

Chapter 4: Introduction to Departmental Guiding Principles and Policy

Safety




The Department has identified safety as a top priority. The recently drafted NDOT Safety Strategic Plan adopts twenty-one of the twenty-two key emphasis areas of the American Association of State Highway & Transportation Officials (AASHTO) Strategic Highway Safety Plan:

- Instituting Graduated Licensing for Young Drivers
- Ensuring Drivers are Fully Licensed and Competent
- Sustaining Proficiency in Older Drivers
- Curbing Aggressive Driving
- Reducing Impaired Driving
- Keeping Drivers Alert
- Increasing Driver Safety Awareness
- Increasing Seatbelt Usage and Improving Airbag Awareness
- Making Walking and Street Crossing Safer
- Ensuring Safer Bicycle Travel
- Improving Motorcycle Safety and Increasing Motorcycle Awareness
- Making Truck Travel Safer
- Reducing Vehicle-Train Crashes
- Keeping Vehicles on the Roadway
- Minimizing the Consequences of Leaving the Road
- Improving the Design and Operation of Highway Intersections
- Reducing Head-on and Across-median Crashes
- Designing Safer Work Zones
- Enhancing Emergency Medical Capabilities to Increase Survivability
- Improving Information and Decision Support Systems
- Creating More Effective Processes and Safety Management Systems

The Nevada safety strategic plan adds the following four emphasis areas:

- Reducing Deer-Vehicle Crashes
- Reducing Livestock-Vehicle Crashes
- Implementing Road Safety Audits
- Accommodating Older Drivers

NDOT safety programs have been evaluated with an eye toward cost-effectiveness and are funded from multiple resources. The safety strategic plan acknowledges Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) as another area of future development for NDOT safety programming.

I C O N K E Y	
	NDOT Policy
	Calculation
	Spreadsheet Example



State Highway Preservation

NDOT takes great pride in its preservation program, widely cited as one of the best in the nation. The Department views this investment in the preservation of the \$3 billion Nevada highway infrastructure as an investment in the economic vitality of the state. A long-term view toward highway preservation is essential to sound financial management. Prompt attention to preservation issues in the short-run can reduce major reconstruction projects in the long run.

NDOT's 2004 *State Highway Preservation Report* documents the department's pavement and bridge preservation strategy. Generally, pavement preservation work consists of timely milling, overlaying, or reconstructing the highway surface. Sealing, crack filling, and patching are typically accomplished by Nevada Department of Transportation maintenance crews (also referred to elsewhere in this document as "state forces.") Milling, overlaying, or reconstructing the highway surface is normally contracted.

Congestion Relief

NDOT views congestion relief as a key economic development goal. Congestion affects the ability of businesses to function efficiently, increases air pollution, and disrupts local communities intersected by busy roads. Nevada businesses depend on the road network to move freight, goods and services, internationally (to the airport and ports), inter-state and intra-state. Nevada's highway system is vital to supporting the state's tourism industry. Nevada residents also use the transportation network to make almost all work, educational, social and leisure trips by car and bus. Reducing congestion can bring real economic benefit to the state.

Equity

The majority of Nevada's population is concentrated in two urban areas. Clark County comprises seventy-one percent of state population, while Northwest Nevada comprises eighteen percent. Only fourteen percent of Nevada's population lives outside of these two major urban areas. This North/South divide presents equity challenges for the Department. Citizens in every county contribute through payment of taxes and fees to the State Highway Fund. The Department recognizes this challenge and wishes to return proceeds of this taxation to stimulate economic development throughout Nevada.

Nevada's Population

County	Population	State of Nevada % of Total Population
Churchill	26,365	1%
Clark	1,686,827	71%
Douglas	46,296	2%
Elko	45,352	2%
Esmeralda	1,064	0%
Eureka	1,404	0%
Humboldt	16,159	1%
Lander	5,101	0%
Lincoln	3,807	0%
Lyon	43,417	2%
Mineral	4,438	0%
Nye	37,873	2%
Pershing	6,990	0%
Storey	3,711	0%
Washoe	379,673	16%
White Pine	8,804	0%
Carson City	55,625	2%
Nevada Total:	2,372,821	100%

Source: Population Projections for Nevada's Counties 2004-2024

Nevada State Demographer's Office

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