

TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION OF WYOMING

The Transportation Commission of Wyoming met via teleconference, based in the Commission Room of the Wyoming Department of Transportation (WYDOT) Headquarters building, 5300 Bishop Boulevard, in Cheyenne on July 18, 2019. Chairman Larson convened the business meeting at 8:30 a.m. The following members were present constituting a quorum:

Mike Larson, Chairman, Lusk
Rick Newton, Vice Chairman, Buffalo (via telephone)
Louie Pfrangle, Commissioner, Worland (via telephone)
Phil Schmidt, Commissioner, Casper
Jim Espy, Commissioner, Savery
Jon Dolezal, Commissioner, Evanston (via telephone)
Lee Filer, Commissioner, Cheyenne
K. Luke Reiner, Director
Sandra J. Scott, Commission Secretary

Others present and participating in the meeting: Dennis Byrne, Chief Financial Officer; Shelby Carlson, Chief Engineer; Keith Fulton, Assistant Chief Engineer for Engineering and Planning; Taylor Rossetti, Support Services Administrator; Brian Olsen, Aeronautics Administrator; Colonel Kebin Haller, Wyoming Highway Patrol (WHP) Administrator; Mike Kahler, Supervising Attorney General; Rodney Freier, Budget Program Manager; and Bryan Cawley, Division Administrator, Federal Highway Administration (FHWA).

Mr. Doug McGee, Public Affairs Program Manager, John Davis, Management Services Program Manager, and Tom DeHoff, District Engineer, also attended the meeting.

Mr. Mark Gillett, Assistant Chief Engineer for Operations, was absent.

1. Pledge of Allegiance: Chairman Larson led the attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance.
2. Approval of Minutes: It was recommended by Secretary Scott, moved by Commissioner Filer, seconded by Commissioner Espy, and carried to approve the minutes from the June 19, 2019, Commission tour, and the June 20, 2019, business meeting.
3. Director Reiner presented the Director's report.

Wyoming Fatality Rate: Director Reiner noted that Wyoming's 2019 fatality rate continues to climb, and that WYDOT is focusing on ways to curb the increase.

Director Reiner's 100-Day Observations: During his first 100 days, Director Reiner has been working hard to familiarize himself with the diverse aspects of WYDOT. Visits with the various programs and districts are almost complete.

Director Reiner's two primary focuses are personnel, including compensation and budget. When visiting with employees, compensation has been the most consistent discussion topic in most

areas, and Director Reiner is working hard to better understand and resolve some significant compensation issues.

Director Reiner met with Teton County commissioners and state legislators in Jackson on June 21, 2019, to network and discuss Teton County-related issues. Director Reiner believes that meeting was time well spent and plans to meet with other entities in the future.

Director Reiner is also continuing to work with executive staff to generate ideas for increasing WYDOT revenue for surface transportation.

Legislative Committee Meetings: The Joint Revenue Committee and the Joint Appropriations Committee met on July 9, 2019. WYDOT executive staff members attended those meetings to hear discussion about topics that could potentially affect the Department.

The Joint Revenue Committee considered a \$0.03 per gallon increase to the state fuel tax. The \$0.03 increase derives from Wyoming's estimated cost of living increase through 2022. The bill, 20LSO-0086 – Fuel Tax, will be introduced during the 2020 legislative session. Director Reiner shared talking points about the potential impacts to WYDOT if a fuel tax increase passes.

Ms. Carlson and Mr. Olsen attended the Joint Appropriations Committee meeting where contracting authority was discussed. Ms. Carlson testified before the committee and shared how the proposed bills would affect WYDOT, if passed.

Joint Transportation, Highways & Military Affairs Committee (JTC) Meeting: The JTC will meet August 12-13, 2019 in Cheyenne. Topics of interest include electronic permitting, I-80 tolling, wildlife crossings, the revenue information system (RIS), WyoLink, and necessary statutory changes that relate to WYDOT.

Director Reiner encouraged commissioners to attend the JTC meeting if they are available.

U.S. Senate Environment & Public Works (EPW) Committee Meeting: The Senate EPW Committee met in Washington, D.C., on July 10, 2019. Director Reiner testified before the committee about the importance of considering rural states when preparing the federal surface transportation bill. Wyoming and other rural states depend on the on-time renewal of the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act, the existing funding distribution formula, and less regulation.

