

**CARSON CITY CULTURAL COMMISSION
STAFF REPORT**

MEETING DATE: June 19, 2012

AGENDA ITEM NUMBER: 3D

APPLICANT: Vern L. Krahn, Park Planner

REQUEST: Presentation and discussion only on the Carson City Freeway's landscape project's visual and aesthetic treatments, including the design integration of the project's artistic elements into a project framework.

GENERAL DISCUSSION: The Carson City Freeway Landscape Project is moving forward and is expected to be complete some time this fall. Staff wants to take this opportunity to give the Commission a "Readers Digest" version of the project's background and the design decision making process on how Carson City, Gardeners Reclaiming Our Waysides, and the Nevada Department of Transportation integrated various visual art images and aesthetic improvements to the freeway's landscaping project from the North Carson Street Interchange to the Fairview Drive Interchange (Refer to Exhibit A).

Staff believes this landscape project, and specifically these historic visual images and aesthetic improvements, will not only enhance the driving experience for both Carson City residents and out of town visitors but it has introduced into the public conscience a real time discussion on how art components can be interwoven into the fabric of a community.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: No action can be taken at this time. This agenda item is for discussion and informational purposes only.

**Sound Wall Image:
Sierra Nevada Mountains /
Carson Range**

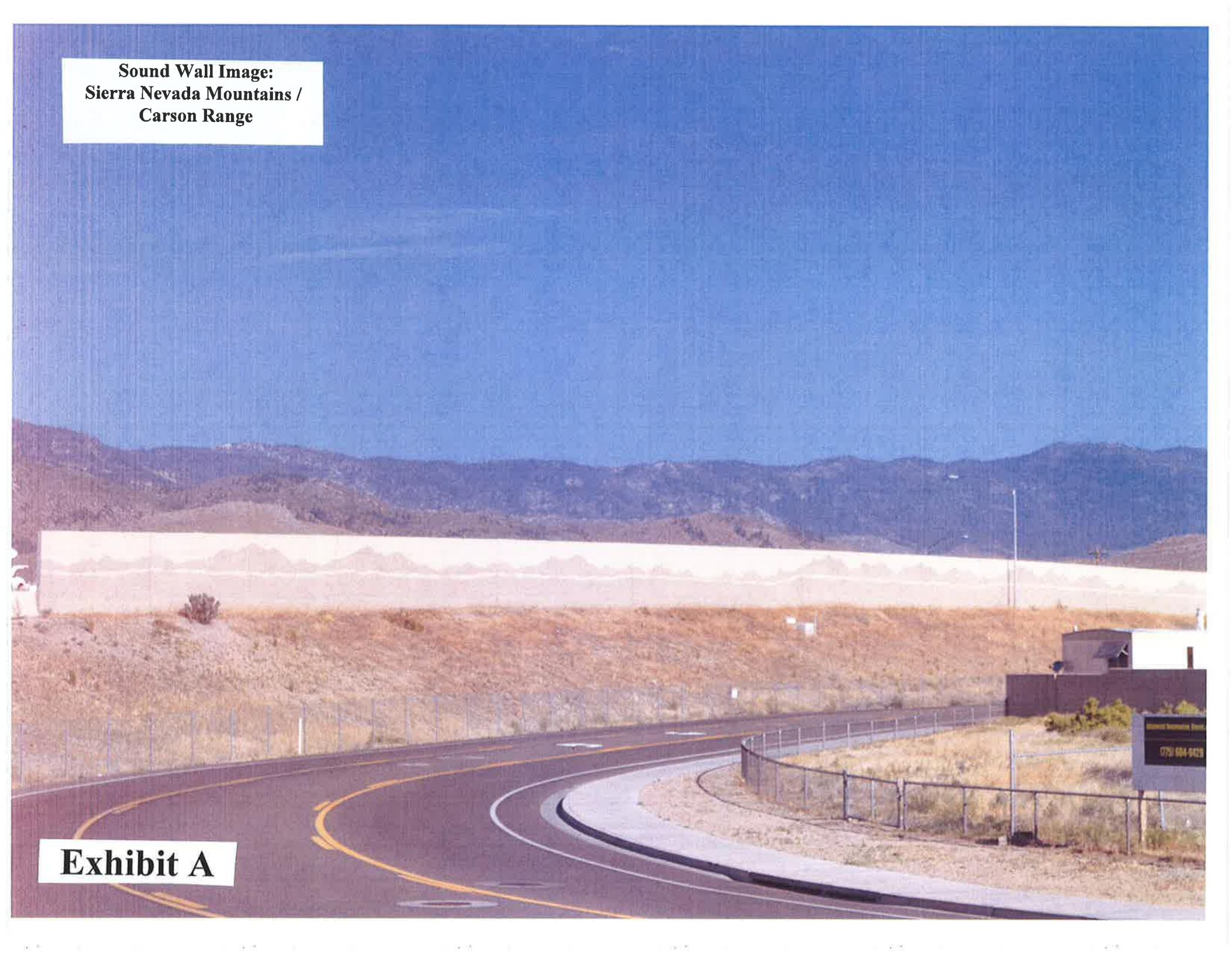
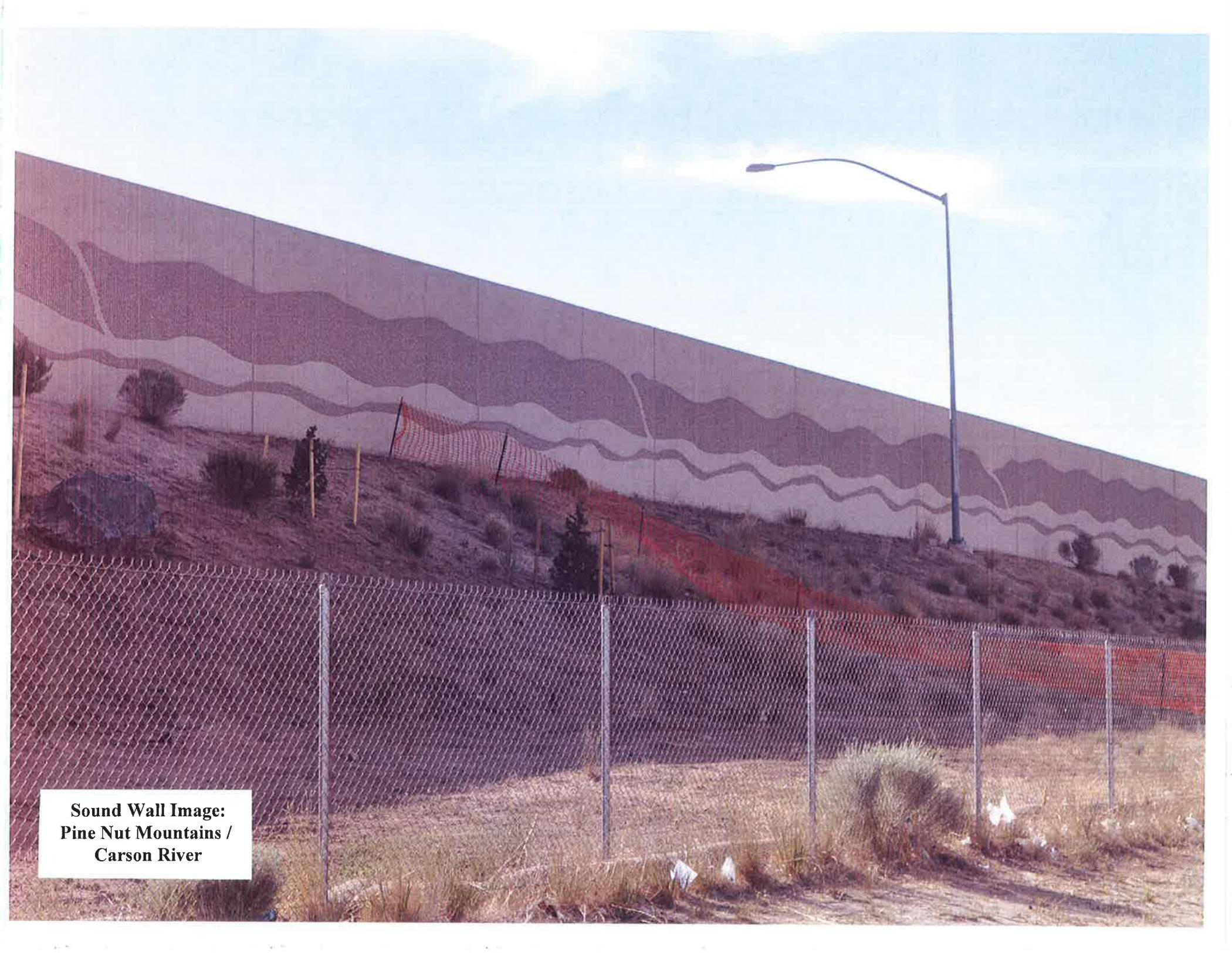
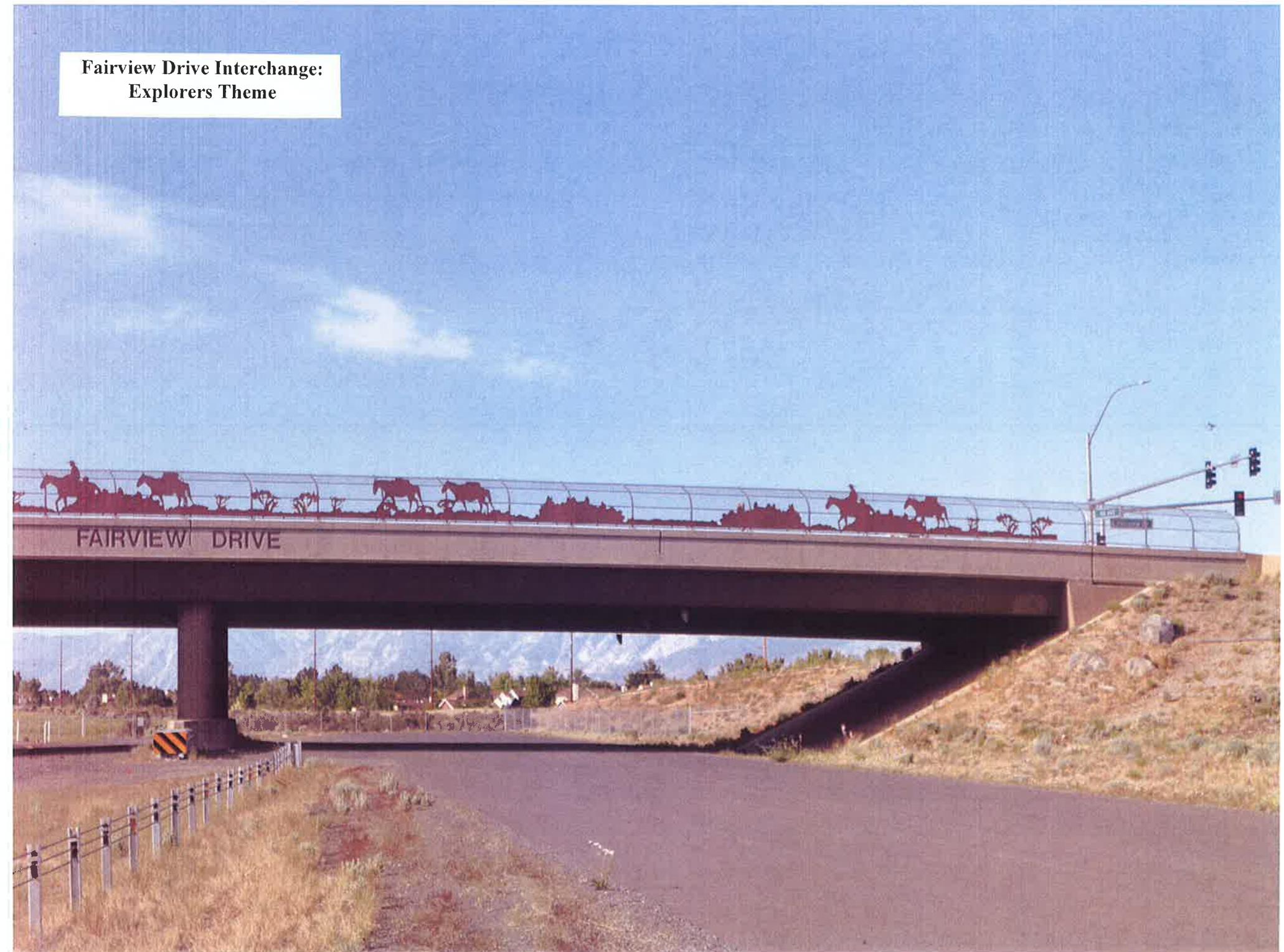


