

NDOT RESOURCE BOOK • NDOT RESOURCE BOOK • NDOT RESOURCE BOOK

# NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION



# RESOURCE BOOK



JULY, 2014

# Introduction

The Nevada Department of Transportation (NDOT) compiled this Resource Book to help you learn about NDOT careers and encourage safe driving on Nevada roadways. You will find links to websites that will assist you in learning more about engineering, magnet programs and transportation in general.

Looking to map your future career goals? You will find a page dedicated to helping you do just that. Are you willing to take on the challenge of pledging to drive safe and develop good driving habits? While you flip through this booklet, please take time to fill out and sign the safe driving pledge.

We at NDOT hope this Resource Book will be of great value to you.

Thank you for showing interest in the Nevada Department of Transportation!



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# A Day In Life Of NDOT Employees

## Planners

Before a road is built, before it is even designed, there are many who work behind the scenes to make that road a reality. Melvin, NDOT transportation planner, is one of them. As part of NDOT's transportation planning team, Melvin works side-by-side with his city, county and other local government counterparts to develop the roads and other transportation improvements of the future.

How will the road be funded? How will it tie into other transportation improvements? Most importantly, how will it equitably and best meet the transportation needs of



not just this, but future generations? Imagine working with the entire neighborhood to plan and prioritize all needed household improvements for each and every house on the block - for the coming quarter century and beyond! It's what Melvin does, and it means every working minute is spent collaborating to pinpoint the most urgent transportation needs across Nevada's 110,000-plus square miles, locate funding, and best fit every project into a maze of other potential improvements and needs.

It all comes together in the STIP, or Statewide Transportation Improvement Program, an ever-evolving document listing planned local and state transportation projects for years to come. It's the closest thing to a crystal ball for Nevada's transportation future, and we're glad Melvin is one of the experts behind the scenes giving us a clear view to our transportation future! By the way: Melvin says the key figure in all of these planning efforts is you and every member of the public. "I really encourage the public to contact us or attend one of our public meetings and they will see that NDOT truly cares and wants to make sure their concerns are individually addressed," he explains.

# A Day In Life Of NDOT Employees

## Asphalt Testers

Asphalt is asphalt, correct? Don't tell that to Wayne, our asphalt lab supervisor in Carson City. Wayne and his crew are the experts testing much of the asphalt used on your state roads. They ignite it at 600 degrees, they twist and squeeze samples to determine strength and pliability and they run all kinds of other tests on the asphalt. Why? To make sure it is up to exact specifications to help reduce the rutting and cracking that can be caused by traffic and extreme Nevada temperatures.

If funding is not available to repair them, those potholes, bumps, cracks and other weathering and aging can add up to hundreds in annual vehicle maintenance and repair bills.

That's why Wayne works day in and day out, testing the strength and durability of our asphalt to help ensure that Nevada roads remain ranked as some of the nation's smoothest. Wayne joins our full Carson City and Las Vegas materials testing labs, not to mention a web of ever-vigilant engineer field testers, sample runners, pavement analysis crew and progress lab trainers, to undertake over 5,000 weekly tests on our approximately 5,000 lane miles of road. So, next time you're enjoying a smooth stretch of freeway asphalt, give a big thanks to Wayne and his co-workers!



# A Day In Life Of NDOT Employees

## Environmental Scientists

From desert tortoise to bighorn sheep, Nevada is abundant with wild creatures. And NDOT takes a keen interest in preserving the environment for all of Nevada's inhabitants. That's where Nova comes in. As an NDOT environmental scientist, she reviews NDOT projects to make sure all animals, big and small, are carefully taken into account. With a Bachelor of Science degree in wildlife management/conservation and a master's in natural resources/environmental sciences, Nova is an expert in helping to mitigate any impact that road improvements may have on wildlife.

She was also an integral part of the team that developed five U.S. 93 wildlife crossings that now help reduce vehicle-animal crashes. Approximately 26,000 deer have already been counted using the crossings- that's 26,000 less potential crashes and an important link in Nevada wildlife migration and connectivity!

And speaking of roadway safety and mobility, Nova points out: "I don't think people realize how many steps are taken to make our roadway systems safer and more efficient."

While she's not playing favorites, Nova says her most beloved wild animal just might be wildcats such as mountain lions and jaguars.