FHWA Courses Offered to Commissioners: The FHWA will host a Transportation Performance Management (TPM) Training on July 22, 2019, and an Innovative Finance Workshop on August 6, 2019. WYDOT will host the meetings at the WYDOT Training Facility in Cheyenne. Commissioners may attend in person, via the web, or by telephone.

Mr. Cawley explained that FHWA presenters will share information about flexible funds offered by the federal government. In addition to FHWA leaders, representatives from the Idaho,

Montana, and Washington state departments of transportation will also be there to share their innovative practices for acquiring federal funding to carry out their missions.

Capacity Purchase Agreement (CPA): The Aeronautics Commission and the Aeronautics Division staff have been working hard to finalize the Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) with Wyoming airports, which is the final step toward providing reliable air service to local communities. Director Reiner recognized Brian Olsen and his staff for their dedicated work toward making the CPA come to fruition.

4. Wildlife Crossings: Wildlife crossings have garnered significant attention during the past year. WYDOT has spent an average of \$1.6 million annually to design and build wildlife crossings over the last 10 years. The Wyoming Game & Fish Commission recently dedicated \$1.25 million toward developing more crossings. The Wyoming Game & Fish Department (WGFD) has asked WYDOT to match their contribution toward the crossings. Director Reiner expressed his support of matching WGFD's \$1.25 million contribution, with building the Dry Piney Creek wildlife crossing on US 189, north of LaBarge, first.

Non-governmental entities have also expressed an interest in participating in wildlife crossing development.

It was moved by Commissioner Espy, seconded by Commissioner Schmidt, and carried to draft a resolution in support of communicating with the WGFD about future wildlife crossing development in Wyoming and to contribute \$1.25 million toward the effort as funding permits.

5. Mr. Byrne presented the Chief Financial Officer's report.

Third Quarter Budget Revision: Mr. Freier explained the significant changes in the third quarter budget revision.

It was recommended by Mr. Freier, moved by Commissioner Espy, seconded by Commissioner Filer, and carried to approve the third quarter revision to the FY 2019 Operating Budget.

6. Monthly Budget Report: Mr. Freier presented the monthly budget report. The June 2019 budget report revealed that the Commission budget is 67 percent expended, and the legislative budget is 71 percent expended, which is within budget tolerances.

FY 2020 Budget Summaries: The Commission received copies of WYDOT's draft FY 2020 operating budget summaries last week. Mr. Byrne explained the Commission's and executive staff's roles in the budget process.

WYDOT executive staff has been working to trim expenses to balance the budget.

In April 2019, the Commission voted to establish a Budget Working Group to consist of three commissioners, the director, and the chief financial officer. Mr. Byrne will keep the Budget

Working Group informed of the progress over the next two months to balance the FY 2020 budget.

The Commission will hear a detailed presentation of the FY 2020 operating budget on September 18, and the Commission will consider its approval at the September 19, 2019, business meeting.

7. Procurement Services Bid: Mr. Byrne presented one Procurement Services bid for Commission consideration.

It was recommended by Mr. Byrne, moved by Commissioner Schmidt, seconded by Commissioner Filer, and carried to approve purchase for Bid No. 19-172MD to furnish 9,000 tons of ½-inch, Type A, aggregate gravel for hot plant operations in District 1. The bid was awarded to McMurry Ready Mix Co., of Casper, Wyoming, for the sum of \$218,700.00. Commissioner Espy abstained from voting because of a conflict of interest.

8. Federal Funding Redistribution: Each year in August, states are asked if they are able to use their federal obligation authority. If they are not able to use it, the obligated funds revert to the federal trust fund, and funds are redistributed to other states with a need. Mr. Byrne estimates WYDOT may receive about \$30 million through the redistribution, which is comparable to what was received last year. Mr. Byrne will keep the Commission informed of the actual amount received.

Mr. Freier left the meeting.

9. Ms. Carlson presented the Chief Engineer's report.

Change Order Approvals: On June 25, 2019, Ms. Carlson approved a \$333,374 change order for the Veteran Road in Goshen County. Exceptionally wet spring weather caused the road's subgrade to become saturated and soft. WYDOT's Geology team recommended a cement-stabilized, full-depth reclamation in the problem areas so the overlay could be placed. The change order added about 10 percent to the total cost of the project.

Snow Fence Replacement Contract: At its June 20 meeting, the Commission rejected the Procurement Services bid for WYDOT's snow fence reclamation and replacement contract. A request for bids was advertised July 16, 2019, for 16,588 snow fence panels along I-80 in Districts 1 and 3 to be reclaimed and replaced with new slats and to perform maintenance on those panels. No new fences will be built with this contract. An optional pre-bid meeting will be held at 9:00 a.m., July 30 in Laramie. Bids will be opened at 11:00 a.m., August 6, in Cheyenne.