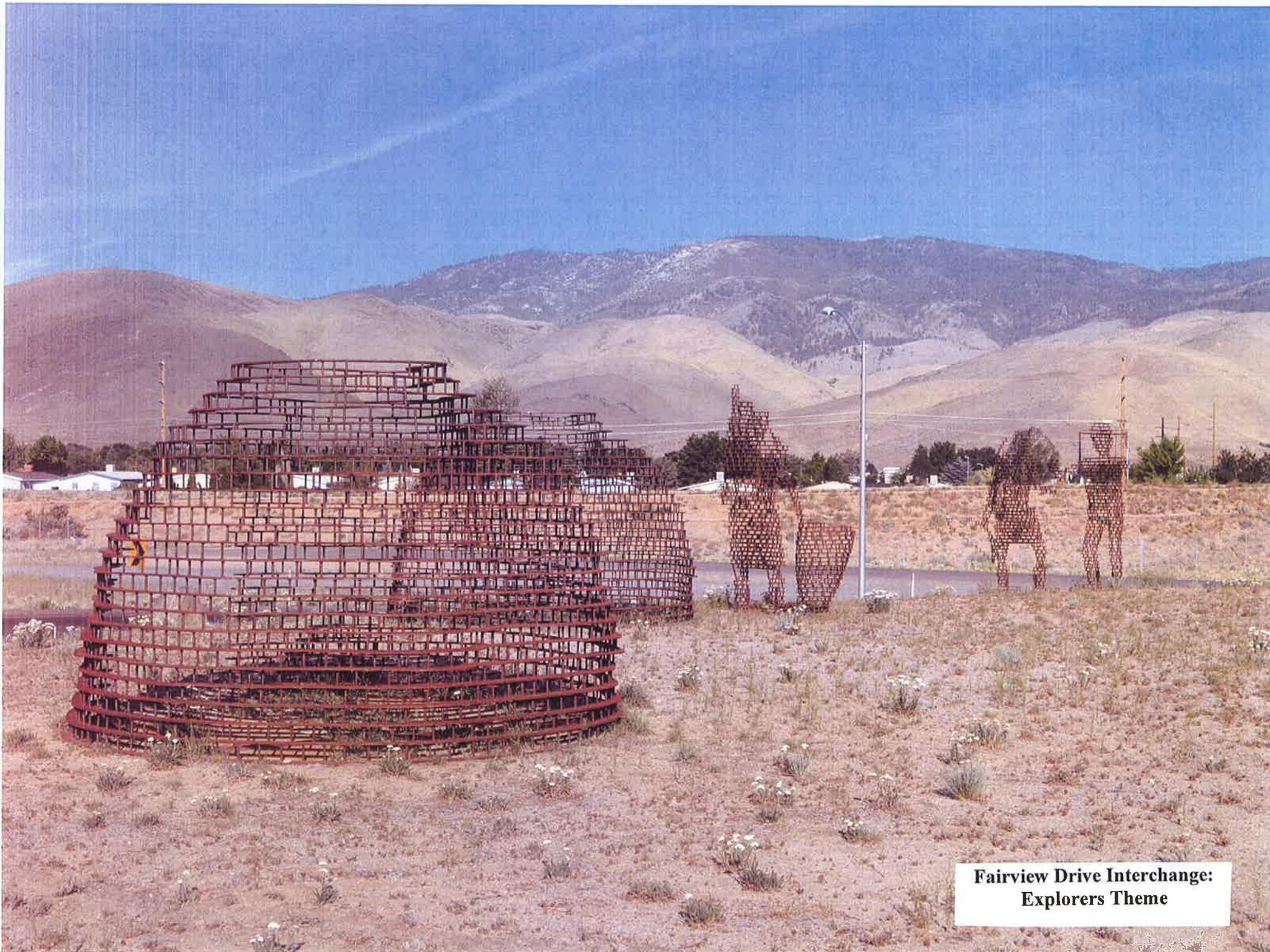
Exhibit A



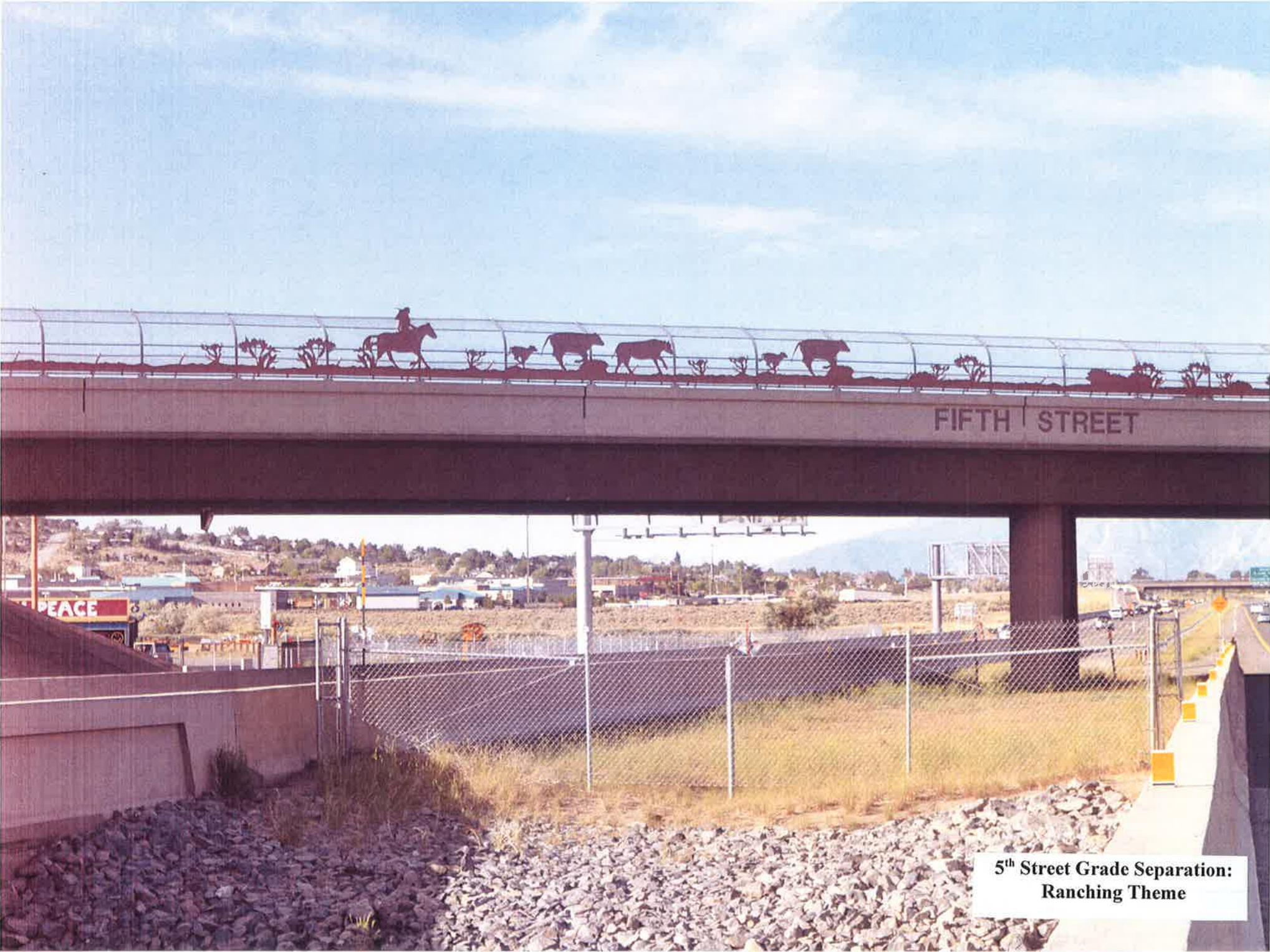
**Sound Wall Image:
Pine Nut Mountains /
Carson River**

