

# JANUARY 2026 NEWSLETTER



## Celebrating Winter Road Heroes

### Dear Nevada Transportation Professionals,

Winter has arrived, bringing fresh snowfall, colder days, and a busy season for everyone who helps keep our transportation system running. While the weather may be unpredictable, one thing remains constant—our team's dedication to your transportation needs.

Whether you're plowing roads before dawn, preparing equipment for freezing temperatures, coordinating transit routes, or supporting operations from the office, your work makes a real difference. This time of the year reminds us how important preparation, communication, and teamwork truly are.

In this issue, we share seasonal tips, highlight state projects, and offer a look at the winter tasks that keep everything rolling. Thank you for your hard work and commitment during one of our toughest seasons.

Respectfully,  
Carrie Brown, MSML  
NVLTAP Director



### What's Inside?

New Year and New Improvements.....	2
Room to Move at Tropicana.....	2
Winter Driving During High Winds.....	3
Featured Training: ATSSA Flagger Certification.....	4
Upcoming FREE Event:	
Tailgate Talk—Equipment Safety and Maintenance...	5
2026 Calendar Photo Contest.....	5
Training Request Process.....	6
Road Scholar Program.....	7
Funding Opportunities.....	8
Training Season.....	8



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Photo credit: Nevada Department of Transportation. (2024). U.S. 395 North Valleys Project. photograph. Retrieved December 22, 2025, from <https://www.dot.nv.gov/home/showpublishedimage/11938/638974370163270000>.

## New Year and New Improvements

As winter sets in, NDOT is planning improvements to U.S. 395 between Golden Valley Road and Stead Boulevard. The next phase of the U.S. 395 North Valleys Project will add lanes heading North and South, repaving the roadway, improvements to merging ramps, and installing a new and permanent traffic signal at the Golden Valley Road interchange. Construction of Phase 2 is expected to begin in 2026. Once work is underway, drivers should be prepared for periodic lane reductions and temporary ramp closures. The U.S. 395 North Valleys Project is funded by a Federal Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) grant and will be completed within NDOT's existing right-of-way.

For more information and traffic alerts:

**Project Info. / Traffic Alerts:** [395northvalleys.com](http://395northvalleys.com)

**View Travel Times:** [NV - US 395 Reno 3983 STTMS \(2023-2024\) QDC-RS](http://NV - US 395 Reno 3983 STTMS (2023-2024) QDC-RS)

Text "**NorthValleys**" to (866) 540-8466 to sign up for construction alerts.



Photo credit: Nevada Department of Transportation. (2025). I-15 Phase Timeline. I-15 Tropicana Project. photograph, <https://www.i5trop.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/Phases-Timeline-August-2024-2-1-1536x486.png>. Retrieved December 22, 2025, from <https://www.i5trop.com/schedule/>.

## Room to Move at Tropicana

Located in the heart of the resort corridor, the I-15/Tropicana Avenue interchange is a main gateway to the Las Vegas Strip. With new resorts and professional sports consistently drawing in visitors—up to 300,000 drivers on busy holiday weekends—planned widening will help ease congestion, improve access, and prepare I-15 for future growth.

Construction on NDOT's I-15 Tropicana Interchange Project began in 2022 and has brought major improvements to the area. Phase 4 supports the widening of Tropicana Avenue, building new bridges, realigning Dean Martin Road beneath I-15, and aims to enhance traffic flow to make travel smoother and safer.

Phases 1, 2, and 3 have been completed. Phase 4 and 5 are currently underway. Drivers can expect lane restrictions at Dean Martin Drive, specifically at the connection under Tropicana Avenue. Additionally, Tropicana Avenue will have temporary lane restrictions west of Polaris Avenue. To stay on top of the I-15/Tropicana NDOT project, visit the What to Expect page on the Nevada DOT website.

To stay on top of this project, visit XYZ website - or something of the like?

