



Las Vegas • McCarran International Airport

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Detour required near Airport Connector Tunnel ***Non-airport traffic should seek alternate route beginning early Thursday, April 22***

LAS VEGAS – An ongoing roadway improvement project near McCarran International's busy Airport Connector Tunnel will require some northbound traffic to utilize a temporary detour beginning shortly after drivers exit the tunnel. This new road alignment will take effect in the early morning hours on Thursday, April 22 and is expected to slow northbound traffic within and near the tunnel during peak driving hours.

Drivers who are not headed to McCarran Airport for travel-related purposes are encouraged to take an alternate route to avoid any roadway congestion occurring near the Airport Connector Tunnel.

Portions of the permanent roadway north of the tunnel must be temporarily shut down to allow workers to install a new bridge that will feed tunnel traffic into McCarran's \$2.4 billion Terminal 3 expansion, which opens in 2012. This road closure is expected to last until the fall. In the interim, non-airport northbound traffic will use a detour that leads vehicles outside the construction area by way of the Flight Path Avenue exit. A single northbound tunnel lane will remain closed as this construction occurs; southbound traffic will not be impacted.

The roadwork is one phase of a larger, multi-year project that began in fall 2009. These necessary and safety-enhancing improvements will be completed in summer 2011 at a cost of approximately \$22 million. The project was approved by the Clark County Board of Commissioners in August 2009.

"The tunnel will not be fully closed, but there will certainly be times when traffic in that area will become very congested," said Randall H. Walker, Clark County Director of Aviation. "If local drivers can find another way around the airport, they may find it easier to avoid the tunnel altogether. For safety's sake, we ask that drivers who use the tunnel during this construction period always exercise appropriate caution and avoid speeding."

The Airport Connector Tunnel was built in the early 1990s and was paid for using airport revenue, not local tax dollars. Prior to the Dec. 31, 1994, opening of this southerly route, most traffic coming in and out of the airport utilized Paradise Road or Swenson Street between McCarran's terminals and Tropicana Avenue. Without the tunnel, those northerly roadways would have become severely congested in recent years as airport passenger levels increased to an annual peak of nearly 48 million.

Construction is affecting travel lanes between Kitty Hawk Way and the tunnel (**See attached map**). Improvements will include new lanes for entering and exiting Terminal 3; a safety barrier that will prevent exiting and entering traffic from weaving within shared lanes; as well as new bridges to ease access between the tunnel and McCarran's Terminal 1 and 2. Upon completion, T3 will add 14 gates and other infrastructure needed for McCarran to reach its sustainable capacity of approximately 53 million annual passengers.



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Intersection of Russell Road
and Paradise Road.

The image is an aerial photograph of an airport area. A yellow box at the top center contains the text 'Intersection of Russell Road and Paradise Road.' with a yellow arrow pointing to a road intersection. A red line runs north-south, with a red arrow pointing to a section labeled 'Red area denotes temporary road closure north of the Airport Connector Tunnel.' in a red box at the bottom left. A green line runs parallel to the red line, with a green arrow pointing to a section labeled 'Green area indicates location of temporary detour, which includes a new traffic signal at its midway point near Flight Path Avenue.' in a green box at the bottom right. The background shows airport runways, taxiways, and various buildings.

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