**Fairview Drive Interchange:
Explorers Theme**





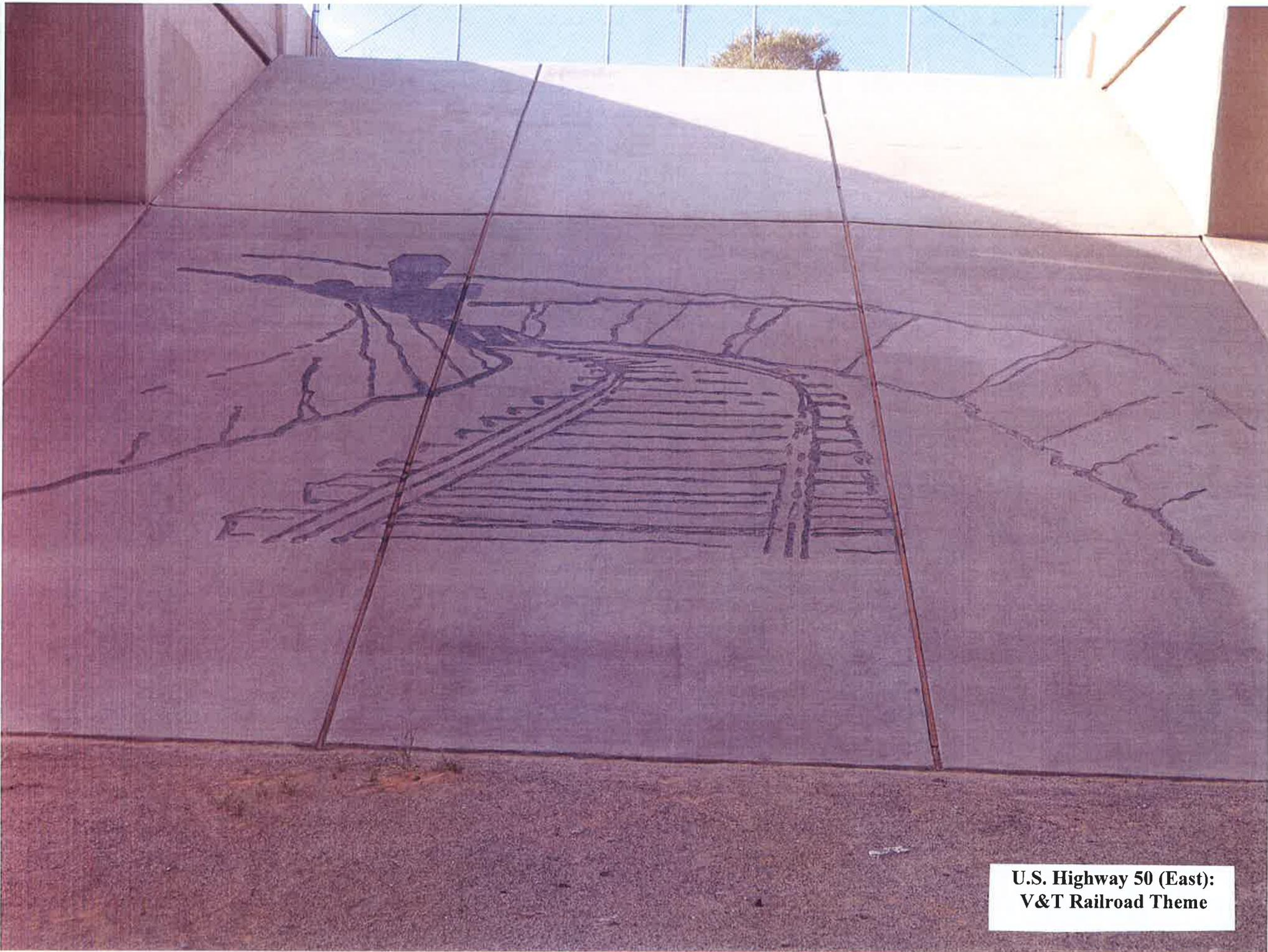
**Fairview Drive Interchange:
Explorers Theme**



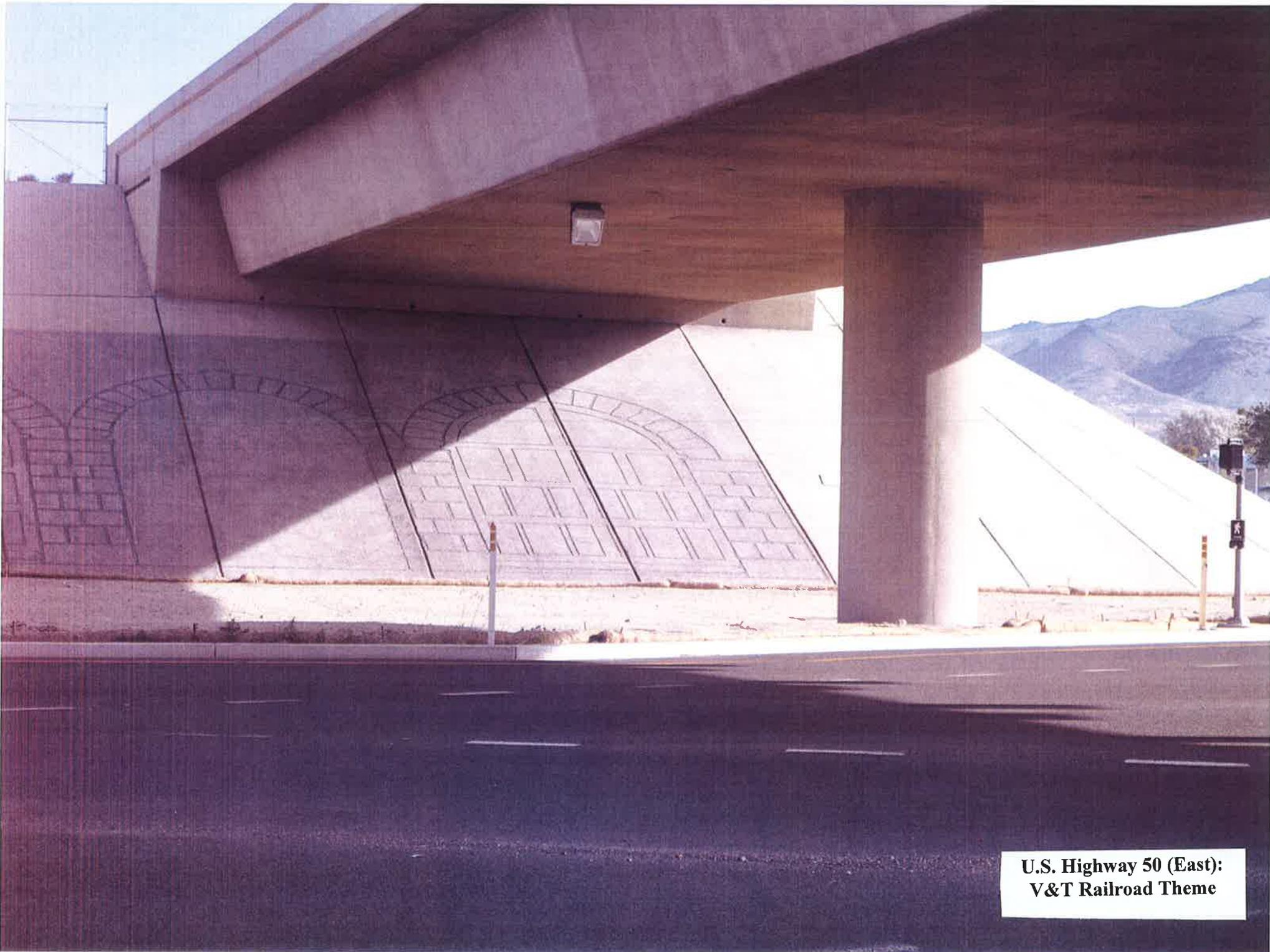
**5th Street Grade Separation:
Ranching Theme**