Source:

Nevada Department of Transportation. (2025). About the project - I-15 Tropicana. Current Upcoming Restrictions. <https://www.i5trop.com/upcoming-closure-2/>

# Winter Driving During High Winds



We've all experienced the treacherous high winds in Nevada throughout all seasons. High winds are common in Nevada and can make driving risky, especially for high-profile vehicles like trucks, vans, and RVs. A high-profile vehicle's tall and large flat surfaces make it easy to catch strong winds, pushing the vehicle sideways. A recent example demonstrating the increased rollover risk for high-profile vehicles during high-wind conditions occurred when a semi-truck overturned on I-580 in Washoe Valley, resulting in injuries and lane closures. Due to this roll-over, vehicles over 9-foot tall, were rerouted to US-395A through Pleasant Valley.

Nevada experiences high winds throughout the summer, spring, and fall. In winter, those winds create additional safety concerns, including whiteout conditions and reduced visibility that can make it difficult to see roadway debris.

High winds become even more dangerous during the winter months. Blowing snow can cause white out driving conditions, making visibility nearly zero. Here are some tips for braving the winter winds:

- **Monitor Conditions-** Before you hit the road, monitor the weather conditions along your travel route. While driving, stay informed via radio or weather alerts concerning condition changes.
- **Extend Travel Times-** Account for extra time to arrive at your destination safely, as weather conditions can change unexpectedly.
- **Safety First-** Always wear your seatbelt, dress appropriately, and have a emergency road kit that includes necessary tools, extra clothes, blankets, hats, and gloves.
- **Take Caution-** Slow down and use headlights if visibility is low. Take extra care with high-profile vehicles; obey wind warnings in areas like Hoover Dam bypass and U.S. 395/Washoe-Pleasant Valley.
- **Wheel Grip-** Keep a firm grip on the wheel and be ready for sudden gusts.
- **Safe Spacing-** Give extra space to large vehicles like trucks, RVs, and trailers.
- **Eyes on the Road-** Watch for debris such as tree limbs or loose objects. Avoid downed power lines and report them to authorities immediately.
- **Know When to Pull Over-** Pull over safely if driving becomes dangerous—avoid stopping under trees, power lines, or near structures.

For more information and resources:

- [Roadside Wind Speed Reports \(NDOT Road Weather Information System\)](https://www.dot.nv.gov/safety/high-wind-driving-safety-tips)
- [Current Southern Nevada Wind Speeds \(Clark County Air Quality and Environmental Management\)](https://www.clarkcountynv.gov/air-quality-and-environmental-management/current-southern-nevada-wind-speeds)
- [High Wind Safety Tips \(Nellis Air Force Base\)](https://www.nellis.af.mil/High-Wind-Safety-Tips)

Sources:

Nevada Department of Transportation. (n.d.). High wind driving safety tips / Nevada Department of Transportation. High Wind Driving Safety Tips. <https://www.dot.nv.gov/safety/high-wind-driving-safety-tips>  
2 News Nevada. (2024, January 14). Wind blows over semi in Washoe Valley. 2 News Nevada. [https://www.2news.com/news/wind-blows-over-semi-in-washoe-valley/article\\_496bf3e4-b275-11ee-9e4d-a7f147ae07fb2.html](https://www.2news.com/news/wind-blows-over-semi-in-washoe-valley/article_496bf3e4-b275-11ee-9e4d-a7f147ae07fb2.html)  
8 News Now. (2025, July 2). Wild las vegas storm leaves trail of damage across valley; Evacuation Center Open. Local News. <https://www.8newsnow.com/news/local-news/wild-las-vegas-storm-leaves-trail-of-damage-across-valley/>

# Featured Training: ATSSA Flagger Certification



Flagger Certification has hit the road - literally! The American Traffic Safety Service Association (ATSSA) certified two Nevada LTAP staff members to provide Flagger Certification to Nevada. Flagger participants learn proper flagging techniques, traffic control procedures, and safety practices necessary to protect workers and the traveling public. Through this training, learners explore ways to stay alert at work sites through engaging instruction that uses different sources of media to support on-the-job learning while earning a certification to further their career in roadway construction. One participant stated, "We went over all safety requirements - this will help me stay safe."

Traditionally, Nevada LTAP provided Flagger Certification in partnership with Northern and Southern Nevada unions. We recognized that the existing courses were not always accessible to everyone, particularly individuals seeking to enter highway construction, who are not employed by a public agency or unionized company.

We are thrilled to expand our reach and provide Flagger Certification directly to rural communities and offer on-site sessions to make this training accessible to all! With one of our new certified staff members fluent in Spanish, we provided our first Spanish Flagger Certification course in November of 2025.