# A Day In Life Of NDOT Employees

## Construction Managers

NDOT's Carlin Tunnels Project will improve close to two miles of Interstate 80 between Carlin and Elko. It's a major project, including retrofitted bridges, improved roadway and major tunnel lighting and other enhancements. So, imagine being the construction manager overseeing such a vital project.

That is what Nick is currently doing for the Department as acting NDOT construction manager. "We solve contract-related problems to ensure a timely, lowest cost and practicable solution," Nick explains, recognizing the expertise and knowledge of his entire construction crew. "Imagine actually finding a way to make a square peg fit into a round hole."

His 26 years of NDOT construction expertise, and previous Army experience, come into play every day as Nick and his crew find that perfect fit to help build the best roads for Nevada. Another recent hallmark of Nick's successful career includes supervising construction of five U.S. 93 wildlife crossings that now help reduce vehicle-animal crashes.



# Career Goals



What line of work interests you the most?

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Have you ever thought about pursuing a career as a Civil Engineer?

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List five (5) short term goals (two years from now) that you would like to have in order to pursue your career?

1. 

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2. 

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3. 

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4. 

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5. 

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List five (5) long term goals (five years from now) that you would like to have in order to pursue your career?

1. 

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2. 

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3. 

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4. 

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5. 

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# The Road To Zero Fatalities



## Always Buckle Up

*Wearing a seat belt is the single most effective means of saving lives and reducing injuries in crashes (NHTSA, 2008). Not only could it endanger your life, but not wearing your seat belt could lead to approximately \$70 in traffic fines.*



## Don't Drive Impaired

*In 2012, 70 lives were lost in Nevada in alcohol-related crashes. Even what seems like a small buzz can have deadly consequences if you drive. Illegal drugs, prescription drugs, over-the-counter medicines, and lack of sleep can also impair your ability to drive safely.*



## Focus on the Road

*Stay alert when you're operating a vehicle, especially in less-than-ideal conditions—and don't drive when you're not able to give it your full attention.*



## Stop on Red

*Intersections are shared by a variety of users including pedestrians, bicyclists, motorcyclists and vehicles. To stay safe at this potential point of conflict, know the laws and know when they apply to you.*



## Be Pedestrian Safe

*Auto drivers need to watch for pedestrians and yield to them when walkers have the right-of-way in a crosswalk. Pedestrians also need to pay attention to vehicles on the roadway and obey rules for walking on and crossing streets.*

# Zero Fatalities<sup>®</sup>

*Drive Safe Nevada*

# Driving Goals



Why is it important to ALWAYS wear your seatbelt when you enter any vehicle?

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What type of bad driving habits would you like to change?

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List five (5) short term goals (two years from now) that you would like to have in order to drive safely on Nevada's roads?

1. 

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2. 

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3. 

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4. 

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5. 

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List five (5) long term goals (five years from now) that you would like to have in order to avoid car accidents?

1. 

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2. 

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3. 

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4. 

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5. 

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# Safe Driving Pledge

I \_\_\_\_\_ pledge to always drive safely, attentively and follow the rules of the road, and the driving tips on this pledge, to help reach Zero Fatalities.

## About Zero Fatalities:

Zero Fatalities is a program, which was initiated by law enforcement and other governmental agencies to help prevent traffic fatalities on Nevada's roadways. It is part of a nationwide program called, "Towards No Deaths." The goal of the program is to change driving behaviors that increase the likelihood of traffic injuries and fatalities.

## Driving Tips:

1. Always buckle up.
2. Click it or ticket. Do yourself a favor and save some \$\$.
3. Don't drive impaired.
4. Designate a sober driver.
5. Stay in your lane.
6. Pay attention to the road, not your cell phone.
7. Stop on red.
8. Obey traffic laws. Green, not red or yellow, means 'go!'
9. Be pedestrian safe.
10. Stay alert; be aware of your surroundings.



# Word Search



Aggregate	DMS	ITS	Safety
Asphalt	Drainage	Landscape	Signs
Attenuator	Efficiency	Maintenance	Soil
Aviation	Environmental	Maps	Sound Wall
Bidding	Express Lanes	Mileposts	Specifications
Bridges	FHWA	MPO	Speed Limit
Buckle Up	Freeway	Operations	Steel
Bypass	Funding	Paving	Striping
Cartography	Gas Tax	Plan Ahead	Studies
Chip Seal	Geotechnical	Planning	Survey
Civil Engineering	GIS	Projects	Sweeper
Concrete	GPS	Public Meeting	Traffic
Congestion	Grade Separation	Rail	Transportation
Contractors	HOV Lanes	Ramps	Work Zone
Contracts	Hydraulics	Rebar	Zero Fatalities
Defensive Driving	Innovation	Repair	
Design	Intersection	Research	
Design Build	Interstate	Rumble Strips	

