



Improving Traffic Safety One Survey at a Time



*Jen Jackson
Channel 2 News*

Traffic problems can snarl up different portions of the Truckee Meadows at different times during the day. But one group of students hopes to make a difference and save lives with a traffic study.

Two graduate students and an assistant professor in the Civil Engineering department at U.N.R. are attempting to pinpoint high crash locations before accidents occur, potentially saving lives.

Everybody's in a hurry to get where they're going and accidents can happen for a number of reasons.

So, the Civil Engineering department at U.N.R. is teaming up with the Nevada Department of Transportation to determine what intersections or roadways are unsafe according to the people who drive in Reno and Sparks.

Zong Tian, an Assistant Professor in the Civil Engineering Department and U.N.R. says, "What we are doing here is actually trying to identify those potential possibilities of high crash locations and try to do something before the crash really happens."

We took our own survey and asked drivers what areas they thought were bad.

"Freeway, heading north at 4:30, that's my biggest negative," says Dave Vanhuff.

And Melissa Bloch says, "McCarran and Virginia are really a problem. And 395 north at the Spaghetti Bowl is a mess."

Everyone we asked mentioned the Spaghetti Bowl and different portions of Virginia street. "I don't drive in the traffic everyday, but when I'm there, I'm not a very patient driver. I suppose there's more than just me," says Karen Alfsen.

For the next two years the department will gather information from drivers, N-DOT will pay for it all and hopefully some changes will be made.

L.J. Johnson is one of the graduate students. "Maybe some of these methods that we're developing here in Reno Sparks can be applied to Las Vegas, Carson City and other major, and even minor areas throughout the state."

For more information, go to the below link ---

http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=DI1mwZnVkJKMM5EwUh6qhow_3d_3d