

CENTERLINE

A Monthly Newsletter for the Employees of NDOT

NDOT PROJECT NAMED ONE OF NATION'S MOST SUCCESSFUL CONSTRUCTION PARTNERSHIPS



NDOT received the Associated General Contractors of America Marvin M. Black Excellence in Partnering Award for the I-15 North Design-Build Project in Las Vegas.

Partnering was a cornerstone of the project from the start. NDOT collaborated with contractor North Corridor Constructors, a joint venture of CH2M Hill and Las Vegas Paving Corporation, to design and build the project which widened and improved a nearly six-mile segment of Interstate 15 from U.S. 95 to Craig Road. As the department's first design-build project, the final phases of construction were designed as earlier phases were built. NDOT Crew 916 oversaw project construction for NDOT. The project team implemented formal quarterly partnering meetings and more frequent informal meetings, as well as weekly inspection drives through the entire project. Through this and other collaboration, innovations were developed to complete the project in early 2010 almost 10 months ahead of schedule, helping to relieve traffic congestion, increase safety and reduce costs while building a better interstate.

"Partnering is our way of doing business," NDOT Director Susan Martinovich explained. "Working together, we can complete projects faster and with better quality."

The Marvin M. Black Excellence in Partnering Award recognizes unique and successful partnerships used to complete complex projects. A panel of judges evaluated a record number of project nominations for contractors' ability to resolve conflicts, the quality of communication with all parties and ability to work with many groups to achieve one goal, among other key criteria. NDOT's I-15 North Design-Build project was one of only two projects to receive the prestigious award for successful construction partnership in 2010. The award is a highlight of nearly 15 commendations received for the project.

"This caliber of award shows the quality of work that we are doing at NDOT," Mary Martini, NDOT District 1 engineer, said. "I am proud of everyone involved, in particular the NDOT employees who participated in this project."

I-15 Las Vegas Corridor

- Traveled by as many as 250,000 vehicles daily.
- Carries more than 75 percent of southern Nevada goods movements.



Len Savage

NEW BOARD MEMBER HELPS LEAD NEVADA TRANSPORTATION

The Nevada Department of Transportation is overseen by a seven-member Board of Directors. Chaired by the Governor, the State Transportation Board also includes the lieutenant governor, attorney general and state controller, as well as one citizen member from each of NDOT's three districts.

NDOT is pleased to welcome new District 2 member Len Savage to the State Transportation Board. Appointed by Governor Brian Sandoval in March, the new board member now serves the state by providing invaluable transportation oversight and guidance.

"Len brings a fresh perspective to the Transportation Board," Governor Sandoval explained. "Len leads his family's business, a well-known plumbing company in Reno which holds one of the state's first contractor's licenses. As our state moves forward on transportation projects, Len's long experience with state contracting issues and his solid community connections will provide valuable insight."

As a successful businessman and fifth-generation Nevadan, Savage says one of his main goals while serving on the State Transportation Board is to have a quality master plan ensuring standards of excellence in safety, maintenance and fiscal responsibility for our transportation throughout our state.

"In a state as big as Nevada, our transportation system is vital to both the citizens of Nevada and our tourists each and every day," the board member says. "Their safety and comfort should be our number one priority."

Savage is president of Savage and Son Plumbing and Heating, a Reno-based company steeped in Nevada history. Leonard Coates Savage, a miner in Virginia City, owned a mining claim in the 1800s that later became part of the famed Comstock Lode and the third largest supplier of silver in Nevada. A founding partner in a Virginia City mining and plumbing goods store, Genesy & Savage Plumbing, Leonard's son Frank Charles started his one-man Savage and Son plumbing business in 1893 on downtown Reno's Sierra Street. The business flourished and grew through today to become one of the oldest plumbing companies in the United States, according to "Plumbing & Mechanical" magazine.

A graduate of Reno High School, Savage holds a bachelor's degree in business management and finance from Santa Clara University. Prior to joining his family's business, he was an estimator and project manager in San Jose, California.

"It is an honor to serve our Great State of Nevada and have the opportunity to give back," Savage explains of his service to the State Transportation Board.



Nevada State Transportation Board

Brian Sandoval, *Governor*

Brian K. Krolicki, *Lieutenant Governor*

Catherine Cortez Masto, *Attorney General*

Kim Wallin, *State Controller*

Tom Fransway

Frank Martin

Len Savage



Jae Pullen

NEW PROFESSIONAL ENGINEER

NDOT Engineer Jae Pullen recently reached a milestone in his professional career by becoming certified as a Professional Engineer.

Pullen received his PE license in January after undergoing rigorous engineering training, receiving a bachelor's degree and Fundamentals of Engineering certification and more than four years of engineering experience at NDOT.