The contractor for this work will ultimately pay WYDOT for the services performed since the contractor makes a profit from the reclaimed wood. The contract term will be one year, and the contractor will be required to pay state wage rates. The contract requires replacing fence slats daily. A \$50,000 security deposit will be required to ensure the work is completed. The security deposit will be returned to the contractor upon satisfactory completion of the work.

Beartooth Highway Project Update: The proposed Beartooth Highway project, WY TIG US 212(9), is a 1.75-mile segment of WYO 212 near milepost 25. The contract includes construction of a new 420-foot, three-span, curved steel-girder bridge, and 1,400 feet of approximately 30-foot-high mechanically stabilized earth retaining walls founded on a talus slope. The project design and contract administration is under the direction of the FHWA - CFL Division.

The FHWA-CFL Division opened bids on May 9, 2019, and the low bid was \$31,343,042.74. WYDOT received a \$16.6 million Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) grant, which requires no state matching funds. The funding shortfall to award the project, including all options, is \$15,425,042.74. Some adjustments could potentially be made to the scope of work to reduce the shortfall to about \$11 million.

The FHWA-CFL Division found \$2 million in public lands discretionary highway funding to contribute to the shortfall; the funds expire September 30, 2019. WYDOT identified the remaining \$9 million needed for the project, but the Department does not have the \$2 million matching funds to obtain those resources.

WYDOT submitted whitepapers to the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) requesting full funding for the project, but the USDOT denied the request. WYDOT submitted another request to the USDOT to allow a change in the scope of work to complete only the bridge replacement with additional funding, but that request was also denied.

Consequently, the project will not be awarded. The steering committee will meet to determine the next steps for the Beartooth Highway project. WYDOT has until September 30, 2020, to obligate the \$16.6 million grant that was received for this project. The FHWA-CFL will also be looking for other potential projects along the corridor where the \$16.6 million may be applied. WYDOT will submit a whitepaper to the USDOT to seek approval for an alternate use of the funds.

Sage Creek Road Update: Ms. Carlson is working on scheduling an on-site visit of the Sage Creek Road in late August or sometime in September. Carbon County has requested that WYDOT adopt that county roadway onto the state highway system. Commissioners are invited to attend.

Medal of Honor Highway Dedication: During the 2019 session, the legislature passed a bill designating US 20 from the Nebraska border to the Yellowstone Park boundary in Wyoming as the Medal of Honor Highway. A dedication ceremony will take place at 10:00 a.m., on August 20, 2019, at the Orin Junction Rest Area, located at Exit 126 on I-25. Commissioners were invited to attend.

Rest Area Update: The Moorcroft Rest Area is experiencing sanitary sewer system issues, necessitating its closure about a week ago. Temporary restroom facilities were placed at the rest area for the traveling public's use. The rest area will remain open through this weekend and will then be closed until the problem can be resolved. The estimated reopening time is about two weeks.

The Mule Creek Junction Rest Area has had a problem for many years with the well water being too hot for human contact. WYDOT recently received a complaint related to the odor from the self-composting toilets at that facility. The Department is modifying the ventilation system there in an attempt to resolve the issue.

10. Mr. Cawley presented an update on FHWA topics.

U.S. Senate Environment & Public Works (EPW) Committee Meeting: Director Reiner testified last week before the Senate EPW Committee regarding surface transportation reauthorization and rural states. In his testimony, he stressed the importance of supporting rural states, formula funding, regulatory reduction, additional funding, and multi-year legislation.

Wyoming Senator John Barrasso, chairman of the Senate EPW Committee, told reporters this week that the committee plans to vote on a surface transportation reauthorization bill on August 1, and that the committee plans to “do a markup” before its August recess.

Senator Barrasso also urged passage of the five-year bill, warning that a series of short-term extensions would undermine the ability of states to plan, and that the funding should come from highway users, including drivers of electric vehicles. Senator Barrasso supports continuing the formula-based approach to distribute funds, which he believes is key to allowing each state to address its needs.

Rhode Island Senator Sheldon Whitehouse, a member of the Senate EPW Committee, said on Wednesday that a new competitive grant program to repair structurally deficient bridges is included in the draft surface transportation reauthorization bill. The Bridge Investment Act would invest \$75 billion over 10 years to give states a one-time funding boost to repair and improve bridges. Senator Whitehouse noted that the grant program is not funded.

