

HISTORY OF SR45/LOUSETOWN ROAD

In the early 1860's roads within northern Storey County were mainly called wood roads, upon the public lands, and all led to and from Virginia City. One of these that evolved into a public thorough fare was Longvalley road into Lousetown road leading to and from places called Lousetown, Washington City, and the Truckee River. Many Maps show Long Valley/Lousetown, and it most surely comes under the Statute 405.191. for the following reasons.

In the early years of this state the US Government patented a lot of that public land in Storey County to the Railroad. At this point it is no longer public land. In time the railroad sold that property, then through two or three owners, and sales it became Curtis Wright Property, who finally sold to Tahoe Recreational for the Virginia City Highlands subdivision. All the deeds from Curtis Wright state, excluding all existing roads, easements, and rights-of-way. The Storey County Commissioners minutes in the 1970's state that Curtis Wright recognized an 80' right-of-way for Lousetown road.

In 1953 the Federal Highways Act was created during Eisenhower's Presidency and states were ask to list all there highways. States listed many secondary roads as well as highways in order to get more of the funds. In 1976 the Federal Highway department made a survey of the roads on that list, and if the state had not been involved in the construction and maintenance of the road, and it had very little if any use, it was dropped from the list. The state then could drop it from there list as well. The Statutes attached explains how that occurs.

The Legislative action to drop the road from its list must be on record and that is what is needed to follow up on the ownership and responsibility for ST 45.

✶ Having read all the material attached it is my opinion that the road is a county responsibility because of the maintenance, surfacing and control that has existed for some years now. The statutes also state that any road that is on a recorded map is a public road. There is an "old" survey on record(recorded) for this road, or at least a portion, that from the south entrance going north.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret Lowther
Government Affairs

Sydney

43-1568

cc
Subject:

'Jim Poston'
Treasurer@vchpoa.org; Manning, Dave
RE: Research on old state road

Hi Jim,

Dave forwarded your request to me. This is what I have found. Lousetown Road or Logomarisino Canyon Road, Previously shown on old State Highway maps as SR-45, or proposed FAS 836, the route dropped off the State system in October of 1976.

The Federal-Aid Highway Act of 1973 required all states in the Nation to realign Federal-Aid routes based upon their functional classification. The initial step of classifying all roads and streets in Nevada according to their functional usage, within federal guidelines, was completed January 1, 1976. The completion of this reorganization added approximately 1,000 miles of new State Routes and removed approximately 1,450 miles of currently designated State Routes. The routes removed all had several general characteristics in common: they were not classified high enough functionally to warrant inclusion on any Federal-Aid system, they were gravel (or lower) surface types, they were not maintained nor constructed by the Highway Department, and they carried very low traffic volumes.

At the same time, Legislative authority was sought, under Assembly Bill 283, to place the responsibility for both the "Designation" and the "Numbering" of state routes with the State Highway Engineer. The Governor signed Assembly Bill No. 283 into law effective July 1, 1977, and it provided the following:

1. Repealed all existing legislatively defined state numbered routes,
2. Clearly defines the term "State Highway," and
3. Authorized the State Highway Engineer to designate and assign route numbers; such route number to conform so far as possible to the Federal Aid (FA) Route Number.

By law, the Federal-Aid Highway Act of 1973 and AB 283 required public participation and cooperation with the local agencies. Our internal records indicate that when the Federal-Aid Highway Act was passed in 1973, the Department had initial meetings with all County Commissioners, and when AB 283 was passed in 1977 the Department met with all County Commissioners a second time.

To the best of our knowledge, Logomarsino Canyon Road was added to the State System of roads by the Legislature in 1957 under NRS 400.800. Prior to AB 283, the designation of State roads rested solely with the State Legislature. In September of 1976 the State Highway Engineer requested this route be included in the Federal Aid Secondary (FAS) System. On September 21, 1976, the Director of the Department of Transportation received a letter from the Federal Highway Administration rejecting this route as a proposed addition to the FAS System.

This route with the exception noted below has never been constructed or maintained by the Nevada Department of Transportation as a state highway. The exception; Rights of way were acquired from the Lockwood off-ramp and a point approximately 450 feet south of the Truckee River for purposes of constructing the Lockwood Bridge.

If you have any question about our documentation or the Federal-Aid road reorganization, please feel free to call me at

Sydney Schlachta
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Carson City, NV 89712
(775) 888-7179 Fax (775) 888-7019

-----Original Message-----

From: Manning, Dave
Sent: Monday, April 02, 2007 12:44 PM
To: 'Jim Poston'
Cc: Schlachta, Sydney
Subject: RE: Research on old state road

Good afternoon Jim,

Great to hear from you, it's been a long time. My Division can help on this one. Sydney Schlachta will have staff research this and get back to you.

Best Regards,

David Manning
Roadway Systems Div. Chief
Nevada Department of Transportation
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(775) 888-7675

-----Original Message-----

From: Jim Poston [mailto:jposton@rtcwashoe.com]
Sent: Friday, March 30, 2007 2:22 PM
To: Manning, Dave
Subject: Research on old state road

Dave,

I'm not sure if you're the right guy to ask, but hopefully you can point me in the right direction.

A member of our homeowners board is trying to research the old highway which is now called "Long Valley Road" and "Lousetown Road". It connects to Geiger/SR341 and runs roughly N/NE. He has seen maps which have an old 2-digit NDOH number on it. He wants to research the turnover process - who it was turned over to, when, conditions, etc.

I think he's hoping that it's still a state highway. Blake Smith and Somerset Properties have proposed a mixed-use development called Cordevista in Storey County and there's some fear that the County will roll over and let them improve the road through to the Highlands so that traffic can reach Geiger.

Who can he talk to about the history of that highway?

-- Jim