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Extraterrestrial Highway

The Governor of Nevada joins forces with the Fox movie studio to christen State Route 375 the "Extraterrestrial Highway." The Area 51 Research Center raises objection, saying democratic processes were bypassed and governor has not addressed safety and civil rights issues. Tensions escalate as both sides harden their positions. Fox and Governor plan heavily hyped unveiling ceremonies for April 18. Research Center promises "counter-event." Stay tuned for fireworks!

Related Topics: [Independence Day](#) | [E.T. Highway Unveiling](#) | [Area 51](#) | [Lincoln County Justice](#) | [Governor Miller](#) | [Ambassador Merlin](#) | [State of Nevada's E.T. Highway Info](#) | [Unveiling Photos](#)

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Facts about The Alien Highway

In early 1995, State Assemblyman Roy Neighbors introduced a bill to designate State Route 375 "The Extraterrestrial Alien Highway." A hearing was held but no official notice of it was given to local residents. The State Assembly passed the measure but it was killed in the Senate as "frivolous" and a waste of the Legislature's resources.

In February, Governor Bob Miller resurrected the measure without notice to local residents and it was passed in a meeting of the State Transportation Board, which he chairs. Testimony was heard only from Pat Travis of the Little A'Le'Inn and "Ambassador Merlyn Merlin II" a Northern Nevada man who claims to be an alien. Shortly after passing the measure, the Governor flew to Los Angeles at taxpayer expense to negotiate an agreement with the 20th Century Fox movie studio to jointly market the "E.T. Highway" and Fox's upcoming movie "Independence Day." There is no evidence, however, that the Governor ever visited the highway itself, and he never consulted with any official of Lincoln County regarding this measure.

Independence Day is a big-budget Sci-Fi drama about an alien invasion of earth. According to the producers, Devlin and Emmerich, they wrote the script in four weeks and sold it to the studio in one day. The movie is a thinly veiled remake of *War of the Worlds*. Billions of people are killed and most of the world's major cities wiped out until the alien mothership is destroyed with a computer virus. The film takes place partly at "Area 51," although this facility in no way resembles the real thing. All of the parts of the film supposedly taking place in Nevada were filmed in Utah and California.

The Area 51 Research Center in Rachel believes the "E.T. Highway" should not be unveiled until issues of visitor safety and civil rights are addressed and county officials are consulted. The "E.T. Highway" is adjacent to the tense and poorly marked border of "Area 51," where many tourists have been arrested and harassed and lost film and other personal property without accounting. The highway renaming also changes the character of the area, and local residents and elected officials should be consulted, not locked out of the process as they have been.

The Research Center also believes that the State of Nevada should not be seen to endorse a commercial product. The join agreement between the governor and the Fox studio is a grave breach of government ethics. The governor is promoting a movie that was not even filmed in Nevada. He consulted with a out-of-state movie company, but never solicited the concerns of his own constituents.

Opposition Manifestos

- [Report to Governor on Alien Highway](#), 3/6/96. 23-page report outlining civil rights effects and procedural defects in the "E.T. Highway. Although sent to the governor in early March, he has never replied to it.
- [Free Speech Counter-Event](#), 3/25/96. Proposal to counter the official unveiling ceremonies scheduled for April 18, 1996.
- [Doubletalk on ET Highway](#), 3/30/96. A Fox publicity manager responds to requests about their movie *Independence Day* and its involvement with the State of Nevada. Full translation and analysis of PR lingo provided.
- [Campbell Responds to Criticism](#), 4/2/96. Activist Glenn Campbell explains larger issues behind E.T. Highway protest.
- [Request for Fox Letters](#), 4/3/96. Campbell requests copies of correspondence between Governor's office and Fox studios.
- [Request for Delay](#), 4/8/96. Campbell requests that unveiling ceremonies be postponed until pending issues are addressed.
- ["E.T. Highway" Raises Earthly Concerns](#), 4/12/96. Campbell draws attention to problems inherent in current ET Highway plan.
- ["Independence Day" Exploits UFO Community](#), posted to USENET 4/14/96. ID4's exploitation of UFO interest to promote film potentially damaging to UFO community.