Alternative Fuels Corridor Deployment Plans: The FHWA is now requesting proposals for funding to develop alternative fuel development plans. The deadline for proposal submission is September 9, 2019. The FHWA anticipates awarding three projects for \$60,000 to \$80,000 that will require 20 percent non-federal matching funds to assist states with developing the plans.

Wyoming currently has alternative fuel corridor designations as follows:

- Ready: Electric vehicles (EV), compressed natural gas (CNG), and liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) on I-80 from Evanston to Rock Springs; and
- Pending: EV, CNG, LPG for the entire length of I-80, I-25, and I-90.

“Ready” means the fueling facilities are within a specific distance, so that vehicles can operate within those areas. “Pending” indicates a plan is being developed for the implementation of alternative fuel corridors.

Billing Reviews: The FHWA is currently administering two series of billing reviews. One of the reviews is being conducted by the FHWA, and the other review is being performed by an independent auditor for the FHWA. The reviews are examining expense authorizations, grant agreement approvals, dates of billings within periods of performance, provider validity, payment authorizations, verifying that the price was within the scope of the contract, whether project management verified the quality and quantity of goods and/or services, pro-rata share, and Buy-America requirements.

One review with three different line items was completed, and no infringements were found. Mr. Cawley advised that all information requests were fulfilled very quickly and efficiently, and that he looks forward to hearing the outcome of the remaining reviews.

11. Mr. Fulton presented the Engineering and Planning report, beginning with the bid tabulations from the letting held July 11, 2019, in Casper.

Federal project NHPPI-GM-I254166, involving grading, draining, placing bed course material, bituminous pavement surfacing, and miscellaneous work at various locations on I-25, between Wheatland and Kaycee Road, in Natrona and Platte counties. Completion date: October 31, 2019

Engineer's Estimate	\$387,625.00	
JTL Group, Inc. DBA Knife River, Cheyenne, WY	\$515,097.00	+32.9%

It was recommended by Mr. Fulton, moved by Commissioner Espy, seconded by Commissioner Schmidt, and carried that JTL Group, Inc. DBA Knife River, Cheyenne, Wyoming, having prequalified in accordance with rules and regulations adopted by the Transportation Commission of Wyoming, be awarded the contract as low bidder. The Federal Highway Administration concurred with this decision.

Federal project STP-BROS-CN06066, involving grading, removal and replacement of structure, and miscellaneous work on County Road 6-561S, at reference marker (RM) 0.40, just south of the town of Savery, in Carbon County. Completion date: September 30, 2020

Engineer's Estimate	\$ 925,584.00	
Reiman Corp., Cheyenne, WY	\$ 938,024.00	+1.3%
S & S Builders, LLC, Gillette, WY	\$1,060,606.00	
Dietzler Construction Corporation, Yoder, WY	\$1,174,862.70	

It was recommended by Mr. Fulton, moved by Commissioner Filer, seconded by Commissioner Dolezal, and carried that Reiman Corp., Cheyenne, Wyoming, having prequalified in accordance with rules and regulations adopted by the Transportation Commission of Wyoming, be awarded the contract as low bidder. Carbon County has concurred in the award. The Federal Highway Administration concurred with this decision. Commissioner Espy abstained from voting because of a conflict of interest.

Federal project NHPP-N104092, involving milling plant mix, bituminous pavement surfacing (recycled), plant mix wearing course, and miscellaneous work on approximately 3.10 miles of US 26/89/189/191, beginning at RM 148.70, just south of the town of Jackson, in Teton County. Completion date: October 31, 2020

Engineer's Estimate	\$3,033,800.00	
H-K Contractors, Inc., Idaho Falls, ID	\$3,087,777.00	+1.8%
DePatco, Inc., Idaho Falls, ID	\$3,088,888.88	

It was recommended by Mr. Fulton, moved by Commissioner Schmidt, seconded by Commissioner Filer, and carried that H-K Contractors, Inc., Idaho Falls, Idaho, having prequalified in accordance with rules and regulations adopted by the Transportation Commission of Wyoming, be awarded the contract as low bidder. The Federal Highway Administration concurred with this decision.

