



## Lemmon Drive Project Frequently Asked Questions

- 1. What is the Lemmon Drive project?** The Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) of Washoe County, in coordination with Nevada Department of Transportation (NDOT), City of Reno and Washoe County, is moving forward with improvements to Lemmon Drive to increase capacity, improve safety, and provide multimodal transportation choices.
- 2. What are the improvements?** The project will be built in two segments. **Segment One** has two phases. Phase One will widen Lemmon Drive from four to six lanes from Sky Vista Parkway/Buck Drive to Military Road and include a continuous raised median for safety with U-turns allowed mid-block between Military Drive and Sky Vista Parkway/Buck Drive. A separated 10-foot-wide multiuse path and five-foot-wide bike lane will be constructed along the west side of Lemmon Drive from Sky Vista Parkway to Military Drive along with drainage improvements at Military Drive. A six-foot-wide sidewalk and five-foot-wide bike path will be constructed on the east side of Lemmon Drive. Left turn pockets will be lengthened at southbound Lemmon Drive to Buck Drive. Roadway surface improvements will be made at the intersections of Lemmon Drive and Military Road and Lemmon Drive and Sky Vista Parkway/Buck Drive. Transit stations will be upgraded to include wider concrete pads behind the sidewalk area to accommodate wheelchair access.

**Phase Two of Segment One** will reconfigure the interchange at Lemmon Drive and US 395 to a Diverging Diamond Interchange (DDI), similar to the interchange at I-580 and Moana Lane. The new configuration will include dedicated bicycle lanes on both sides of the median through the interchange and a protected pedestrian pathway. The existing ramp metering at Lemmon Drive to southbound US 395 will be maintained. Retaining walls will be built under US 395 to accommodate Lemmon Drive widening.

**Segment Two is in the design phase.** Funding for construction of Segment Two has not been identified. Improvements include widening Lemmon Drive from two lanes to four lanes between Fleetwood Drive to Ramsey Way. Among the design considerations are accommodating future growth, including complete street improvements and providing safe, multimodal connectivity through bike lanes, sidewalks, and/or shared-use paths. Design alternatives will also address the fact that a large portion of Segment Two is located below the 100-year flood plain and has experienced flooding in recent years. An alternative analysis is in progress, which will advance three possibilities to a 15% design level to determine a preferred alternative.

The project will also include landscaping, lighting, signal upgrades, and intelligent transportation systems (ITS).



3. **What is a Diverging Diamond Interchange (DDI)?** DDIs are often used at intersections located beneath or above freeway bridges to improve safety and efficiency. At a diverging diamond interchange, traffic briefly crosses over to the left (*opposite*) side of the roadway, safely guided by traffic signals at each crossover. This allows vehicles to turn left onto freeway on-ramps without stopping and without conflicting with through traffic. Traffic is briefly routed to the opposite side of the road at an intersection. Because vehicles are now traveling on the left side of the road, they are on the same side of the road as freeway on-ramps and are able to take the freeway on-ramp or other exit without waiting in separate turn lanes as in traditional intersections.
4. **When will construction begin?** Construction is anticipated to begin in July 2021 with completion in winter 2022. The schedule is subject to change and depends on weather.
5. **What are the traffic and business impacts?** Traffic control and construction operations will be communicated in advance. Traffic control includes lane reductions throughout the project corridor, ramp closures, and detours. Business access will be maintained. We anticipate a long-term (up to 3 months) closure of the southbound US 395 off ramp to Lemmon Drive and two marathon weekends closing the interchange to construct the Diverging Diamond Interchange (DDI). Construction to be notified in advance, operations and traffic control are subject to change.
6. **What are the benefits?** The project increases capacity on Lemmon Drive with widening and reduces congestion; provides safety improvements with added ADA compliant sidewalks, dedicated bike lanes, improved geometry, lighting and a reconfigured US 395/Lemmon Drive interchange; and provides multimodal transportation choices with a new multiuse path and transit improvements.
7. **How is the project funded?** The project is funded through RTC fuel tax. NDOT is providing funding for the DDI improvements.
8. **Where can I get or ask for more information?**

For more information, please visit [NorthValleysImprovements.com/lemmon-drive](https://NorthValleysImprovements.com/lemmon-drive) and subscribe to the newsletter or text “**Lemmon**” to **797979** to receive text updates about the project. You can also call or email:  
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**Thank you in advance for your patience and partnership as we work together to improve our community’s transportation systems.**