GIS (Geographic Information Systems) ITS (Intelligent Transportation System)  
 DMS (Dynamic Message Sign) MPO (Metropolitan Planning Organization)  
 FHWA (Federal Highway Administration) GPS (Global Positioning System)

# Distracted Driving Facts

There are more than 3,500 distraction-related crashes in Nevada every year. Even worse, according to the 2009 National Highway Traffic Safety Administration reports, approximately 16 percent of all fatal crashes involved some form of distracted driving. These numbers are believed to be only the tip of the iceberg, as police often have difficulty determining whether or not a distraction was a factor in vehicle crashes.

Almost 800 vehicle occupants died in lane departure crashes in Nevada from 2005 to 2009. Lane departure incidents are caused by a variety of factors including distracted driving or drowsy driving. A driver can be distracted by the simplest of tasks, both legal and illegal, and lose control of a vehicle. These tasks include:

- Using Cell Phone or Texting
- Reading
- Eating or Drinking
- Using a Navigation System
- Watching a Video
- Talking to Passengers
- Grooming
- Adjusting Music Players



## Know the Law

- As of January 1, 2012, it is a crime to physically handle a cell phone or other electronic device while driving, including talking or texting. This primary law means drivers can be pulled over and cited based on this law alone.
- It is also illegal to talk, text or do anything else on an electronic device at a red light.

# Distracted Driving Facts

- Picking up a GPS device or programming information into the device is a crime. If playing music on a device requires the phone to be in the driver's hand at any time, then it is illegal.
- Fines range from \$50 for the first offense up to \$250 and a six-month license suspension for subsequent offenses within a seven-year period. Penalties may be increased if the alleged violation occurs in a work zone.

## What You Can Do

Managing distractions is important, and if it saves a life, especially yours, it's worth it. You can defeat distracted driving and improve your chances of arriving home safely by incorporating the following behaviors:

- Stay focused on the road and alert when you're operating a vehicle; especially in less-than-ideal conditions.
- Don't ever drive when you're not able to give the road your full attention
- Make any necessary phone calls before or after driving.
- Before driving, store your cell phone in a place such as the glove box where you will not be able or be tempted to access it while driving.
- Do not eat, apply makeup, reach across the vehicle for items or conduct any other distracting activities while driving.
- Seek out and install an application that blocks phone calls and texting while driving.
- Ask a passenger to assist you with activities that may be distracting while you are driving, such as reading directions.