The eight-hour PE exam demands intense knowledge of all civil engineering areas as well as specialty knowledge in transportation. For the October 2010 exam, Pullen began studying in May by covering a topic a month. He estimates that he spent over 200 hours studying with one objective in mind.

"I didn't want to take the test again," Pullen says, adding that taking a sample test to get a feel for the pace of the exam was instrumental.

Although he was nervous about the test, Pullen found the key to taking the exam was not answering the questions in order, but rather solving the ones he knew first. "This helped build up my confidence, so I could then go back to the ones I was unsure of," he says. "It's really a mental game."

District II Urban Traffic Engineer Anita Lyday was very helpful during the study process, giving him invaluable pointers when he got stuck. Pullen also credits his wife's support throughout the entire endeavor. "When I doubted myself, she never did."

As far as his career goals, Pullen knows that getting his professional license is a milestone that opens up more opportunities, but says for now he's just happy to have a job that he really enjoys. He started with NDOT in July 2005 as a rotational engineer, then worked in District II Bridge Maintenance and the District II Traffic Office.

The NDOT engineer is currently instrumental in the Washoe Valley Wind Study. "We are just revising the final draft report that will update the wind system in Washoe Valley and the I-580 extension. We are adding new variables and recommendations that factor in road conditions and wind direction, not just wind speed," Pullen explains. "We want truck drivers to have a higher level of confidence and believe in the system."



WASHOE VALLEY WIND STUDY

NDOT's wind warning system, located along U.S. 395 and State Route 429 (Old 395/Bowers Mansion Road) between Reno and Carson City, automatically posts wind warnings and prohibitions based on wind speed. A "High Profile Vehicles Prohibited" message prohibiting high-profile vehicles from U.S. 395 during 40-mile-per-hour wind gusts or high sustained winds of 30 miles per hour or greater is posted on four overhead freeway digital message signs and radio road reports. The premier NDOT system allows high-profile vehicles to avoid the area during high winds.

The Washoe Valley Wind Study will recommend whether the system may need to be updated or modified, and also evaluate the best high wind warning system for the new Interstate 580 freeway being built.

KudosKorner

IN MEMORY



NDOT is mourning the loss of one of our own with the recent passing of Kristopher Cordova.

Kristopher served in NDOT's Accounting section since 2006. The dedicated employee was even recognized by fellow employees in NDOT's Employee Recognition Program for going above and beyond.

Kristopher's friends and colleagues will remember him as a wonderful person and co-worker who will be greatly missed.

NDOT IN THE COMMUNITY

Kacey Mix (on left near front of backhoe) helps George Lewis (to right) and son bring the NDOT maintenance equipment experience to children.



Thousands of kids were able to get a first-hand look at the work of an NDOT employee at the recent Touch-a-Truck community fundraiser in Las Vegas.

NDOT maintenance experts George Lewis and Kacey Mix took an NDOT flatbed, a street sweeper and other road equipment for kids to climb into and learn about the job.

"I had such a blast; a real wonderful time," Lewis said.

This is the first time NDOT participated in Touch-a-Truck, all thanks to Lewis' initiative. After many years of attending with his son, he realized the event was lacking the presence of NDOT.

"My son asked me, 'Dad why isn't your company here?'" Lewis said. "And that is when I knew I had to do something about it."

So this year, Lewis and his son participated as event staff, helping kids climb on and climb off, while Mix let children try out the buttons on the sweeper.

Although Lewis said many of the kids were great fun, there was one in particular who stuck out in his mind.

"There was a blind kid who jumped on the truck, and as he touched everything, his parents described all the parts inside the truck and he got to honk the horn and everything," Lewis said. "That's really what this is about."

The proceeds from the Touch-a-Truck fundraiser help support Family to Family Connection, Las Vegas West.

Welcome

Cassandra Albush, Carson
Gloria Bird, Tonopah
Dennis Bolz, Reno
Michelle Booth, Vegas
Carrie Byron, Carson
Jaqueline Cruz, Carson
Damon Hodge, Vegas
Brett Ilg, Elko
Bretta Inman, Carson
Troy Kearney, Emigrant Pass
David Rigtrup, Carson
James Rocha, Reno
Teresa Schlafler, Carson
Lassen Sharp, Elko
Alexandra Woodward, Reno

Thanks for Serving

Phillip Boucher, 29 years, Panaca
John Cortez, 30 years, Las Vegas
Jim Gallegos, 26 years, Carson
Sean McDaniels, 17 years, Carson
Paul Sinnott, 29 years, Carson
Daniel Thompson, 22 years, Winnemucca
Richard Walker, 24 years, Carson
Murry Whipple, 31 years, Glendale

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State Transportation Board:

Governor Brian Sandoval
Transportation Board Chairman

Members:

Brian K. Krolicki, *Lieutenant Governor*
Catherine Cortez Masto, *Attorney General*
Kim Wallin, *State Controller*

Tom Fransway



Frank Martin
Len Savage



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