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THE NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

CENTERLINE

A Monthly Newsletter for the Employees of NDOT

NEW NDOT PROGRAM IMPROVES ROADS AND THE ECONOMY

With staggering unemployment in the construction sector, NDOT has launched an accelerated delivery program to pump important road improvement funds into Nevada's roads and economy.

The accelerated delivery program is an aggressive short-term project delivery method allowing NDOT to quickly push needed projects out to consulting firms and highway contractors across the state. The vital road preservation and safety projects vary from roadway rehabilitation in southern and northeastern Nevada to retrofitting drainage inlets in the Tahoe Basin. Such proactive preservation of roadways before more costly, time-involved repairs are needed has in the past saved the Department millions. Not only do the projects help preserve and make Nevada roads even safer, they bolster the economy by employing road contractors, consultants and suppliers across the state.

"The key is getting these projects out right now when they can help our economy and our roads the most," NDOT Director Susan Martinovich explained. "Studies in Nevada show that, for every \$1 invested in transportation, there is an economic gain of approximately \$1.50. We need to help provide that economic boost toward recovery right now."

With such a quick delivery needed, consultants and contractors were hired to oversee and construct the accelerated projects, allowing NDOT staff to continue working on core Department projects and programs.

"From engineering and construction to administration, NDOT staff are already dedicated to vital Department projects and programs," NDOT Project Management Chief Amir Soltani explained. "Because one of the major goals of this program is to minimize impacts to NDOT staff, NDOT team members are providing project guidance and we're relying on service providers

for day-to-day administration of these projects."

NDOT employees on the Project Selection Committee selected the approximately 25 projects currently being scoped for accelerated delivery from a list of needs. Projects selected required no additional rights-of-way and had minimal environmental impacts. To meet the accelerated schedule, abbreviated plan formats were developed to shorten design schedule. Federally-adopted safety measures were also implemented where feasible to further improve roadway safety. Already, 14 separate service providers are engaged in the program, with numerous accelerated projects out for bid this year. Many of the projects will begin construction during the third quarter of 2011, with other projects being advertised later in 2011 for a 2012 construction start.

"These projects are important to NDOT, important to state roads, and particularly important to construction contractors and workers in Nevada, where we have seen some of the nation's highest unemployment in the construction sector," explained John Madole, Associated General Contractors Nevada Chapter executive director.



NDOT SHARES ROAD SAFETY AUDIT EXPERTISE



NDOT's Road Safety Audit program has become one of the nation's best since its start in 2006. And NDOT Senior Road Safety Engineer Jaime Tuddao was recently able to share Nevada's expertise by bringing the program to the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation.

Aimed at finding immediate and long-term ways to enhance roadside safety, road safety audits bring teams of three or more experts, from NDOT district and design staff to outside safety and transportation stakeholders, to evaluate certain upcoming road projects or existing roads. The teams look at how all road users interact on a roadway, and suggest any road safety elements such as signs or skewed intersections that could be enhanced. While some solutions can easily be put in place by NDOT maintenance professionals, others must be evaluated for availability of funding. To date, the Department has conducted more than 70 audits to enhance safety on state roadways from Interstate 15 in Las Vegas to Interstate 80 in Elko.

Leading the important safety initiative is Tuddao, who has shared Nevada's first-in-the-nation RSA procedure manual with other states such as Idaho.

"Jaime is one of our RSA 'stars,'" Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Road Safety Audit Program Manager Becky Crowe explained of Nevada's national

Jaime Tuddao (pictured on far right) assists Pennsylvania Department of Transportation engineers with their first formal road safety audit.

leadership in RSAs.

Tuddao was asked to bring that expertise to Pennsylvania by providing a peer review of a specific road corridor.

"Keyser Avenue in the City of Scranton is a two-lane road with a lot of businesses, residential and different accesses," Tuddao described. "The data showed they have angle and rear-end crashes there, as well as some head-on crashes."

As facilitator for PennDOT's first formal road safety audit, Tuddao not only offered full insight on how to establish a statewide road safety audit program, but shared ideas for improving safety on Keyser Avenue with enhanced turn lanes, signals, drainage and pedestrian ramps and sidewalk accessibility.

And the trip not only benefitted Pennsylvania road safety.

"Looking at other states' roadways is an opportunity for us to adapt some of their features to our roads," Tuddao says.

The FHWA has identified road safety audits as the most effective safety countermeasure to improve road safety.

Those interested in becoming road safety auditors or suggesting a Nevada road for safety review can contact Jaime Tuddao at (775) 888-7467 after receiving approval from their supervisor.



IMPROVING BOULDER CITY TRAVEL

Traffic will flow more smoothly following NDOT's U.S. 93 Boulder City improvement project.

In Boulder City, increased traffic created in part by the new Hoover Dam bypass bridge has brought as many as 22,000 vehicles daily to U.S. 93. Where the road narrows from two lanes to one, bottlenecks now slow traffic. To improve travel and safety on the vital commuter and commercial thoroughfare, NDOT has begun a widening project.

U.S. 93 will be widened from one to two lanes in each direction between the Hoover Dam bypass interchange and Buchanan Boulevard, doubling traffic capacity. A new right turn lane at Colorado Street requested by Boulder City Public Works and an enhanced Nevada Way right turn will provide safer exits off of the highway, all while further reducing traffic slowdowns and congestion. Improved intersections and access will be built at Lakeshore Road and the Hacienda Hotel and Casino. An additional lane will be constructed in the northbound direction from the Hoover Dam Interchange to Lakeshore Road which will accommodate slower-moving trucks climbing up the highway without impeding other vehicles. Southbound, an additional lane will stretch from just south of Buchanan Boulevard to the Hoover Dam interchange, helping to alleviate bottlenecks and giving several turn and acceleration/deceleration lanes for easier merging and business access.