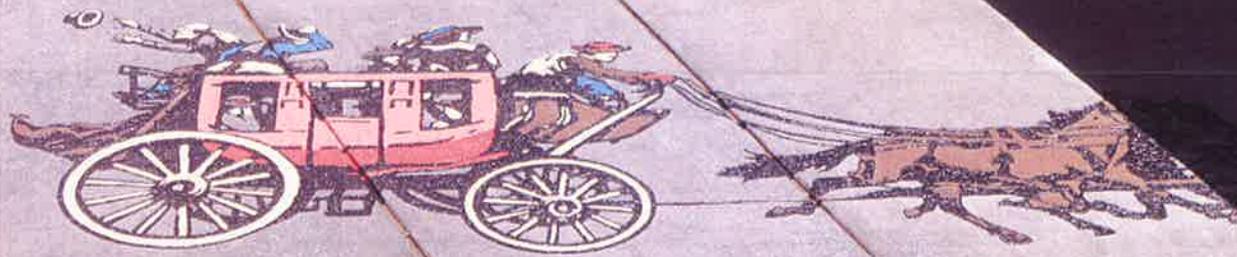
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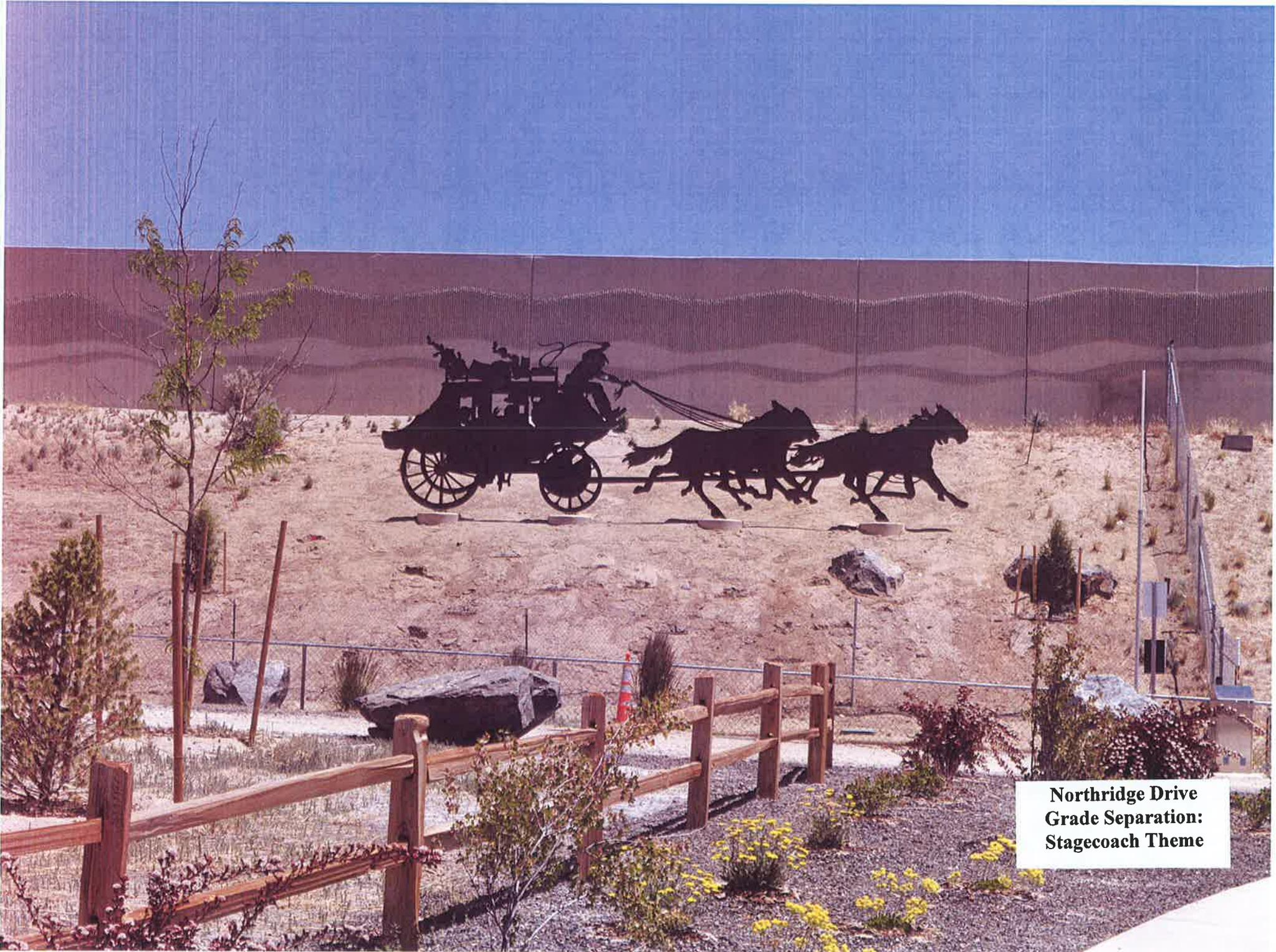
**U.S. Highway 50 (East):
V&T Railroad Theme**