Event Chronology

Latest items first

- **8/2:** [New portfolio of photos from the E.T. Highway unveiling](#) on April 18. 35 photos, fully annotated, follow the freedom fighters as they plan and carry out their counterinsurgency operations.
- **8/96:** Magazine article, [Skeptical Inquirer](#),* "[Travels on the Extraterrestrial Highway](#)". *Report on E.T. Highway.*
- **7/29:** Opinion, *Las Vegas Review-Journal*, "[Conning the tourists](#)", by Glenn Campbell.
- **7/23/96:** Advertizement, *Las Vegas Review-Journal*, page 2D. "[The Extraterrestrial Highway](#)." [State of Nevada's official information on Extraterrestrial Highway](#).
- **7/5/96:** Newspaper article, *Las Vegas Sun*, "[Tourism Panel Unveils E.T. Highway Member Kit](#)." *List of attractions available to travelers.*
- **7/4/96:** News Transcript, [KLAS-TV 5:00 PM Broadcast](#). *George Knapp criticizes Newsweek and Glenn Campbell for ET Highway/ID4 position.*
- **7/4/96:** Article, [Invasion Of The Pod People!](#) Am I The Only One Left Who Sees The "Independence Day" Conspiracy?," by Glenn Campbell. *Groom Lake Desert Rat.*
- **7/4/96:** Web Page inaugurated, [Independence Day: A Curmudgeon's Guide to America's Most Overhyped Movie](#)
- **7/2/96:** Theatrical release of film "Independence Day."
- **6/28/96:** Internet Article, [Popular Science](#), "[The ET Highway: Part II](#)*." By Stuart Brown. Report on Highway unveiling.
- **6/21/96:** Internet Article, [Popular Science](#), "[The ET Highway: Part I](#)*." By Stuart Brown. Report on Highway unveiling.
- **5/26/96:** Newspaper article, *San Francisco Examiner*, "[UFO gimmick polarizes Nevada town](#): Extraterrestrial Highway brings tourists - some locals make money, some regret changes." By Gordon Dillow.
- **5/20/96:** Trip Report, "[ID4 ET Highway Inauguration](#)". Filed by The Sasquatch. *Report on Highway Unveiling.*
- **5/17/96:** Internet newsbrief, [The Drudge Report](#). *Report on film Independence Day.*
- **5/9/96:** Newspaper article, *Lincoln County Record*, "[Rompin' With Rachel](#)", page 6. *Report on aftermath of Highway Dedication.*
- **4/28/96:** Newspaper article, *Orange County Register*, "[Tourism ploy breeds alienation in windswept town](#)," by Gordon Dillow. *The newly christened Extraterrestrial Highway is drawing otherworldly types, unsettling Rachel, Nev.*
- **4/19/96:** Newspaper article, *Las Vegas Review Journal*, "[Hollywood invades the E.T. Highway](#): State officials, movie stars and directors help dedicate a stretch of road with an alien-themed title", by Shaun McKinnon. *Report on E.T. Highway Unveiling.*
- **4/19/96:** Newspaper article, *Las Vegas Sun*, "[Rural highway out of this world](#): Town of Rachel worries about latest attraction", by Mary Manning. *Report on reservations over E.T. Highway.*
- **4/18/96:** E.T. Highway Unveiling Photos
 - Ray West (foreground), just before assaulting Campbell: [84k jpg](#) | [caption](#) (Photo by JohnnyJos@aol.com)
 - ID4 promotional bumper sticker distributed at highway unveiling: [27 k jpg](#)
 - ID4 convoy abducted in Tikaboo Valley: [20k jpg](#)
 - E.T. Highway diversion sign, Tikaboo Valley: [22k jpg](#)
 - Counter-event political wing: [67k jpg](#)
 - Jim Greenen of Yalaha, Fla., holds some of the UFO related merchandise he was selling: [28k jpg](#) | [article](#)
 - "Darth Vader" and Lt. Gov. "Loonie" Lonnie Hammargren stand in front of E.T. Highway sign: [44k jpg](#) | [article](#)
 - Governor Bob Miller displays E.T. Highway speed limit sign: [26k jpg](#) | [article](#)
 - Campbell voices opposition to Highway unveiling. [16k jpg](#)
 - Signs in front of A 'le' Inn. [11k jpg](#)
- **4/14/96:** USENET post, "[Independence Day](#)" Exploits UFO Community.
- **4/14/96:** Newspaper article, *Las Vegas Review Journal*, "[Extraterrestrial Highway ceremony set](#)," page 4B. Report