Portable dynamic message signs, traffic flow detectors and traffic cameras will give drivers up-to-the-minute traffic information- and the option to take alternate, less congested routes if desired. Enhancements to signage will also make travel through the area safer and easier.

Working with stakeholders in Nevada and neighboring Arizona, NDOT put the road improvements on the fast track. Soon after the October 2010 opening of the Hoover Dam Bypass Bridge, increased traffic necessitated road improvements. Project design began



in February 2011, and completed just four months later, followed shortly by bid advertisement and award to Fisher Industries. With a history of rapid response on NDOT's I-580 and other projects, the contractor quickly began mobilizing equipment and resources for construction of the approximately \$16 million project. NDOT construction crew 901 will oversee construction. The project is expected to substantially complete in late November, with final temperature-dependent construction activities wrapping up in summer 2012.

"The increased traffic shows that this is a vital corridor, not just for commuters but commercial vehicles as well," NDOT Project Manager Tony Lorenzi explained. "During the project, we will keep at least one lane open in each direction at all times. To ensure safety and maximum efficiency for the contractor, truck restrictions will be in place throughout construction. Commercial vehicles will not be restricted northbound on U.S. 93 into Las Vegas. However, southbound commercial vehicles will be restricted from traveling through the project area during peak construction times."

The section of U.S. 93 is also part of the vital CANAMEX transportation corridor connecting Mexican, Canadian and U.S. trade.

The long-term traffic solution, an approximately 12-mile phase 2 bypass around Boulder City, is expected to provide an opportunity for the state's first modern tolling public-private partnership. The Regional Transportation Commission of Southern Nevada will pursue potential partners to fund and partner in the toll road bypass.

KudosKorner

LENDING A HAND IN TRAGEDY

On June 24, tragedy struck when a commercial truck traveling on U.S. 95 approximately 70 miles east of Reno collided with a passing train, killing six.

The National Transportation Safety Board thanked NDOT team members for their assistance in the investigation that followed the tragedy.

“These individuals worked very long hours in order to complete the tasks that were assigned to them. The manner in which they carried out their work, especially under a very arduous and tragic circumstance, was exemplary,” wrote NTSB Senior Highway Accident Investigator Dan Walsh.

Will Barter

Tony Booth

Edward Boyd

Lori Campbell

David Carnahan

Duane Carnahan

Mike Dalluge

Dennis Donaldson

Ed Ely

Justin Ely

Clint Felton

Mike Fipps

Diane Greeley

Connie Hagen

Amy Hann

Don Stephens

William Kilby

Mike Montes

Wayne Norcutt

David Reeves

Bill Schwoerer

Jeromie Sorhouet

Andy Souza (retired)

Dave Titzel

PUTTING OUT FIRES

Wildfires can strike anywhere throughout Nevada's dry expanses. To help protect Nevada land and citizens, NDOT posted wildfire awareness and safety messages on digital freeway signs during Nevada Wildfire Awareness Week.

“Each year, Wildfire Awareness Week advances our mission to reduce the fire threat to Nevada homes and communities through awareness, education and action,” wrote wildfire awareness week coordinator Sonya Sistare. *“Your commitment to helping increase public awareness of wildfire danger in Nevada is commendable.”*

NDOT District 3 employees in Humboldt County also received a thank you from the State Fire Marshal Division.

“I had the pleasure to conduct the fire/life safety inspections of the NDOT sites within Humboldt County the last two years,” Officer Ray Pagni wrote. *“This year at each one of the sites, there were no fire code violations or concerns. Each site was clean, well maintained and organized.”*

Welcome

Mitchell Ashworth, *Austin*

Linda Bauder, *Carson*

Stephen Burkhard, *Elko*

Billie Canham, *Reno*

Don Christiansen, *Las Vegas*

Connie Clapham, *Las Vegas*

Richard Douglass, *Tonopah*

Laurie Anne Grimes, *Carson*

Frank Grissom, *Eureka*

Rick Kauffman, *Tonopah*

Roger Ketterling, *Carson*

Darrell Lewis, *Eureka*

Aaron Lusk, *Tonopah*

David Morris, *Battle Mountain*

Christopher Porovich,

Battle Mountain

Pedro Rodriguez, *Carson*

Trevor Ross, *Las Vegas*

Justin Scilacci, *Reno*

Mark Shannon, *Battle Mountain*

Carol Sweeney, *Carson*

Nathan Thorn, *Las Vegas*

Mary Vargas, *Carson*

Thanks for Serving

Dennis Baughman, *26 years, Carson*

George Brooks, *33 years, Ely*

Fred Burnet, *30 years, Reno*

Robert Chisel, *17 years, Carson*

Paul Cote, *20 years, Carson*

Frank Echave, *21 years, Fallon*

William Hicks, *29 years, Ely*

Ralph Patterson, *27 years, Reno*

Andrew Souza, *21 years, Fallon*

Sandi Stanio, *20 years, Carson*

Carol Tate, *33 years, Carson*

William Walker, *23 years, Carson*

State Transportation Board:

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Transportation Board Chairman

Members:

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Catherine Cortez Masto, *Attorney General*

Kim Wallin, *State Controller*

Tom Fransway



Frank Martin

Len Savage



Susan Martinovich, P.E., *Director*

Meg Ragonese, *Public Information Officer*

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