RTC showcases ‘Work Zone of the Future’ technologies to improve safety, congestion at road construction sites

CLICK TO TWEET: .@RTCSNV demonstrates ‘work zone of the future’ in coordination with National Work Zone Awareness Week to showcase how technology can improve safety and congestion at road construction sites. #NWZAW

LAS VEGAS – In an ongoing effort to reduce traffic congestion caused by road construction, the Regional Transportation Commission of Southern Nevada (RTC) is testing a first-of-its kind pilot program to find, inspect and mitigate work zones in real time. In coordination with National Work Zone Awareness Week, technologies from Nexar, iCone, and HAAS Alert were demonstrated today at a special “Work Zone of the Future” event at the Southern Nevada Traffic Management Center.

“We are excited to be testing a pilot program that has the potential to help improve traffic flows, worker and driver safety and work zone efficiency,” said RTC CEO Tina Quigley. “Work zone detection and reporting technology is the next level to our Seeing Orange program that we launched nearly four years ago, and we are hopeful these new technologies will provide significant long-term benefits to both commuters and workers throughout our valley.”

A mock construction zone setup showed how innovative technologies are helping engineers and motorists stay ahead of work zones and manage them in real-time. The demonstration included traffic cones, barrels, arrow boards, construction and inspection vehicles – all outfitted with new technologies that can communicate with passing vehicles and traffic engineers. Attendees saw how technologies broadcasting the location of construction equipment and activity have the potential to change how engineers and commuters plan, implement and react to construction zones.

Nexar CityStream is a groundbreaking platform that uses Nexar’s connected vehicle network to log thousands of daily updates on the movements of hundreds of traffic cones and their effect on traffic in a three-square-mile pilot area in downtown Las Vegas. The technology will help measure the effects of cones and lane closures on traffic, automate the flow of data into RTC databases, help determine permit compliance with lane closures, streamline construction permit management, and provide more accurate public information.

“We know that collisions occur when motorists don’t have adequate time to react to road conditions or events,” said Eran Shir, Nexar CEO. “Using our CityStream platform to help the RTC of Southern Nevada find and report construction zones in real time is just one benefit we are excited to share with this community. And we hope other communities take note.”

iCone has 21 state-of-the-art traffic control devices broadcasting their locations from inside the work zone to the traveling public through its partnership with the Waze traffic app. The HAAS Alert system is being tested on RTC inspection and traffic technician vehicles also to report to Waze the location of construction vehicles, equipment and workers within active construction zones.
“iCone-enabled barricade equipment is broadcasting live work zones to commuters today through Waze. We started with 21 devices, but as that number grows, the reporting will only get better, enabling drivers to better plan their commutes and avoid delays,” said Triton Technologies CEO Jeff Anderson, operator of iCone equipment in Southern Nevada.

"Already this year, 21 public safety and roadway operator fatalities have happened in the U.S., so it's critical for digital alerting services to provide preventative alerts to drivers on the road," said HAAS Alert CEO Cory Hohs.

Tours of a live work zone, equipped with advanced detection and monitoring technologies, gave attendees a look at the RTC of Southern Nevada’s work zone of the future. Demonstrations of Nexar CityStream, HAAS Alert and iCone were featured on the Waycare incident prediction platform and Waze, the crowd sourced navigation app.

About the RTC
The RTC is the transit authority, transportation planning organization, regional traffic management agency and administrator of Southern Nevada Strong, the regional planning effort for the Las Vegas valley. The RTC’s vision is to provide a safe, convenient and effective regional transportation system that enhances mobility and air quality for citizens and visitors. The RTC encourages residents and visitors to use a variety of transportation choices to help reduce traffic congestion, clean the air and improve the quality of life in Southern Nevada. For more information about the RTC and its major initiatives or to download its transit app rideRTC, visit rtsnv.com.

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