- on official scheduled events.
- 4/12/96: Opinion, ["E.T. Highway" Raises Earthly Concerns](#).
- 4/10/96: News Wire, [Fox/ID4 Schedule](#) for Extraterrestrial Highway/Independence Day dedication and screening.
- 4/8/96: Letter, ["Request for Delay"](#). Campbell requests that unveiling ceremonies be postponed until pending issues are addressed.
- 4/3/96: Letter, ["Request for Press Releases"](#).
- 4/3/96: Letter, ["Request for Fox Letters"](#).
- 4/2/96: USENET post, ["The Real Reason for Counter Event"](#). *Poster offers theories.*
 - 4/2/96: [Campbell replies](#).
- 3/30/96: Newspaper article, ["Will The Real Miller Stand Up?"](#), *Las Vegas Review Journal*.
- »»»»3/30/96: ["Doubletalk on the E.T. Highway"](#). As the Research Center prepares for war on the "E.T. Highway," a Fox publicity manager responds to requests about their movie and its involvement with the state. From [DR#35](#).
- 3/29/96: [Media List provided by Nevada Commission on Tourism](#).
- 3/29/96: [Announcement of ID4 Web Site](#).
 - [Independence Day Website](#)
 - [ID4's Highway dedication announcement](#).
- 3/29/96: Letter, ["Reply from Governor's Press Assistant"](#).
- 3/29/96: Interview, ["Phone Conversation with Ken Evans, Nevada Commission on Tourism"](#).
 - 4/3/96: [Follow-up letter](#).
- 3/28/96: Letter, ["Request for Invitation"](#).
 - 3/30/96: [Reply reported in DR 35](#).
- 3/26/96: Letter, ["Request for Inclusion"](#).
- 3/26/96: Letter, ["Request for Media List"](#).
 - 3/29/96: [Media List provided by Nevada Commission on Tourism](#).
 - 4/3/96: [Follow-up letter](#).
- 3/26/96: Letter, ["Questions for Governor"](#).
 - 3/29/96: [Reply](#).
- 3/25/96: E-mail, [Proposed "Burma Shave" Highway Signs](#).
- »»»»3/25/96: Proposal, ["A Free-Speech Counter Event"](#). *Proposal to counter the official unveiling ceremonies scheduled for April 18, 1996.*
- 3/22/96: Email, [excerpt from Fox Memo](#) regarding military participation in making of ID4.
- 3/22/96: News Article, *Las Vegas Review Journal*, ["Miller, 'aliens' To Converge: Stars of a new alien film will be on hand when the governor dedicates the Extraterrestrial Highway"](#). *Report on upcoming unveiling of Alien Highway signs in Rachel.*
- 3/22/96: Press Release, ["Governor Bob Miller to Preside at Extraterrestrial Highway Dedication"](#).
- 3/20/96: AP Wire, ["Nevada's New "Extraterrestrial Highway" Gets Hollywood-Style Launch With 20th Century Fox's "Independence Day"](#); Gov. Miller, Film's Stars To Attend Unveiling And Dedication Ceremony."
- 3/09/96: News Article, *New York Times*, ["Quiet Nevada Town On E.T. Road Banking On Ufo Lore"](#).
-
- [E.T. Highway plans as of March 1996](#)
- »»»»3/6/96: Political Action, [Campbell's Report to Governor on Alien Highway](#), describing dangers to tourists. (66k)
- 2/20/96: News Article, ["Aliens given own road: State Route 375 renamed the Extraterrestrial Highway"](#). *Las Vegas Review Journal*.
- 2/2/96: News Article, [Rural road may help E.T. find home](#): A new designation for Highway 375 is no longer an alien concept to the state Transportation Board." *Nevada Transportation Board renames Highway 375 despite decision of state legislature. Las Vegas Review-Journal.*

