

Landscape and Aesthetics Web Site Order and Content

**THE NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION LANDSCAPE AND  
AESTHETICS MASTER PLAN**

**HISTORY AND BACKGROUND**

**Introduction**

In a March 27, 2000, memorandum to Thomas Stephens, Director of NDOT, Attorney General and Transportation Board member Frankie Sue Del Papa, requested that NDOT organize and complete a protocol with counties, Regional Transportation Commissions, and cities that would provide for planting and maintenance of trees during highway planning and construction throughout the State.

The memorandum recognized a continuing NDOT concern over increased maintenance operations and costs, and suggested that, as part of the protocol, NDOT develop landscape standards setting forth opportunities for cooperative efforts between NDOT and local jurisdictions in the accomplishment of highway beautification efforts.

The Attorney General also asked NACO, the League of Cities, and Regional Transportation Commissions what they were willing to do to support the effort, and asked how they could enter into formal agreements with NDOT.

These actions recognized an on-going need to improve landscape and aesthetics standards, policies, and practices within NDOT, an increasing public demand for environmental protection and highway beautification, and federal roadway landscape and beautification requirements.

Questions regarding increased construction costs; funding source and affordability issues, practicality of plant introduction, establishment, survival, and water-use in a desert environment; maintenance costs, and other issues surfaced.

At its March 2001 meeting, the State Transportation Board decided to undertake a state-wide landscape planning effort that would address some of these issues, serve as a newer data-base, management tool, and facilitation mechanism for NDOT and explore jurisdictional concerns in the undertaking and accomplishment of such a program along Nevada's highways. The Board appointed Del Papa to be the point person for the Board to work through NDOT to establish the groundwork for accomplishment of a new Landscape and Aesthetics Master Plan

As envisioned, the landscape and aesthetics master plan would investigate and assemble an orderly arrangement of parts about the natural, physical, and human environment that

will allow logical formulation of a detailed plan of action toward landscape and aesthetics issues.

A broad-based advisory steering committee comprised of representatives from government, business, and the private sector was assembled to (1) provide guidance and direction to the plan (2) review and monitor planning efforts, (3) assist in development of policies and procedures, (4) coordinate agreements and support from respective constituencies, and (5) make policy and procedures recommendations to the Transportation Board upon completion of the plan.

Attorney General Del Papa chairs the advisory committee, and Secretary of State Dean Heller and Las Vegas City Councilman, Michael Mack are Advisory Committee co-chairs

**Illustrative Photos:** Cities maintaining medians; Payne flow chart on project protocol; Transportation Board in action; Steering committee in action; wetlands and/or scenic area with roadway; tree planting in Boulder City; or other.