

CRAIG ROAD PROJECT NAMED NEVADA'S BEST



Following NDOT's award-winning Craig Road project, railroad tracks now travel safely underneath the busy Las Vegas thoroughfare.

NDOT's Craig Road project, completed ahead of schedule in July 2009, took a vital North Las Vegas road up and over railroad tracks. Now, the project is elevated once again with an award as Southwest Contractor magazine's best Nevada transportation construction of 2009.

The project's centerpiece is a grade separation spanning Union Pacific Railroad tracks. The cast-in-place, pre-stressed box girder bridge now rises 40 feet above the railroad tracks, carrying traffic safely over the railroad and helping to alleviate congestion from traffic that previously had to stop at the tracks.

"Before the project, traffic backed up on both sides of Craig Road, and even onto the freeway, when a train went by," NDOT Resident Engineer K.D. Warach, P.E., explained.

The project also widened over one mile of Craig Road, expanding the major thoroughfare from four to six lanes between Berg Street and Pecos Road. Also included were retaining walls, ramp and landscaping improvements, as well as major utility work such as the installation of a new water line to service Nellis Air Force Base.

All of the work was accomplished two months ahead of schedule, thanks to dedicated teamwork between NDOT, contractor Frehner Construction and partners City of North Las Vegas, the Regional Transportation Commission of Southern Nevada and Nellis Air Force Base.

"The project used a formal partnering process successfully to resolve issues quickly and therefore finished the project 60 days ahead of schedule," Warach said.

The approximately \$34 million improvement project is already enhancing travel and safety on the busy road that sees more than 50,000 vehicles daily.

Independent design and construction experts reviewed more than 60 construction projects before selecting the Craig Road project as one exhibiting transportation construction and design excellence. The project will now move on to the national "Best of the Best" construction awards competition to vie for the national spotlight.