To schedule a session, contact Tracey Smith at [tsmith@appliedpavement.com](mailto:tsmith@appliedpavement.com) or (775) 420-4811. Please allow a 5-week lead time on all training requests.

# Tailgate Talks

## Upcoming FREE Event: Tailgate Talk-Equipment Safety and Maintenance

The Nevada LTAP continues its Tailgate Talk series into 2026—a casual forum to discuss a range of topics. Join us on February 12th as Miko Kees leads a session on Equipment Safety and Maintenance. Bring your questions, share your experiences, and invite a co-worker to join the conversation as well!

Routine maintenance and safety play an important role in both equipment performance and roadway safety. Maintaining equipment in a proper and timely manner is a foundational cornerstone of transportation, construction, and public works agencies. In an effort to assist agencies in meeting their safety and performance goals, the Equipment Safety and Maintenance Tailgate Talk will provide a casual discussion on introductory maintenance practices, safety checklists, and basic, daily safety procedures and methods for operators and supervisors. This discussion will assist participants in establishing a culture of safety at their worksites and agencies.

To register for this completely free Tailgate Talk, please visit our website or email Amelia Shannon.



## 2026 Calendar Photo Contest

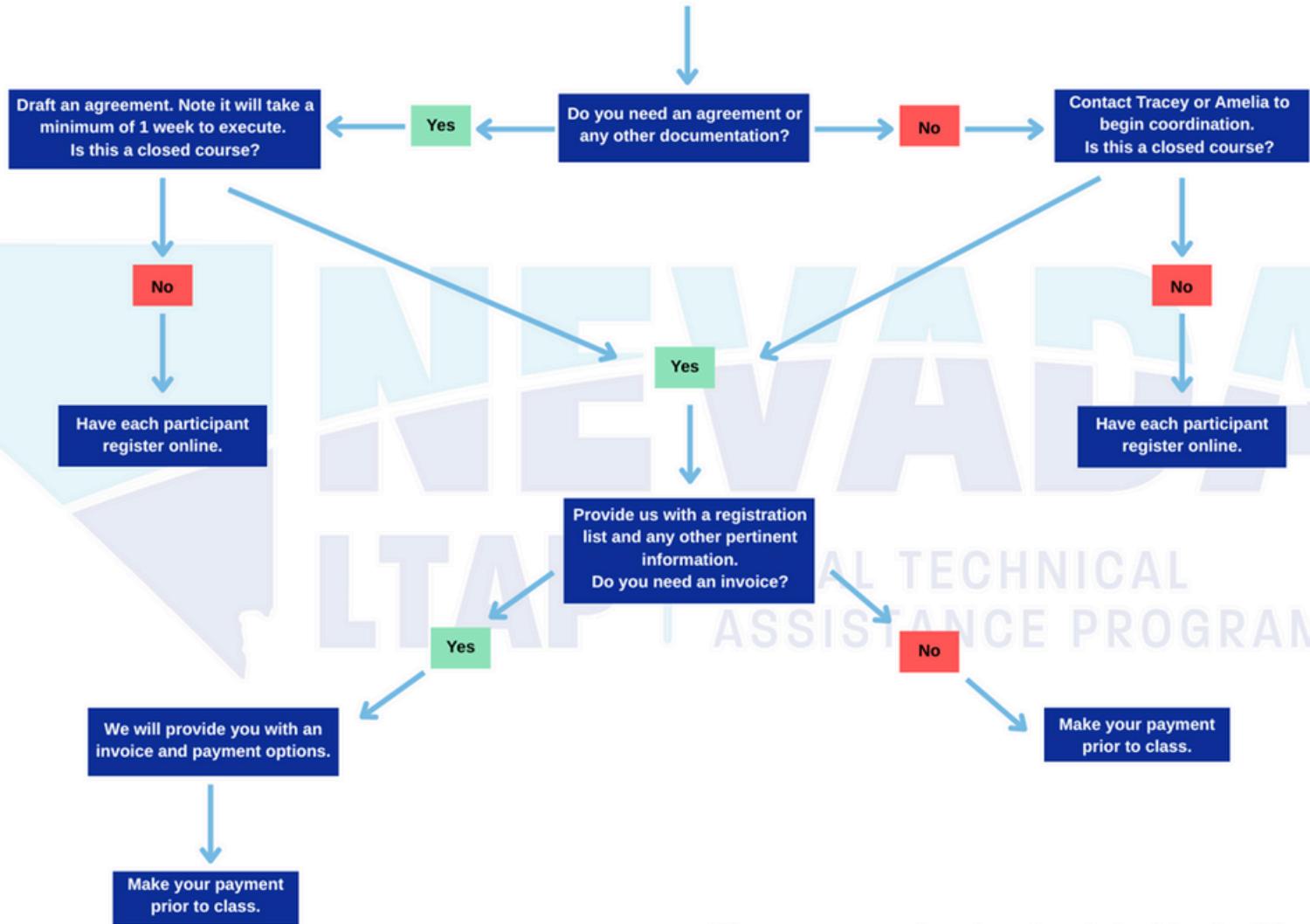
Nevada LTAP was thrilled to promote our 2026 Calendar Photo Contest before the new year. Participants were asked to submit photographs of construction work scenes, rugged landscapes, and outdoor images that celebrate the beauty of Nevada. All participants had the chance to win prizes!

