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Media Release

Troopers Investigating Collision Involving a Bicyclist and SUV in Sparks

On Monday, October 15, 2012 at approximately 6:00 am, troopers from the Nevada Highway Patrol were dispatched to a collision involving a bicyclist and a SUV at the Intersection of E. McCarran Blvd and Glendale Avenue in Sparks. The preliminary details of the crash indicate that 60-year-old John Guthrie of Sparks was riding his bicycle east bound on Glendale Ave and was struck by a blue 2003 GMC Yukon that was traveling northbound in the left, or number one, travel lane on E. McCarran Blvd at the intersection, driven by 26-year-old Raul Garcia-Luna from Sparks.

An independent witness to the crash told troopers at the scene that the cyclist had attempted to proceed through the intersection after the traffic signal light for eastbound traffic on Glendale Ave cycled to red. Mr. Guthrie sustained moderate injuries after being struck by the SUV and was taken by ground ambulance to Renown Regional Medical Center in Reno while Mr. Garcia-Luna did not sustain any injuries. Two northbound lanes were temporarily closed immediately following the crash for emergency vehicles and for troopers to complete their on-scene portion of the crash investigation. The entire intersection was cleared about 6:50 am and Mr. Guthrie was subsequently cited at the hospital for running a red traffic light and for not having lights on his bicycle.

As a reminder, cyclists need to obey all of the rules of the road which apply to motor vehicles. Here are a few traffic safety tip reminders for cyclists especially given the fact daylight hours are diminishing as we transition from the fall to winter months:

- Never ride against traffic and always pay attention to your surroundings
- When making a right or left turn at a controlled intersection, cyclists must come to a complete stop for a stop sign or red signal light
- Pay extra attention to motorists entering from an adjacent street or driveway as they may not see cyclists

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- Scan the road behind you and constantly monitor vehicular traffic
- Use hand signals to let motorists know your intentions when turning, slowing, or transitioning lanes
- Make eye contact with drivers
- Always use lights at night and be certain your bike has reflectors
- Always wear a helmet for safety
- Choose the best way to turn left – There are two choices: (1) Like an auto: signal to move into the left turn lane and then turn left. (2) Like a pedestrian: ride straight to the far side crosswalk. Walk your bike across.