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V&T Railroad Theme**

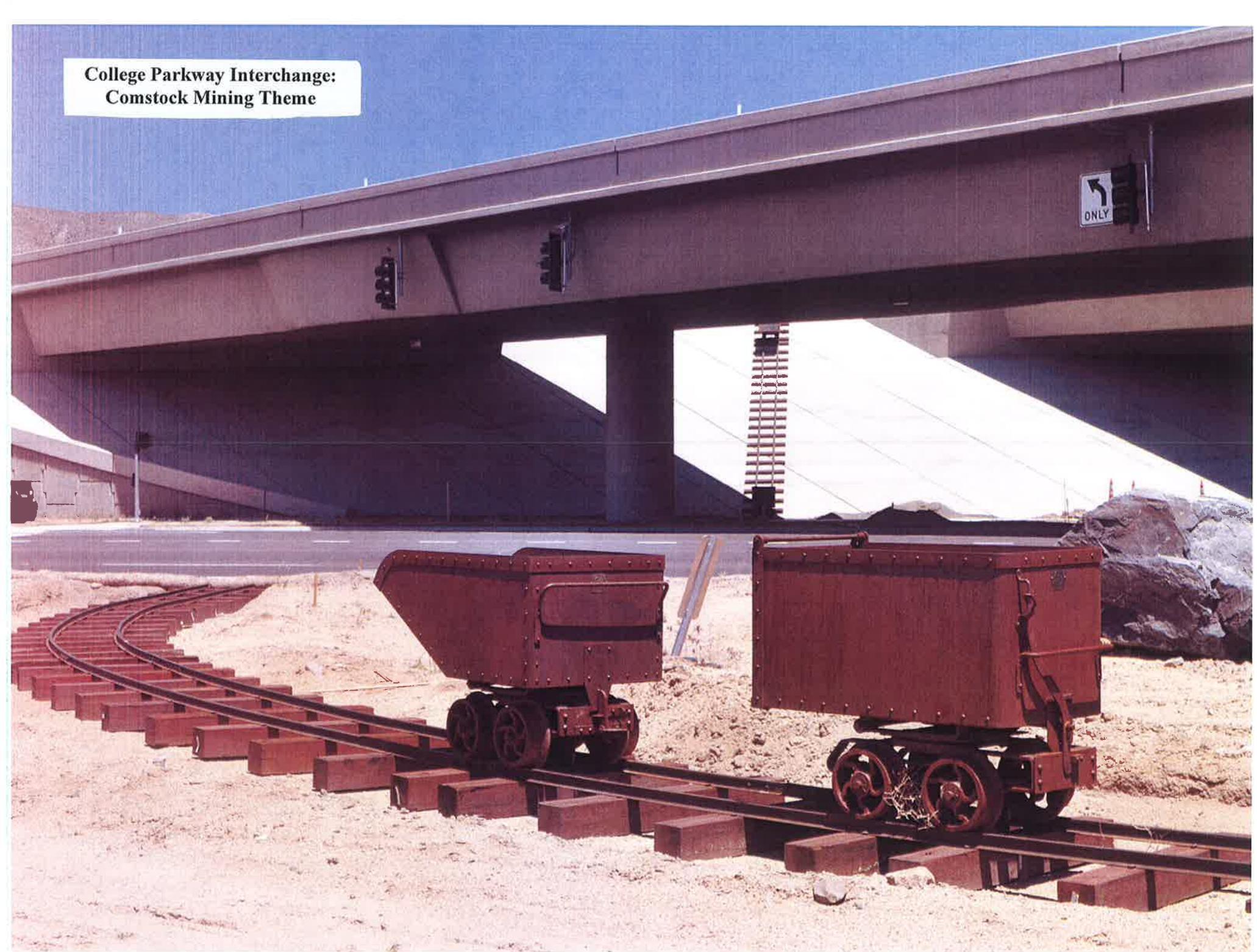


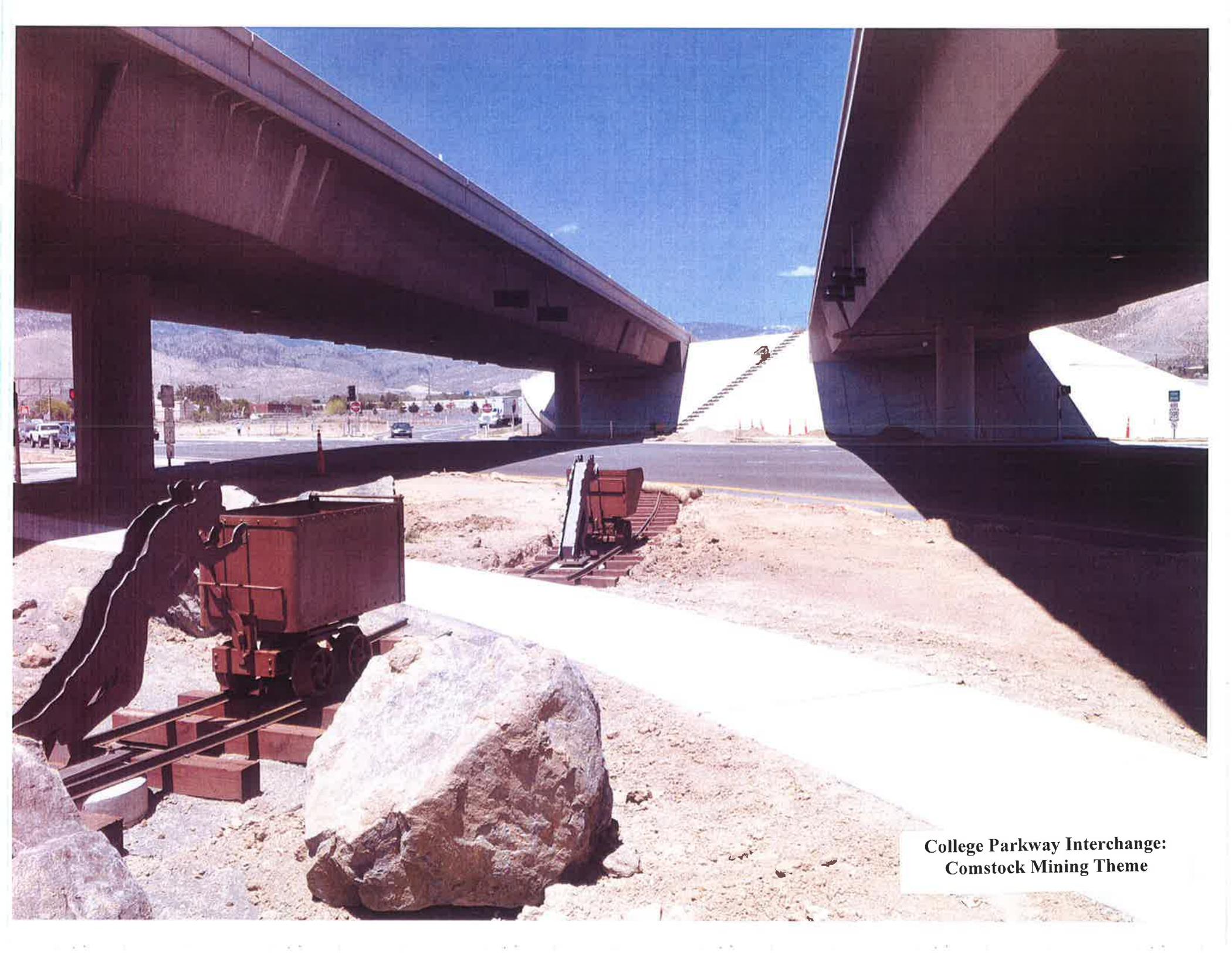
**Northridge Drive
Grade Separation:
Stagecoach Theme**



**Northridge Drive
Grade Separation:
Stagecoach Theme**

**College Parkway Interchange:
Comstock Mining Theme**



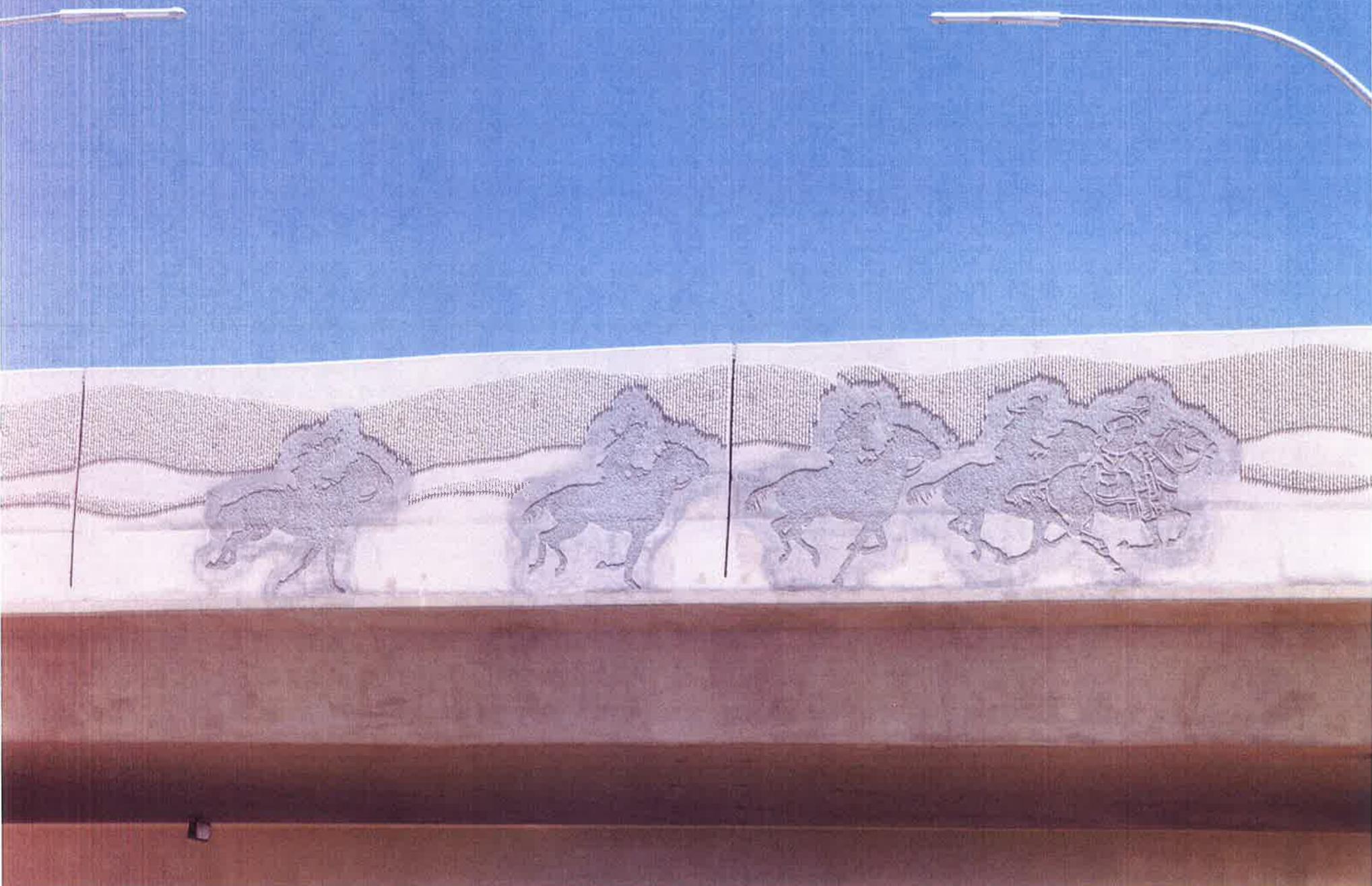


**College Parkway Interchange:
Comstock Mining Theme**



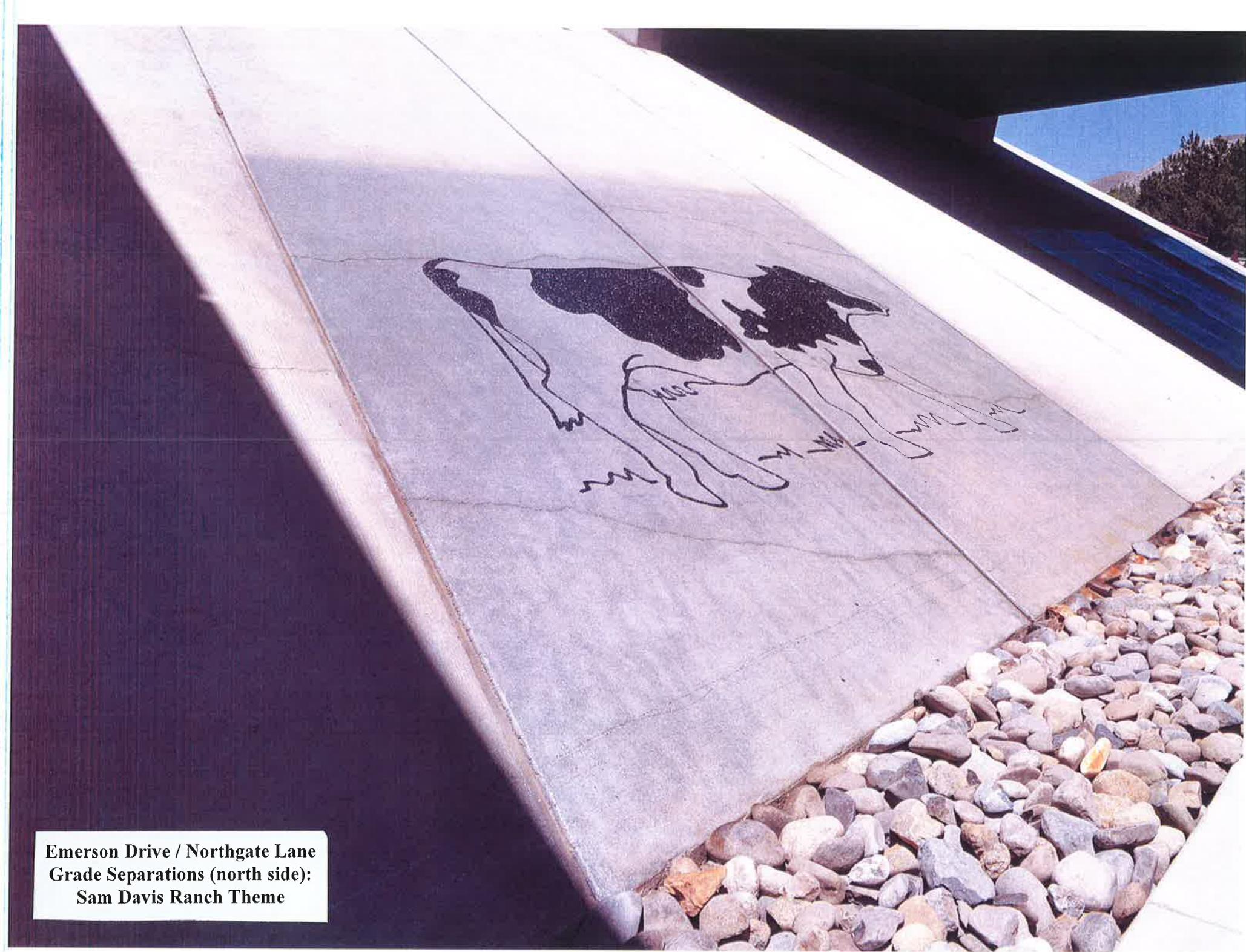
**Emerson Drive / Northgate Lane
Grade Separations (south side):
Pony Express Theme**

