

\$2.3M in road upgrades underway in Esmeralda, Mineral counties

By Ramón Elizondo
Special to the Times-Bonanza

The Nevada Department of Transportation announced the start of a \$2.3 million project to enhance U.S. Route 6 and State Route 360 in Esmeralda and Mineral counties at the end of August.

According to NDOT spokesman Tony Illia, the pavement upgrade, stretching for nearly 46 miles of highway, will constitute in adapting a more robust and sophisticated construction material that lasts longer than the traditional.

"Chip sealing combines layers of asphalt and fine aggregates that helps curtail further roadway deterioration for a smoother and safer driving experience," said Tony. "It's a cost-effective maintenance solution that extends the highway's life cycle."



Nevada Department of Transportation

In 7-mile increments, the rural highway construction project will have crews working every day of the week from 6 a.m. until 9:30 p.m., except Sundays.

In 7-mile increments, the rural highway construction project, which got underway on Aug. 24, will

have crews working every day of the week from 6 a.m. to 9:30 p.m., except Sundays. Flaggers will es-

cort motorists during labor hours to help smooth traffic but also following COVID-19 safety guidelines to protect themselves and others from the virus.

The upgrade will facilitate a better pathway to more than 1,200 vehicles driving on a daily basis between both routes that have been used as earthquake detours in the past. Upgrades will occur between mile markers 12 and 15 on U.S. 6 in Mineral County and from mile marker zero to 19 in Esmeralda County on U.S. 6. Also, upgrades along State Route 360 will occur from mile marker zero to 23 in Mineral County.

Intermountain Slurry Seal Inc., the general contractor on the project, is a 40-year-old pavement preservation firm that serves central and western states, including Nevada. The firm expects to get the job done sometime in October.

Contact Tracing

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risks and exposures are."

Lewis also spoke about individuals who have contracted the virus, but show no symptoms.

"It's very few numbers," Lewis is noted. "Most people have had symptoms, and unfortunately, some people have been extremely sick, and some people have passed away. I have had the unfortunate opportunity to talk to those individuals before they actually became hospitalized, and later succumbed to COVID-19 related illnesses."

Lewis went on to discuss underlying medical conditions in relation to the virus.

"There's a lot of questions out there and some think that COVID-19 isn't killing people because it's just an underlying medical con-

dition and I understand the thought process but it's like anything else," he said. "And yes, they are usually older and do have underlying medical issues, but this clearly is an indicator that it is prevalent throughout our communities, especially in Pahrump and we are trying to take every precaution to make sure that we understand what it is, and take the appropriate steps to minimize the exposure to other people. The hospitals are doing their best to support these patients, especially those who are extremely sick."

Regarding the accuracy of positive COVID-19 cases throughout the county, Lewis said the numbers are indeed accurate.

"There is no way that the cases that come to me for COVID-19 tracing, can be anything other than legitimate," he said. "The reason we know that, is number one, there is a test submitted with

it, so it shows the completed test results. Number two, we do COVID-19 tracings, so we contact each of those individuals directly, and quite frankly, I'm the one who contacts them at this point. Contact tracing is a painstaking process but it has been very rewarding because it gives us the local ability to go out and talk to them sometimes in person, but most of the time it's over the telephone. That way, the person knows that someone in the county is watching and they are not alone in this. We have the opportunity to have that one-on-one contact and that has proven to be very beneficial."

Lewis went to say that communication is key to identifying individuals' degree of sickness.

"Again, having the chance to talk to these people and hearing how ill or sick they are, and depending on what their medical

baseline is, usually dictates how quickly they can recover, but not in every case," he said. "We have had really healthy people who have become very, very sick, and that's the reality because it impacts people differently. Through contact tracing, we have been able to identify pretty much up to six tiers of symptoms."

Following simple safety measures such as wearing a mask, social distancing, and sanitizing, according to Lewis, are the best methods to avoid contracting and spreading the virus.

"Residents should do what's right for the community," he advised. "We are trying to maintain our economy and people's jobs. Any small thing that you can do to contribute to that, is greatly appreciated."

Contact reporter Selwyn Harris at sharris@pvtimes.com

Anti-speeding initiative will run through Sept. 2 in state

Staff Report

The Nevada Highway Patrol is joining forces with local law enforcement to increase high-visibility patrols from Aug. 22 through Sept. 2 to crack down on aggressive drivers and speeders.

Speed is a major contributing factor to driver, pedestrian and bicyclist fatalities, accounting for nearly one-third of all traffic deaths in Nevada. In 2018, there were 92 speeding-related fatalities on Nevada's roadways.

NHP urges drivers to help save a life by slowing down and driving the speed limit. Exceeding the speed limit is one of the most common factors contributing to traffic crashes and endangers everyone on the road.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration estimates that the annual cost to society of speeding-related crashes is \$40.4 billion dollars per year.

