks were purchased, but the piping and water lines to pump the water into the tanks were installed by NDOT Repair Specialist 1 Scott Rogers and Tonopah

maintenance staff.

It will largely be the job of Maintenance Supervisor John Klapper and NDOT Crew 170 to produce and spray the brine, with U.S. 95 through Tonopah receiving top priority. In just the first few months of having brine-making equipment, the crew has already used 6,500 gallons of the salty mixture to help prevent ice and snow on Tonopah-area roads. Crews in outlying subdistrict stations such as Blue Jay, Big Smoky, Montgomery Pass and Goldfield have already been equipped with brine storage tanks which they'll use next winter in the fight against ice.

"I've seen and responded to so many wrecks as a result of people driving too fast on icy roadways," Klapper explained. "This system is being used all over the country with great results and it will help us make our roads that much safer during winter."

"I really want to credit the crews for their day-in and day-out dedication to road safety and for their work on getting us ready to use this important maintenance tool," Boni said.

— Two Ways To Battle Icy Roads —

Anti-Icing – Preventing or delaying the formation of ice or snow on roads through anti-icing agents such as brine, salt and sand.

De-Icing – Removing snow and ice which has already bonded to the road surface through such techniques as plowing.

KudosKorner

REMOVING THE SNOW

When winter weather hits, NDOT's dedicated maintenance forces hit the roads to remove ice and snow. Their expertise and dedication don't go unnoticed.

A big thank you for getting snow out of the Tahoe Stateline corridor. You guys are doing a great job!

-Jeff Cowen, Tahoe Regional Planning Agency Community Liaison

I was traveling southbound through Washoe Valley last night. I was very pleased to find that NDOT trucks were guiding people. The actions of the men and women in the NDOT truck undoubtedly saved the lives of many people!

-Christina Nordin, Reno

Just wanted to thank you again for keeping the Angel Lake Road (State Route 231 west of Wells) open to the barricades. Skiing was amazing this weekend, and it was nice to be able to start the ski right at the base of the mountain!

-Nancy Taylor, U.S. Forest Service Recreation Program Manager

I travel often, and NDOT does the best job of snow removal of all surrounding states. You are doing a great job!

-Steve Foree, Elko resident, via phone

A MAP TO SUCCESS

Imagery and maps of Nevada land are vital for both motorists and for the government and private organizations that rely on the data contained within, and NDOT staff are at the forefront of supplying and utilizing vital imagery and map data.

I have had the occasion of dealing with **Rick Free** for a number of years and his expertise of Nevada mapping is unsurpassed. More importantly, his consideration and eagerness to assist with any questions is refreshing.

*-Gerry Jaillet, Nevada Secretary of State Commercial Recordings office/
Nevada map collector*

The USDA, Farm Services Agency, Aerial Field Office would like to express appreciation for the ground control points provided for use in the National Agriculture Imagery Program (NAIP) with assistance of **Eric Warmath, Paul Cote, Derek Best and Mark Rincon**. This ground control point data is playing a major role in the inspection of NAIP imagery, and in moving NAIP to an absolute accuracy specification.

-Ronald Nicholls, Director, USDA, Farm Services Agency, Aerial Field Office

Welcome

Paul Coates, Carson

John Davis, Reno

Denny Hogue, Elko

Jeffrey Hall, Las Vegas

Robert Madewell, Carson

Christa Mike, Ely

Anthony Thomsen, Big Smoky

Michelle Thung, Las Vegas

John Utzinger, Ely

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