**Emerson Drive / Northgate Lane
Grade Separations (south side):
Pony Express Theme**



**Emerson Drive / Northgate Lane
Grade Separations (north side):
Sam Davis Ranch Theme**



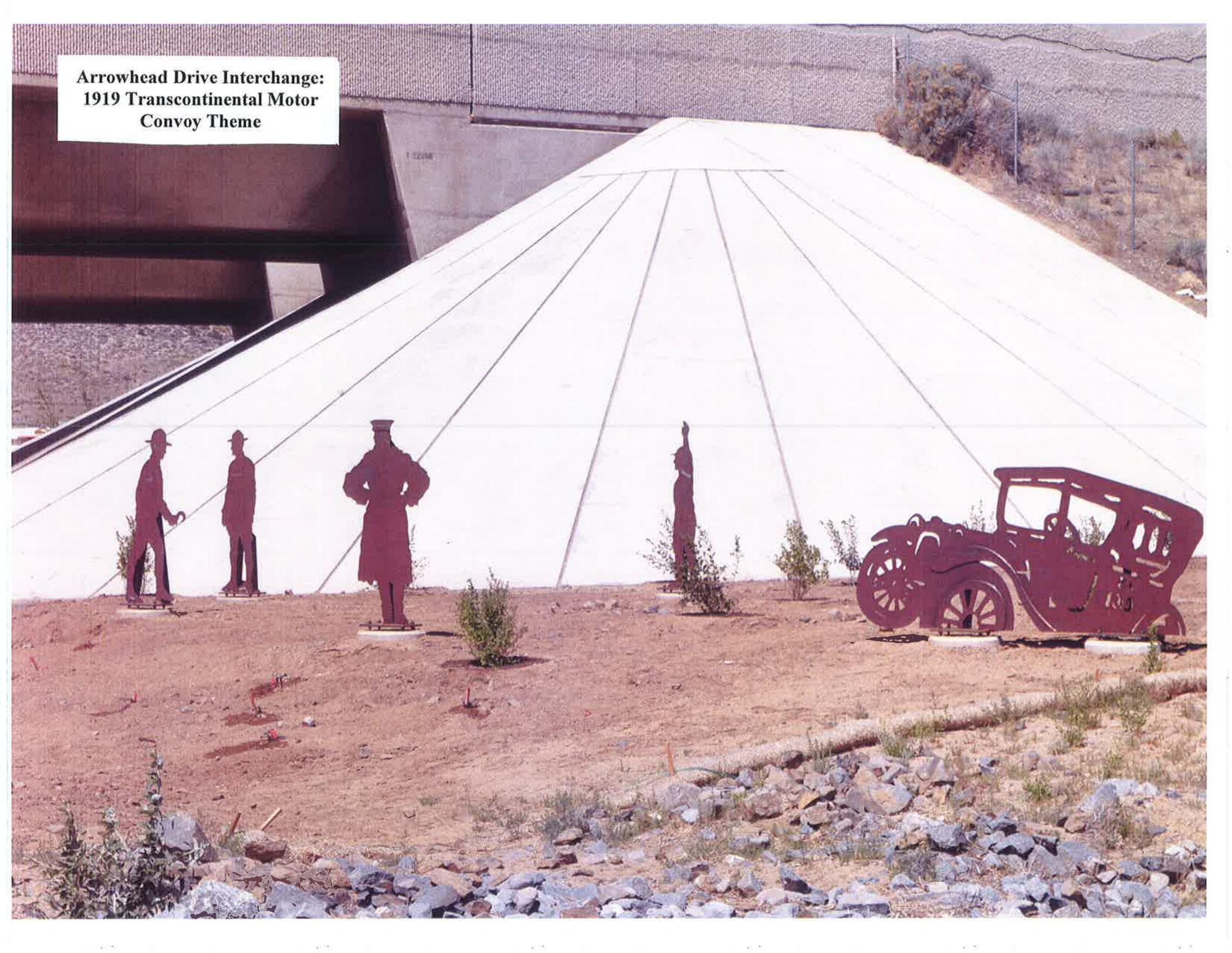


**Emerson Drive / Northgate Lane
Grade Separations (north side):
Sam Davis Ranch Theme**

**Arrowhead Drive Interchange:
1919 Transcontinental Motor
Convoy Theme**



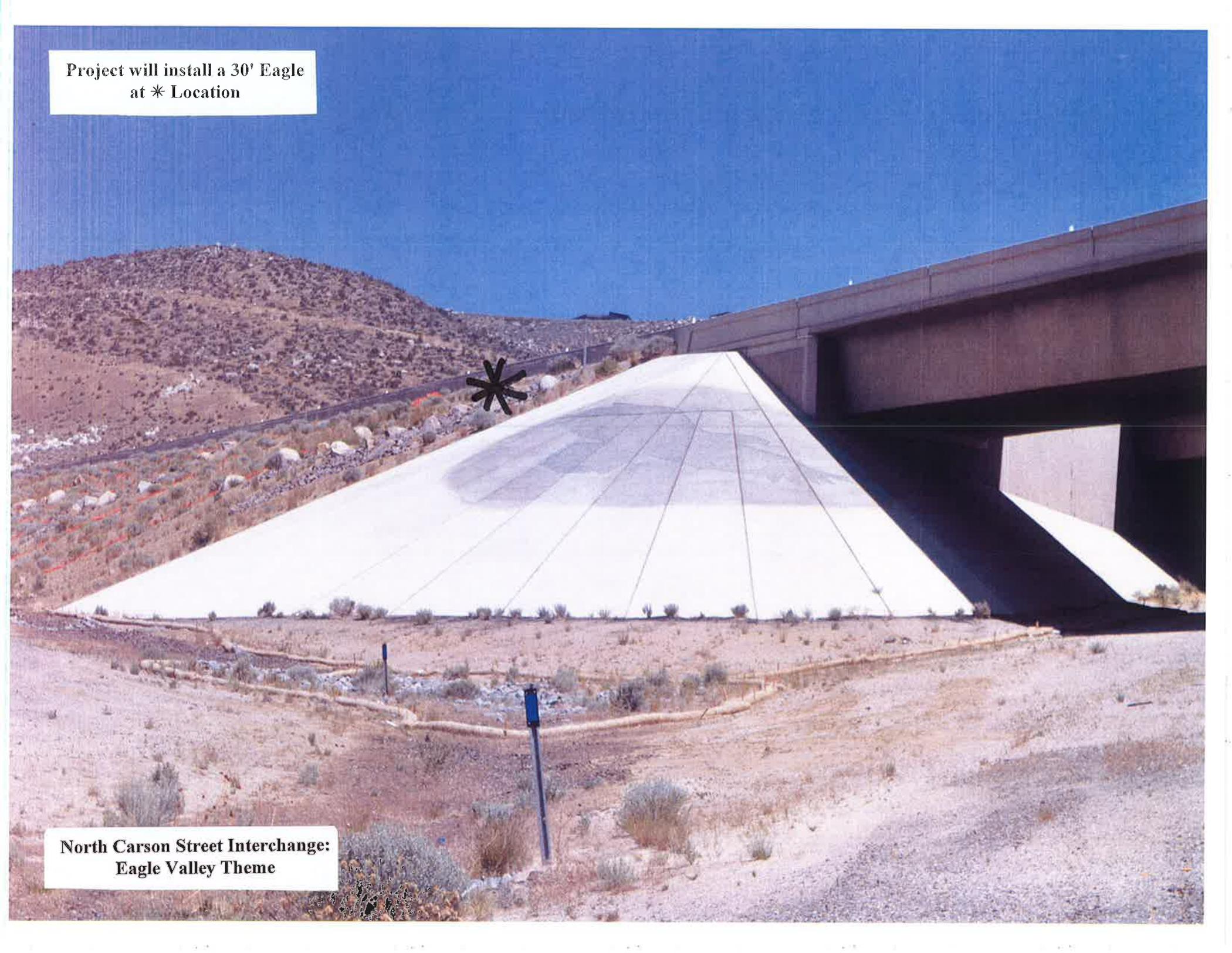
**Arrowhead Drive Interchange:
1919 Transcontinental Motor
Convoy Theme**