Nevada LTAP would like to thank everyone who submitted amazing photos and would like to give a special shout out to our front cover, grand prize winner – **Carl Shrider, Esmeralda County Road Department!** In addition to being featured on the cover, Carl will receive a Nevada LTAP hat and registration and travel fees covered to attend the 2026 Southern Nevada Spring American Public Works Association (APWA) Conference!

If you would like to request a calendar for your office or agency, please fill out the Calendar Request Form or contact Tracey Smith.

# Training Request Process

## Training Request Submitted



\*Please note we require at least 6 weeks lead time for ALL trainings.

Do you have interest in hosting a Nevada LTAP training? Nevada LTAP takes pleasure in partnering with various agencies to meet training needs. To ensure the training request process runs smoothly, please refer to the image above. This chart outlines the progressive steps to take in planning a successful training facilitation. To begin your training request, start by completing our online [Training Request Form](#), which will gather information to help guide us on your desired training experience. If you or your agency are interested in having Nevada LTAP provide a training, please complete the [Training Request Form](#) or contact [Tracey Smith](#) (in-person sessions) or [Amelia Shannon](#) (virtual sessions) to help get the process started.

To begin your training request, start by completing our online form. The [Training Request Form](#) will gather information to help guide us on your desired training experience.

# Highlighting the NVLTAP Road Scholar Program



## ROAD SCHOLAR PROGRAM



Upon completion of the program, participants receive a certificate of completion. Some agencies use Road Scholar completion to justify pay increases and promotion. Ask your supervisor about this option.



### REQUIREMENTS ➤

Complete 7 required courses

Complete 4 elective courses

Complete within 5 years



## CONTACT:



Email  
ashannon@appliedpavement.com



Phone Number  
(775) 420-4811



Website  
<https://nvltap.com/road-scholar/>

## Funding Opportunities



<a href="#">Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act: Mine of the Future – Proving Ground Initiative</a>	January 30
<a href="#">FY 20-25 Federal-State Partnership for Intercity Passenger Rail Grant Program - National</a>	February 6
<a href="#">University Transportation Centers Program</a>	February 20
<a href="#">FY 2026 National Infrastructure Investments</a>	February 24
<a href="#">2026 AARP Community Challenge</a>	March 1
<a href="#">Advanced Technological Education</a>	October 1

## TRAINING



## Training Season

Need more training? Visit the NVLTAP training event [calendar](#) and [course catalog](#).

<a href="#">Flagger Training</a>	Las Vegas	January 20
<a href="#">Evaluating Pavement Condition</a>	Virtual	February 6
<a href="#">Tailgate Talk: Equipment Safety and Maintenance</a>	Virtual	February 20
<a href="#">Road Safety 365</a>	Virtual	February 17-18
<a href="#">Introduction to PAVER</a>	Reno	February 17-18
<a href="#">Flagger Training</a>	Las Vegas	February 23
<a href="#">Flagger Training</a>	Las Vegas	March 16
<a href="#">Managing Local Roads Effectively: A 3-Part Series</a>	Virtual	March 17, 24, 31