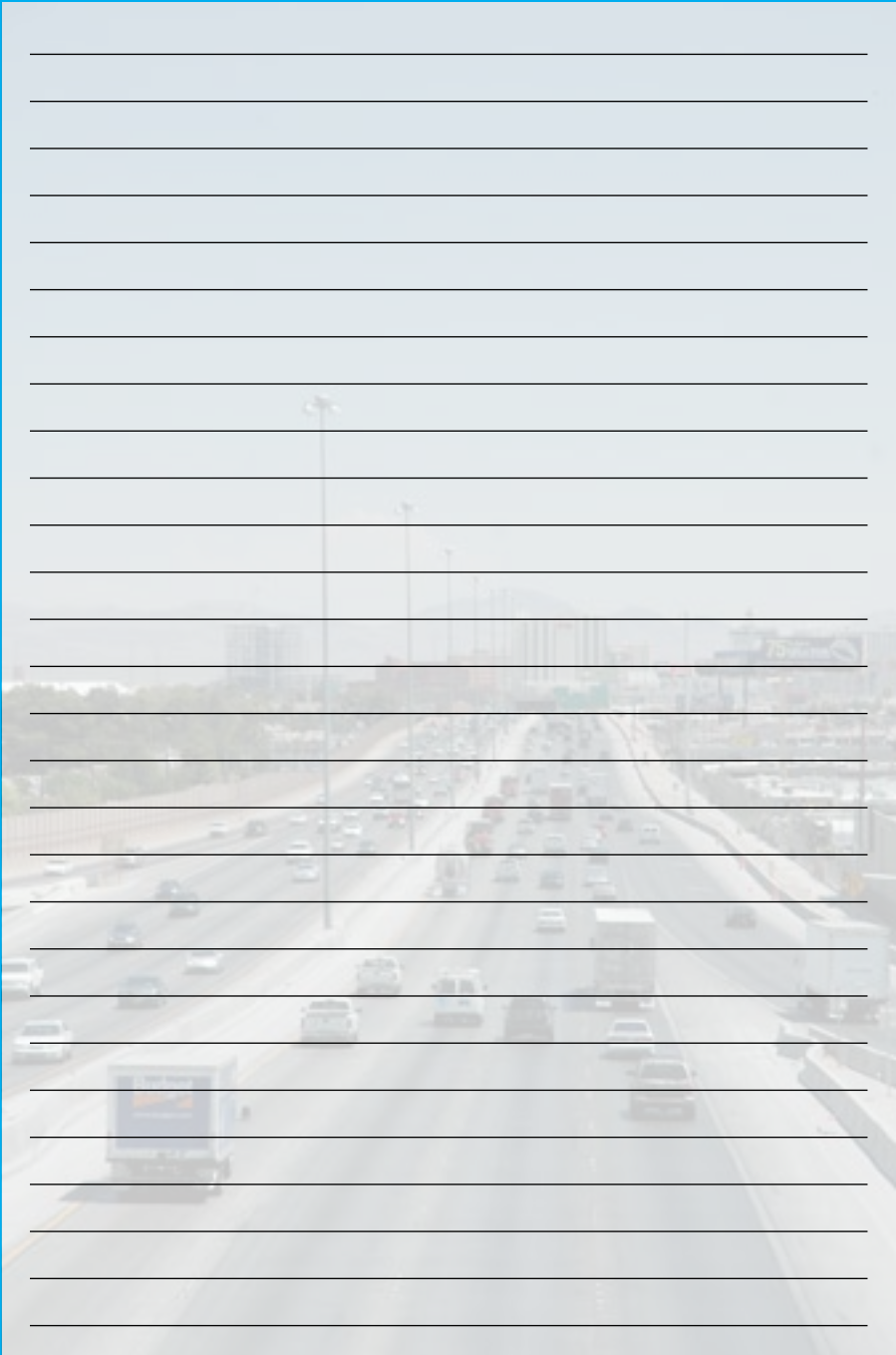


# Helpful Links

Here is a list of helpful resources you may need in the future:

- Nevada Department of Transportation (NDOT):  
[www.nevadadot.com](http://www.nevadadot.com)  
NDOT Careers:  
<https://nvapps.state.nv.us/NEATS/Recruiting/ViewJobsHome.aep>
- Regional Transportation Commission of Southern Nevada:  
[www.rtcnv.com](http://www.rtcnv.com)
- Regional Transportation Commission of Washoe County:  
<http://www.rtcwashoe.com>
- Nevada Department of Motor Vehicles:  
<http://www.dmvnv.com>
- University of Nevada, Las Vegas – College of Engineering:  
<http://www.unlv.edu/engineering>
- University of Nevada, Reno – College of Engineering:  
<http://www.unr.edu/engineering>
- Nevada Road Conditions:  
[www.nvroads.com](http://www.nvroads.com)
- State of Nevada:  
[www.nv.gov](http://www.nv.gov)
- U.S. Department of Transportation:  
[www.dot.gov](http://www.dot.gov)
- Federal Highway Administration:  
[www.fhwa.dot.gov](http://www.fhwa.dot.gov)
- American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials:  
[www.transportation.org](http://www.transportation.org)
- Clark County School District's Magnet Programs:  
<http://ccsd.net/schools/magnet-cta>
- Washoe County School District's Gifted and Talented Education Program:  
<http://www.washoecountyschools.org/district/departments/gifted-talented>





A photograph of a multi-lane highway with traffic, including cars and trucks, under a hazy sky. The image is overlaid with horizontal lines for writing.





# **Zero Fatalities<sup>®</sup>**

## **Drive Safe Nevada**

### **Headquarters**

1263 South Stewart Street  
Carson City, Nevada  
89712  
775 888-7000

### **District Two**

310 Galletti Way  
Sparks, Nevada  
89431  
775 834-8300

### **District One**

123 East Washington Ave.  
Las Vegas, Nevada  
89101  
702 385-6500

### **District Three**

1951 Idaho Street  
Elko, Nevada  
89801  
775 777-2700

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E-mail: [info@dot.state.nv.us](mailto:info@dot.state.nv.us)

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*Governor*  
Brian Sandoval



*Director*  
Rudy Malfabon, P.E.