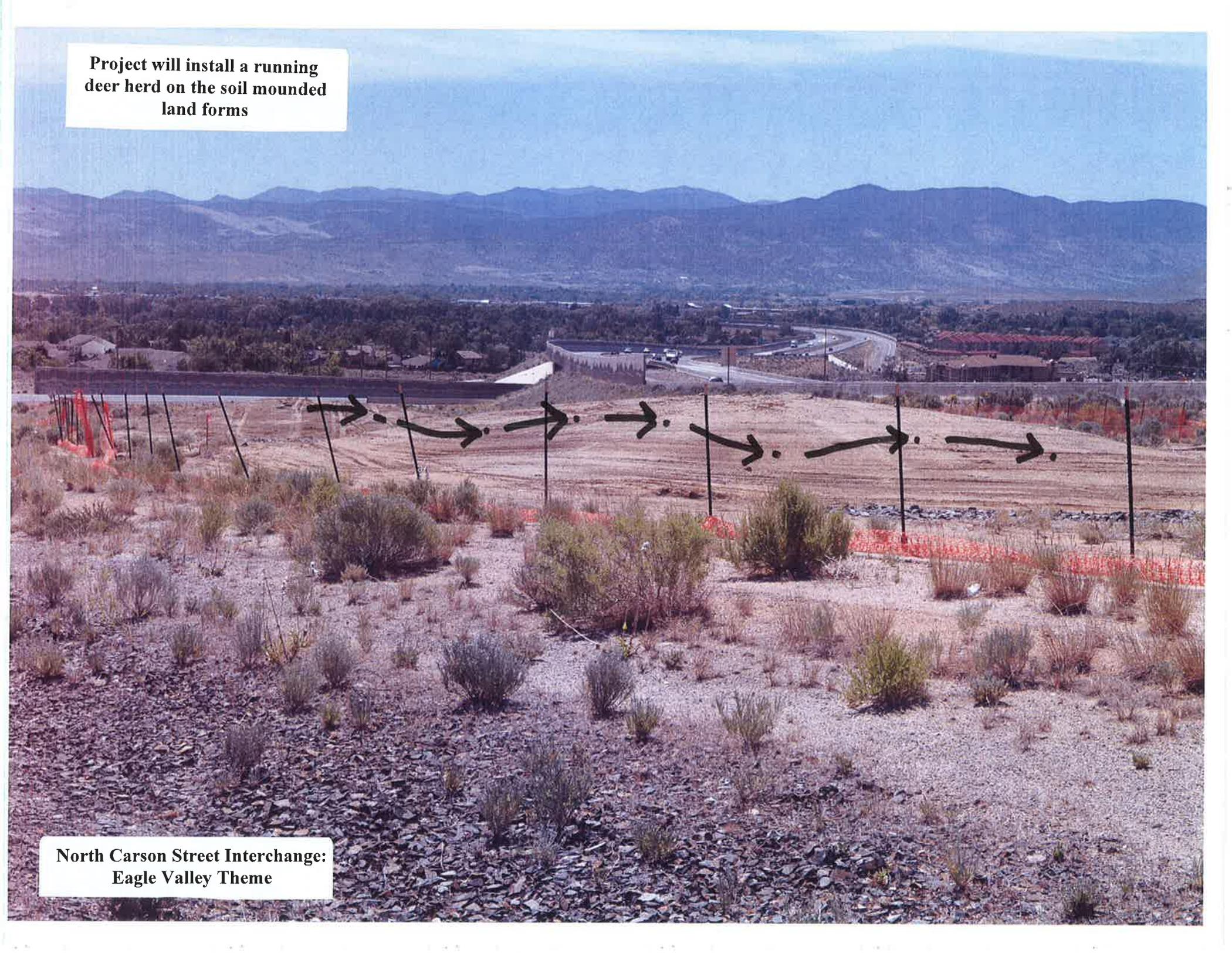
**Project will install a 30' Eagle
at * Location**



**North Carson Street Interchange:
Eagle Valley Theme**



**Project will install a running
deer herd on the soil mounded
land forms**



**North Carson Street Interchange:
Eagle Valley Theme**

FYI

'History in Motion' project just keeps rollin' along

BY SANDI HOOVER ⁵⁻¹⁻¹²
shoover@nevadaappeal.com

Carson City's history is starting to come to life along the freeway corridor through town as the city puts the finishing touches on steel sculptures depicting its past.

"History in Motion," which is expected to be completed by the end of the year, depicts at freeway interchanges and grade separations various eras during the developmental years in the area.

"The last two days have been exciting days for the freeway landscaping project north leg," as the first batch of steel cutouts was installed, said Tom Grundy, the city's senior project manager.

"The cutouts at Arrowhead Drive represent a snapshot in time when the Transcontinental Motor Convoy crossed the U.S. The plants and rock mulch are coming soon," he said, and the "cowboy cutout at Northgate Lane will be contemplating the Pony Express recruiting poster which will be installed amongst the trees, plants and rock mulches."

The first batch of cutouts was manufactured by Reno



Carson City installed steel sculptures along the freeway corridor last week depicting the theme of "History in Motion." The Arrowhead Drive interchange depicts images of the 1919 Transcontinental Motor Convoy.

Iron Works and installed last week by RaPid Construction.

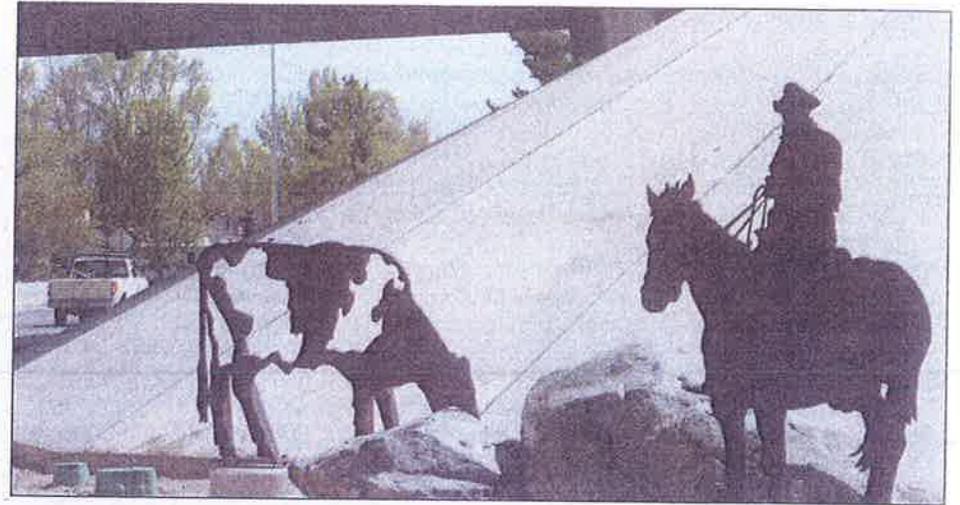
On Friday, members of Gardeners Reclaiming Our Waysides (GROW), RaPid Construction, Cassinelli Landscaping and city staff planted the first tree for the project along with Robin Williamson, former supervisor and former chairwoman of Carson City Regional Transportation Commission. The tree was donated by Fleming Nursery Sales Inc.

In recent weeks, historic designs have been etched

into the concrete, and in the months to come, drought-resistant plants and trees will be added to complete the scenes at each location.

The city received about \$2.2 million for improvements to the freeway corridor, with \$1.7 million of that secured through federal funding. The city also received \$500,000 through the Nevada Department of Transportation's Community Match Program for the project.

"It is very rewarding to see the years of hard work



PHOTOS BY JIM GRANT/NEVADA APPEAL

A cowboy tends to cattle at the freeway overpass on Northgate Lane. The Northgate Lane and Emerson Drive grade separation shares a dual theme, with cattle images portraying the Sam Davis Ranch theme on the north side. Murals depicting Pony Express riders are depicted on the other side

of many people paying off as the underground work on the project is winding up, and the portions of the project which will be visible and enhance our community for many years to come are being installed," Grundy said.

"Federal funding (is) assigned specifically to this project, thanks to the efforts of GROW and Sen. (Harry) Reid. These funds can only be used for the Carson City freeway's landscape and aesthetic improvements."

The project was conceived by GROW and was spearheaded and shepherded through years of red tape by Mary Fischer. GROW obtained initial federal funding for the project, which has since been awarded additional federal and state grants.

The theme builds on the Nevada Department of Transportation's vision for the entire Highway 395 corridor, which is intended to celebrate Carson City's history.

NDOT has completed

steel cutout sculptures over and around bridges on Fairview Drive and East Fifth Street, also with money that can be used only for freeway beautification.

The cattle drive design over Fifth Street features steel and aluminum panels in the shapes of horses, riders and cattle. Life-sized panels are attached to the pedestrian fencing, and sculptures surround the bridges. Fairview Drive art shows early settlers sharing pine nuts with Native Americans.

ETCHED IN STONE

Carson history drives roadway project

BY SANDI HOOVER 3-23-12
shoover@nevadaappeal.com

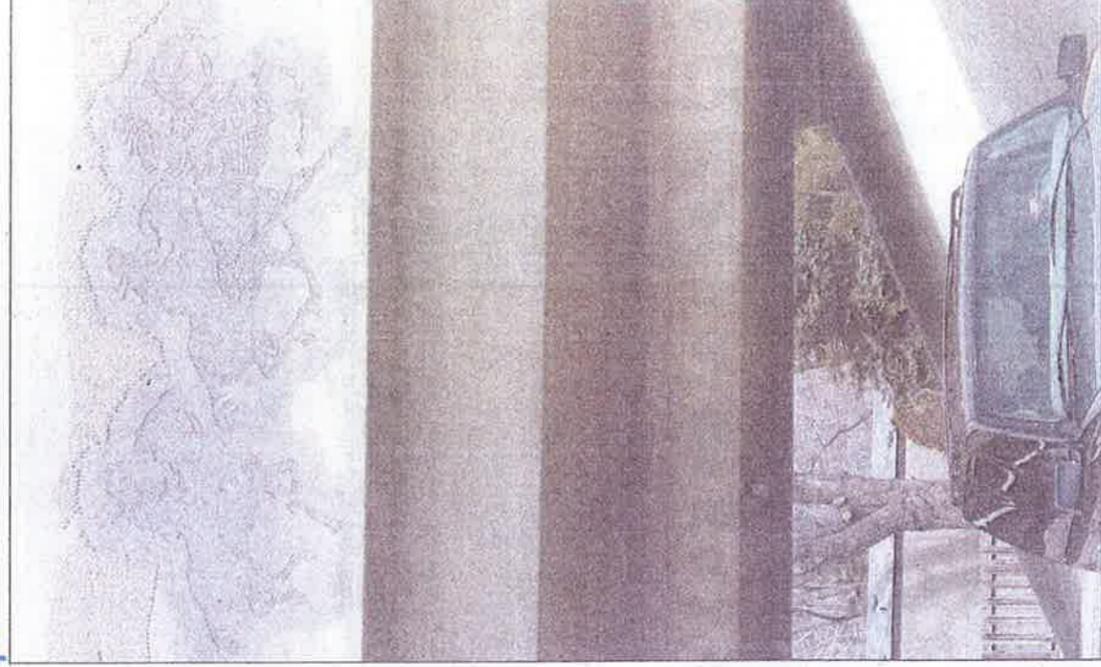
A freeway landscaping project depicting scenes from Carson City's past is expected to be completed by the end of the year, but there will be lots of activity at the interchanges and grade separations until then, officials say.