Federal project STP-B195009, involving grading, electrical systems, and miscellaneous work at various locations in Transportation District 5, including Big Horn, Fremont, Hot Springs, Park, Teton, and Washakie counties. Completion date: June 30, 2020

Engineer's Estimate	\$1,467,646.50	
Advanced Electrical Contracting, Inc., Sheridan, WY	\$1,407,013.25	-4.1%
Modern Electric Co., Casper, WY	\$1,465,348.00	
Casper Electric, Inc., Casper, WY	\$1,468,010.00	

It was recommended by Mr. Fulton, moved by Vice Chairman Newton, seconded by Commissioner Espy, and carried that Advanced Electrical Contracting, Inc., Sheridan, Wyoming, having prequalified in accordance with rules and regulations adopted by the Transportation Commission of Wyoming, be awarded the contract as low bidder. The Federal Highway Administration concurred with this decision.

Federal project STP-P433041, involving grading, draining, placing bases, bituminous pavement surfacing, fencing, removal and replacement of a structure, and miscellaneous work on approximately 8.30 miles of WYO 59, beginning at RM 155.20, between Gillette and the Montana state line, in Campbell County. Completion date: October 31, 2020

Engineer's Estimate	\$ 9,979,458.00	
Northern Improvement Company and Sub, Fargo, ND	\$11,743,917.60	+17.7%
Simon Contractors and its subsidiaries, Cheyenne, WY	\$11,758,783.00	
DRM, Inc., Gillette, WY	\$11,862,233.45	
Croell, Inc., Sundance, WY	\$12,097,023.15	
Riverside Contracting, Inc., Missoula, MT	\$12,336,917.50	
Oftedal Construction, Inc., Casper, WY	\$13,947,668.20	

It was recommended by Mr. Fulton, moved by Vice Chairman Newton, seconded by Commissioner Schmidt, and carried that Northern Improvement Company and Sub, Fargo, North

Dakota, having prequalified in accordance with rules and regulations adopted by the Transportation Commission of Wyoming, be awarded the contract as low bidder. The Federal Highway Administration concurred with this decision.

Federal project NHPPI-GM-I901122, involving grading, culvert lining, and cleaning at various locations along I-90, beginning at RM 12.064, in Sheridan County. Completion date: May 31, 2020

Engineer's Estimate	\$1,475,110.00	
Wilson Bros. Construction, Inc., Cowley, WY	\$1,414,417.00	-4.1%
JR Civil, LLC, Sheridan, WY	\$1,655,284.00	
American West Construction, LLC, Denver, CO	\$2,293,515.00	

It was recommended by Mr. Fulton, moved by Commissioner Pfrangle, seconded by Commissioner Dolezal, and carried that Wilson Bros. Construction, Inc., Cowley, Wyoming, having prequalified in accordance with rules and regulations adopted by the Transportation Commission of Wyoming, be awarded the contract as low bidder. The Federal Highway Administration concurred with this decision.

Federal project HSIP-N433044, involving grading, removal and replacement of sidewalk, curb and gutter, electrical systems, and miscellaneous work at various intersections in the town of Gillette, in Campbell County. Completion date: July 31, 2020

Engineer's Estimate	\$1,201,806.50	
Scott Brothers, Inc., Gillette, WY	\$1,038,528.70	-13.6%
Modern Electric Co., Casper, WY	\$1,177,478.00	
Casper Electric, Inc., Casper, WY	\$1,189,769.00	
Reiman Corp., Cheyenne, WY	\$1,285,652.00	

It was recommended by Mr. Fulton, moved by Vice Chairman Newton, seconded by Commissioner Schmidt, and carried that Scott Brothers, Inc., Gillette, Wyoming, having prequalified in accordance with rules and regulations adopted by the Transportation Commission of Wyoming, be awarded the contract as low bidder. The Federal Highway Administration concurred with this decision.

Federal projects NHPP-N341113 and ARSCT-N341A03 combined, involving grading, draining, placing crushed base and bituminous pavement surfacing, and miscellaneous work on approximately 10.00 miles of US 20/26, beginning at RM 51.60, between Waltman and Shoshoni, in Fremont and Natrona counties. Completion date: October 31, 2020

Engineer's Estimate	\$5,600,203.00	
Mountain Construction Company, Lovell, WY	\$5,838,973.76	+4.3%
McGarvin-Moberly Construction Co., Worland, WY	\$5,938,830.71	
Simon Contractors and its subsidiaries, Cheyenne, WY	\$6,042,463.44	
71 Construction, Casper, WY	\$7,340,546.50	
JTL Group, Inc. DBA Knife River, Cheyenne, WY	\$7,381,662.96	
Century Companies, Inc., Lewistown, MT	\$7,596,469.00	

It was recommended by Mr. Fulton, moved by Commissioner Dolezal, seconded by Commissioner Espy, and carried that Mountain Construction Company, Lovell, Wyoming, having prequalified in accordance with rules and regulations adopted by the Transportation Commission of Wyoming, be awarded the contract as low bidder. The Federal Highway Administration concurred with this decision.

