



THE NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

CENTERLINE

A Monthly Newsletter for the Employees of NDOT

NEVADA LAUNCHES NEW HANDHELD CELLPHONE BAN

Distractions can be deadly on Nevada roads. Governor Brian Sandoval, NDOT Director Susan Martinovich and other traffic safety partners held a Sept. 29 event launching the state's new handheld cellphone ban.

In an effort to reduce potentially deadly driving distractions, police are giving motorists a warning for driving while talking, typing or reading on a handheld cellphone or similar device as of Oct. 1. Beginning Jan. 1, 2012, fines of up to \$250, depending on the number of offenses, will be imposed for any driver using a handheld phone to talk, type or read. NDOT vehicles and drivers are not exempt from this new law, although calls can be made by any driver who is responding to an emergency situation requiring immediate action to protect health, welfare or safety.

"There are approximately 3,400 distraction-related crashes in Nevada every year, and more than 50 deaths in the past five years," Governor Sandoval said. "These distracted driving crashes include drivers using a cellphone while behind the wheel. Because someone was driving distracted or didn't put their phone away, there is a family member who is not coming home."

"Not only is it prohibited, but we want drivers to know that they are four times more likely to crash when driving while talking on a cellphone," Nevada Department of Public Safety Director Chris Perry explained. "Driving while talking or texting can delay



With NDOT Director Susan Martinovich to his left and surrounded by law enforcement and legislative partners, Governor Brian Sandoval launches Nevada's handheld cellphone ban.

reaction time as much as driving legally drunk."

Many Nevadans have tragically paid the price for the distracted driving of others. At the event were Brian and Tina Lavoie. The couple lost their 18-year-old daughter Hillary a year ago as she was returning from Reno to Las Vegas after submitting admission papers to attend UNR. Hillary's friend, the driver of the vehicle, was distractedly using a cellphone and crashed.

Jenifer Watkins' life also changed after being hit while parked on the side of the road by a driver on a cellphone. "I had to take two years out of my life to take physical therapy," Watkins said. "It's totally changed my life, all because of a distracted driver."

The cellphone ban is joined by other new traffic safety laws, including increased penalties for drivers that cause harm to pedestrians and bicyclists and a law requiring motorists to safely move from the right hand lane or pass a bicyclist with at least three feet of space for safety.

The new laws are in line with the goals of Nevada's new Zero Fatalities traffic safety goal. The goal is a statewide, multi-agency effort to reduce Nevada traffic deaths and injuries until everyone on Nevada roads returns home safely.

Pledge to Not Drive Distracted:
www.nophonezonenv.com

PAVING LAS VEGAS



Nighttime project hours helped minimize traffic impacts.

In the heart of Vegas, Interstate 15 is the lifeblood of southern Nevada transportation. NDOT has given a facelift to this vital Nevada transportation artery with a repaving project that used innovative recycled materials and completed ahead of schedule.

On I-15 from Tropicana north to the U.S. 95 spaghetti bowl, the concrete pavement needed repair. Bits of concrete spalled, or chipped off, from the interstate's surface. Meanwhile, ghost striping, imprints of old lane markings, left shadowy outlines of the former road alignment. To extend roadway life, smooth the road surface and provide better friction surface and a safer, more comfortable ride, NDOT placed a one-inch overlay over the stretch of interstate.

But, the overlay was more than just asphalt and aggregate. The asphalt binder used was made of approximately 20 percent ground, recycled rubber tires. With the flexibility of rubber incorporated into the new asphalt, ride smoothness nearly doubles and roadway surface deterioration reduces. By covering joints and grooves traditionally found in concrete roadways, the asphalt rubber also effectively cuts road noise by more than half. From an environmental perspective, an amount equal to 56,000 scrap tires was used in the project, preventing the material from filling landfills.

The use of recycled materials is also in line with a new law requiring NDOT to promote the use of recycled road materials when possible. It is something the Department has done in the past, with awards for recycling projects including an asphalt reclamation

I-15 REPAVING BY THE NUMBERS

- *More than one million pounds of recycled tires/rubber used*
- *Total project length - 5.5 miles*
- *Removed nearly 77 miles of traffic striping/paint*
- *More than 1,500 crew hours worked during marathon weekend*

project on Interstate 80 east of Wells and a “Quieter Pavement Leadership Award” for a Henderson-area road improvement that also used asphalt rubber.

The approximately \$6 million I-15 project began Sept. 11 as a close collaboration between contractor Fisher Industries and NDOT construction crew 916. To complete the project quickly and efficiently, roadwork followed an aggressive 24-hour-a-day schedule Sundays through Thursdays, with various lane closures put in place for each day's paving activities. A marathon weekend paving session took place Oct. 8 and 9, leading to the Oct. 10 substantial completion of the project- ten days ahead of schedule. Detailed information on lane closures and anticipated travel times were displayed on dynamic message freeway signs, giving motorists real travel time information and an opportunity to take detours if desired.