Work is continuing at six locations to etch historic designs into the concrete, but that's only part of the story.

"Those etchings will be married up with freestanding pieces of art, and coming phases include a significant number of new plants and trees," said Carson City Transportation Manager Patrick Pittenger.

The following themes for the History in Motion project can be found at these locations:

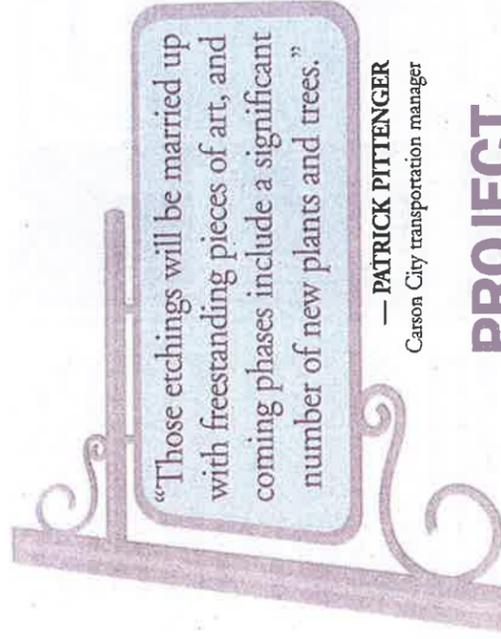
- The Comstock Lode is the theme at the College Parkway interchange, where images of ore veins will be enhanced by steel cutouts of miners working under the bridges.
- The interchange at Highway 50 East depicts a V&T Railroad theme, using images of the V&T shop doors on the north side of the interchange and an image of a train emerging from a canyon on the south side.
- The Northgate Lane and Emerson Drive grade separation shares a dual theme, with cattle images portraying the Sam Davis Ranch theme on the north side. Murals depicting Pony Express riders are depicted on the other side.



JIM GRANT / NEVADA APPEAL

A mural of Pony Express riders is etched into the freeway overpass above Northgate Lane grade separation.

See Project, Page A3



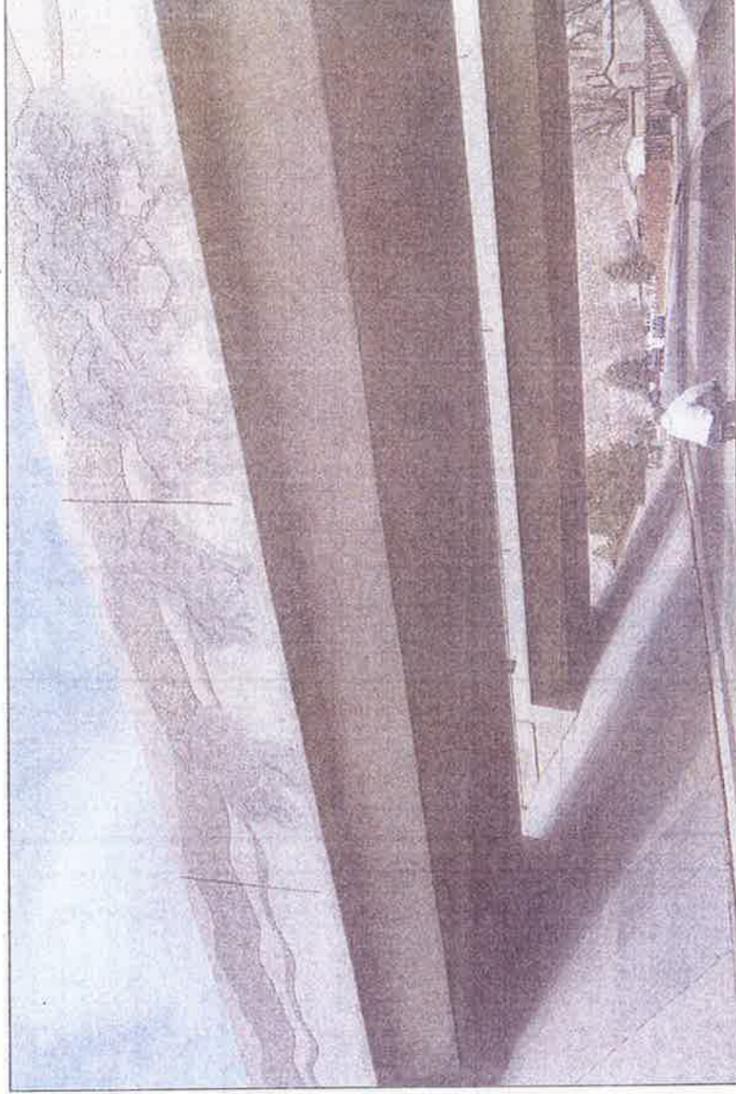
— PATRICK PITTEGER
Carson City transportation manager

PROJECT

From Page A1

- At North Carson Street in the vicinity of the freeway overpass, the shadow of an eagle is being etched and painted on the slope paving at the Eagle Valley-themed interchange to go with a 30-foot steel eagle to be constructed this summer.
- At the Arrowhead Drive interchange, images of trucks convey the 1919 Transcontinental Motor Convoy theme.
- At the Northridge Drive and Russell Way grade separation, earlier forms of transportation are celebrated. Images of stagecoaches racing take the viewer back to an earlier time.

The project was conceived by Carson City's Gardeners Reclaiming Our Waysides, spearheaded and shepherded through years of red tape by Mary Fischer. GROW obtained initial federal funding for the project, which has



PHOTOS BY JIM GRANT / NEVADA APPEAL

A cyclist rides under the grade separation of the freeway at Northgate Lane, where art of Pony Express riders is depicted. BELOW: Past and present merge when an image of the 1919 Transcontinental Motor Convoy paces a convertible at the Arrowhead Drive interchange.



sized panels are attached to the pedestrian fencing, and sculptures surround the bridges. Fairview Drive art shows early settlers sharing pine nuts with Native Americans.

Carson City's History in Motion is a plan to blend landscape, art and history into the interchanges and grade separations of the north leg of the freeway. The themed idea builds on NDOT's vision for the entire Highway 395 corridor, which is intended to celebrate Carson City's history.

FYI

Everyone benefiting from GROW's work 4-4-12

Thank you for your March 23 front-page article, "Etched in stone." Gardeners Reclaiming Our Waysides appreciates the publicity.

It is true the project was conceived by Carson City's GROW, but here is more in-depth information regarding the gardeners: They are master gardeners who have been educated by the University of Nevada, Reno, Cooperative Extension program.

This project, landscaping the freeway, was envisioned in 1997, and (we) became a nonprofit organization with more than 100 members supporting and believing in it.

And because of its dynamic cause, it was awarded the Search for Excellence award at the International Master Gardeners Conference in 1998. To have been selected for this award was a tribute to our endeavors.

The first few years, we struggled against (the idea that) there will be no landscaping of the first phase of the freeway. No funding had been allocated for it.

When the \$2 million grant was received, everything changed, and the community is now viewing the result. And the entire freeway will be landscaped.

MARIE BRESCH
Carson City

BRIEFLY GROW to tour freeway beautification 5-11-12

Gardeners Reclaiming Our Waysides will meet May 24 at the University of Nevada Cooperative Extension Office, Suite 12, 2621 Northgate Lane, Carson City, for a social time at 5:30 p.m. and a business meeting at 6:15 p.m.

The meeting will be followed by a walking tour of a portion of the multi-use path to view recent beautification efforts along the freeway. The public is welcome.

For more information, call 775-882-5055.

Stop with the landscaping and finish the freeway

Why are we spending untold dollars on ore carts and tracks that go nowhere when the freeway seems to be at a standstill? In these difficult economic times, it seems to me that there is a lot of money being spent on stuff that is probably going to be stolen, vandalized and graffitied.

Let's get real and spend the money on things that are more necessary, like making the freeway useful instead of decorated and going nowhere.

JIM HARPER 5-13-12
Carson City

FYI

Thanks to 6-10-12 those who helped beautify freeway

Thank you to the many individuals who are part of the collective effort that resulted in the delightful metal cutouts and landscaping vignettes enhancing areas of Carson City along the freeway. The plants used are native to our area and will be self-maintaining when mature. Each vignette commemorates a piece of our area's history while also helping to recompense us for the scenic loss that is necessarily part of a freeway project.

We say thank you to Gardeners Reclaiming Our Waysides (GROW), a volunteer group which for the past 15 years has advocated for aesthetically sound landscaping for the new freeway. Without GROW's crucial participation in the Landscaping

Freeway work is helping the economy

To all who are complaining about the work being done to beautify the freeway, think about this: Most of these people are private contractors (landscapers, concrete workers, steel workers, welders, laborers and others) who bid out to the state for work. They are not state workers, for those who would complain about that. This money is not being given away for free; it is being paid to purchase items (from private industry) and to people for doing a day's work.

BILL BERGE 6-3-12
Carson City

& Aesthetics Master Plan for Nevada State Highway System committee, and without the grant GROW received with the help of Sen. Harry Reid through a federal transportation bill, this project could not have succeeded. Funding through the Nevada Department of Transportation's Community Match Program completed the funding for the execution of the project, with GROW, NDOT and Carson City working together in a partnership of mutual respect. The Carson City Regional Transportation Commission provided money for the design work.

And we give a big thank you to those at Carson City Parks and Rec who are, with great skill, bringing the inspired conception to a delightful reality.

Thank you all!
JACKIE & STAN FIELD
Carson City