Most motorists do not believe speeding is as risky as other behaviors, but driving too fast can turn a near miss into a crash or a fatality. The faster you drive, the less time you have to react.

The Nevada Highway Patrol remains dedicated to bringing the number of fatalities on our roadways to zero through increasing public awareness about the dangers of speeding. More information about safe driving and the state's Zero Fatalities goal is available online at www.ZeroFatalitiesNV.com

PUCN

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industry is changing and, as a result, regulators across the country are evaluating whether changes in rate making are required to align regulatory mechanisms with industry changes, according to the documents.

Senate Bill 300 includes a menu of possible alternative rate-making mechanisms, including performance-based rates, subscription-based pricing, formula rates, decoupling, earnings sharing mechanisms, and multiyear rate plans, according to the documents.

A third concept paper, which concerns applicable alternative rate-making mechanisms, is scheduled to be issued this fall.

The second concept paper is intended to provide stakeholders with an understanding of the existing regulatory landscape in Nevada upon which regulatory improvements might be considered.

A concept paper issued in April focused on a framework for the development of goals and outcomes by utility stakeholders, in

addition to outlining future work in the alternative rate-making proceeding, according to the press release.

A third concept paper, which concerns applicable alternative rate-making mechanisms, is scheduled to be issued this fall, the release said.

The paper will more closely examine whether alternative rate-making mechanisms can more effectively achieve identified goals and outcomes.

Information about Docket 19-06008, including both concept papers and details of the stakeholder process planned in 2020 and 2021, is available on the PUCN's website.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING FOR DISCUSSION OF POSSIBLE STATE CDBG APPLICATIONS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Board of Esmeralda County Commissioners will conduct a public hearing on **September 1, 2020 at 2:00 p.m.**, in the Goldfield Courthouse, District Courtroom on second floor, Goldfield, Nevada, in order to discuss potential applications for funding under the next fiscal year's (July 2020 - June 2021) State Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program and to solicit additional citizen input on possible activities to be included in any application.

ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES UNDER THE ABOVE ALLOCATION CONSIST OF: HOUSING REHABILITATION PROGRAMS, PUBLIC FACILITY AND PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS PROJECTS, PUBLIC SERVICE PROGRAMS, PLANNING STUDIES, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BUSINESS ASSISTANCE AND MICROENTERPRISE ACTIVITIES. ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES PAID FOR WITH THE STATE CDBG FUNDS MUST MEET ONE OR MORE OF THE THREE NATIONAL OBJECTIVES LISTED IN CDBG FEDERAL STATUTES AS FOLLOWS: BENEFIT TO LOW INCOME HOUSEHOLDS OR PERSONS; ELIMINATION OF SLUMS AND BLIGHT; OR MEETING URGENT COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT NEED.

The purpose of this public hearing is to give citizens an opportunity to discuss the proposed project submitted to date and to suggest further ideas. Proposed project and **estimated funding** are listed below. Only projects selected at this meeting will be forwarded to the Commissioners for approval at the October 6, 2020 meeting for approval to be submitted for CDBG. **All citizens are encouraged to attend to comment on the proposed project or to submit further ideas.**

PROPOSED PROJECTS:

- Radio Read Meters for Esmeralda County (Goldfield and Silver Peak Utilities) \$334,221.00
- Generators for courthouse and other emergency sensitive functions \$350,000
- Silver Peak Top Coat (Chip seal) \$300,000
- Address system for entire county \$150,000
- Fiber optics upgrade to info structure for communications \$400,000
- Teleconference equipment for the county \$150,000
- New Jail/Property Purchase Unknown

These activities are not likely to result in displacement of any resident. A final hearing will be held OCTOBER 6, 2020 to discuss, approve and rank applications prior to submittal to the State.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN at the Public Hearing held on OCTOBER 6, 2020 Esmeralda County will solicit public input on community needs and priorities for housing, public facilities, and economic development for development of the Community Development and Housing Needs Statement for 2020.

If you require special accommodations to participate in the public hearing, please contact administrative assistant at 775-485-3406 or Dial for voice to TTY (800) 326-6888 or TTY to Voice (800) 326-6868.

If you are unable to attend the public hearing, written comments may be directed to Esmeralda County, at P.O. Box 517, 233 Crook Avenue, Goldfield, Nevada 89013 or you may telephone at 775-485-3406. In addition, information is available for review at the above address between the hours of 8:00 a.m. to Noon and 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Monday-Friday at the Esmeralda County Clerk's Office.

Esmeralda County promotes fair housing and makes all its programs available to low and moderate income families regardless of age, race, color, relation, sex, national origin, sexual preference, marital status or handicap.

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