Highway Legislation Fails in 1995

- 7/3/95: News. Alien highway bill fails. Confirmed in *Las Vegas Review-Journal*.
- 6/24/96: News Article, ["No Hope for Alien Highway Bill"](#). *Las Vegas Review-Journal*.
- 6/12/95: Passage by Nevada Assembly reported in [DR#27](#)

- 5/21/95: Ambassador Merlin's support reported in [DR#26](#).
- 5/19/95: Campbell's [opposition](#) submitted to committee.

Relevant Articles

- 1/5/94: Las Vegas Review Journal, "[Seven people arrested in Groom Lake incident](#)," by Keith Rogers. Seven Las Vegans face trespassing counts after they were arrested near the Air Force's secret Groom Lake base. (118 k)
- 4/13/94: Las Vegas Sun, "[Secret airbase no dream to journalists](#)," by Timothy R. Gaffney. Authorities have cracked down on journalists' attempts to photograph the secret air base in Nevada dubbed Dreamland. (94 k)
- 5/21/94: Las Vegas Review Journal, "[Texans say Air Force kept them off public land](#)." Two Texas men who said they were blocked from public land near the Air Force's secret base at Groom Lake filed a complaint Friday with the Lincoln County Sherriff's Department. (86 k)
- 6/9/94: Las Vegas Review Journal, "[Air Force, sherriff, court keeping secrets](#)," by Susan Greene. A Lincoln County sherriff's deputy was responding to complaints by Air Force security officers in April when he seized equipment from a network news team on assignment near the secret base. (139 k)
- 7/7/94: Las Vegas Review Journal, "[No contest plea for Groom duo](#)," by Susan Greene. Two Las Vegans charged with trespassing on land near the secret Groom Lake Air Force base have said they will plead no contest in exchange for Lincoln County officials dropping charges against two others in their party. (140 k)
- 7/21/94: Las Vegas Review Journal, "[Officer arrests man, seizes news videos](#)," by Susan Greene. A Lincoln County sherriff's deputy arrested activist Glenn Campbell on Tuesday and confiscated videotapes from a news crew working near the Air Force's secret Groom Lake base. ([image](#), 144 k)
- 7/26/94: Cartoon, "[Entering Lincoln County](#)." (67 k)
- ?/95: Cartoon, "[Goon Lake](#)" (74 k)
- 2/17/95: Las Vegas Sun, "[Groom Lake visitors hit with fines](#)." Two Salt Lake City residents accused of crossing the military border near a secret airbase have been found guilty of trespassing. (51 k)
- 3/7/95: Las Vegas Review Journal, "[Group leader convicted in Groom Lake incident](#)." The Pahrnagat Valley Justice Court has convicted Groom Lake gadfly Glenn Campbell of obstructing a police officer during the search of a California television news crew. (68 k)
- 3/9/95: Las Vegas Review Journal, "[Groom Lake guru will fight court's judgement](#)," by Steve Sebollus. For Groom Lake secret base gadfly Glenn Campbell, wrangling with the law atop Freedom Ridge has turned into wrangling in Nevada courts on an obstruction-of justice charge. (80 k)

Other Area 51 Articles: [1996](#) | [1995](#) | [1994](#)

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- [E.T. Highway plans as of March 1996](#)
 - See [Governor Bob Miller](#) for more information on the founder of the E.T. Highway.
 - [Lt. Gov. Lonnie Hammargren](#), supporter of the E.T. Highway, suffered political problems in his run for governor.

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