“Closing lanes on a section of one of Nevada's most traveled interstates through the heart of our largest city required a coordinated effort,” NDOT District Engineer Mary Martini explained. “With such a busy interstate, the project did impact travel. But, we timed the construction so the entire project had as little impact on drivers, on commerce and on the city in general as possible.”

The improvements now enhance the drive for the up to 270,000 vehicles that travel the corridor daily.

THE GREAT SOUTHEAST: SPOTLIGHT ON PANACA CREW 178



Stationed along one of southeastern Nevada's most vital highway corridors, U.S. 93, NDOT Panaca maintenance crew 178 is dedicated to the transportation mobility and safety of their rural region between Ely and Las Vegas.

A three-hour drive separates the crew from the NDOT District 1 office, making them the sub-district maintenance station furthest from Las Vegas. Their small town has no stoplights and is at least one hundred miles from the nearest Walmart. But, the seven-member crew all agrees that there's something special about living in a small town.

"Our crew is unique in that we all grew up together," explains crew supervisor Todd Wright. "And now our kids all go to school together, too."

Wright says the NDOT crew is a vital part of the community. With at least six or seven months of winter weather, plowing snow is one of the crew's main duties. It's not uncommon for school buses carrying student athletes to follow an NDOT snowplow over the mountainous passes to get to out-of-town sports activities.

Wright explains the crew often plows the main street in Pioche that sits at more than 6,000 feet. "If we didn't, the town would virtually shut down," he says.

With over three hundred miles of state road to maintain, including the towns of Pioche and Caliente,

the crew's tasks also include road repairs, installing signs, maintaining state parks, chip sealing and road shoulder improvements. Flood control is also a mainstay for the crew as evidenced by State Route 317, Rainbow Canyon, flooding in 2005 and again in 2010.

The crew members all agree that they are happy to help anytime they can and say it's just part of being a member of a great rural Nevada community.

NDOT PANACA CREW 178

Todd Wright, Supervisor

Carl Patrick

Mark Somers

Brad Lloyd

Gary Bodell

Will Smith

Duane Wadsworth

KudosKorner



A REAL BUST

NDOT maintenance forces not only help keep people safe on our roads, they help protect the general public from other dangers.

One example: law enforcement from Las Vegas Metro Police and the U.S. Forest Service contacted the Department in early August with plans to raid a large marijuana farm. NDOT's help was requested to dispose of the plants by safely burying them.

In a top-secret operation, members of an NDOT crew dug a pit to bury the illegal plants. Thanks to the crew's assistance, a police helicopter was able to dump more than 1,000 plants directly into the pit so the crew did not have to haul the contraband. The NDOT maintainers then went to work backfilling and compacting the pit, sealing the illicit matter away where it is no longer able to do damage in Nevada's and the nation's streets and homes.

"This crew demonstrates why NDOT employees are considered reliable and trustworthy members of the greater team of public agencies," NDOT District 1 Engineer Mary Martini explained.

TRANSIT SAVIOR

Over the past 35 years, NDOT has utilized Federal Transit Administration funds to purchase more than 400 buses and other transit vehicles to offer transportation for the disabled, elderly and those needing a ride to employment, medical treatment and more.

Trish Giomi of NDOT Transit worked with the Federal Transit Administration to give 60 percent of certain operating funds to Nevada's rural transit providers, as opposed to the previous 50 percent. The increase equates to an additional \$700,000 annually to help local transit providers continue, instead of reduce, the vital bus and other transit services they offer to Nevadans.

"Your actions have made countless rural residents from Mesquite and Laughlin who depend on the buses as their only form of transportation very happy. You made such a difference in the lives of so many," Southern Nevada Transit Coalition Executive Director Debbie Dauenhauer wrote.

Welcome

Elizabeth Adcox, Reno
Sherri Barkdull, Carson
Thomas Beall, Blue Jay
Herman Brown, Wells
Sheri Cerel, Las Vegas
Ethan Cook, Wells
Byron Dowdle, Reno
Brian DuBlanc, Carson
Torrey Franich, Wendover
Kathleen Goicoechea, Elko
Jesus Hernandez, Carson
Clayton Johnson, Montgomery Pass
Christopher Kelly, Wendover
Stout Lawson, Las Vegas
Alan Newman, Blue Jay
Diane Peart, Carson
Thomas Phillips, Reno
Teresa Schuff, Reno
Corey Thompson, Reno
Adam Turner, Elko

Thanks for Serving

Brian Houk, 26 years, Las Vegas
William Lawless, 15 years, Reno
John Salazar, 25 years, Carson
Dennis Williams, 36 years, Virginia City

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