Federal project NHPP-N202069, involving grading, draining, placing bases, bituminous pavement surfacing, chip seal, and miscellaneous work on approximately 1.30 miles, beginning at RM 80.12, between Muddy Gap and Lander, in Fremont County. Completion date: October 31, 2020

Engineer's Estimate	\$1,559,683.00	
Mountain Construction Company, Lovell, WY	\$1,875,899.35	+20.3%

It was recommended by Mr. Fulton, moved by Commissioner Pfrangle, seconded by Commissioner Espy, and carried that Mountain Construction Company, Lovell, Wyoming, having prequalified in accordance with rules and regulations adopted by the Transportation Commission of Wyoming, be awarded the contract as low bidder. The Federal Highway Administration concurred with this decision.

12. It was recommended by Mr. Fulton, moved by Commissioner Espy, seconded by Commissioner Dolezal, and carried to approve the following project authorizations:

ALBANY COUNTY

NHPPI I805183; Laramie to Cheyenne, eastbound lane; RM 319.60; rock scaling and rock fall mesh; FY 2020; request federal preliminary engineering funds of \$75,000; estimated construction engineering and construction cost is \$826,920

CAMPBELL COUNTY

STPU-GI 5382001; Gillette Streets, North Gurley Avenue; RM 100; bridge replacement; FY 2024; request federal preliminary engineering funds of \$22,102

LARAMIE COUNTY

NHPP I180027; Cheyenne, US 85, South Greeley Highway; RM 7.00; drainage repair; FY 2020; request federal preliminary engineering funds of \$30,000; estimated construction engineering and construction cost is \$330,000

STP-BR B221021; various locations in Highway District 1; bridge rehabilitation; FY 2022; request federal preliminary engineering funds of \$51,659; estimated construction engineering and construction cost is \$1,090,000

NATRONA COUNTY

STP-E N212125; Casper Streets, Poplar Street and West 1st Street; RM 115.81 to 116.59; enhancements; FY 2021; request preliminary engineering funds of \$5,000; estimated construction engineering and construction cost is \$594,100

ARSCT N212A04; Casper Streets, Poplar Street and West 1st Street; RM 115.81 to 116.59; utility work; FY 2021; request preliminary engineering funds is \$5,000; estimated construction engineering and construction cost is \$1,345,000; to be reimbursed by the City of Casper

SHERIDAN COUNTY

STP 0302091; Ucross Junction northeast, US 16 Junction; RM 27.64-33.50; pavement rehabilitation; FY 2022; request federal preliminary engineering funds of \$176,910; estimated construction engineering and construction cost is \$3,980,119

SWEETWATER COUNTY

ARSCT B123A02; Rock Springs, Interchange Road; bridge conduit; FY 2020; request preliminary engineering funds of \$1,000; estimated construction engineering and construction cost is \$11,000; to be reimbursed by CenturyLink

VARIOUS

STP P114038; LaBarge to Big Piney, Dry Piney Wildlife Crossing; RM 85.00 to 105.00; FY 2025; wildlife crossings; request federal preliminary engineering funds of \$100,000

13. Third Quarter Addendum to the FY 2019 State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP):
Mr. Fulton presented the third quarter addendum to the FY 2019 STIP.

Commissioner Espy advised that a contractor recently expressed concern to him about Wyoming contractors' inability to maintain a consistent labor force to manage project surges that often come from WYDOT. The contractor noted that bridge projects used to be scheduled in early spring and late fall, but now they are scheduled throughout the summer months. Ms. Carlson noted that WYDOT has increased the number of bridge jobs in an effort to bring them up to standard. The Department has also heard from contractors about the fluctuation in work, and perhaps it is time to reconsider how bridge jobs are scheduled and let to contract. The issue is complicated further by the scarce amount of bridge contractors available to perform the work.

It was recommended by Mr. Fulton, moved by Commissioner Espy, seconded by Commissioner Schmidt, and carried to approve the third quarter addendum to the FY 2019 STIP.

14. Ms. Carlson presented the Operations report in Mr. Gillett's absence.

Construction Update: There are currently 69 active construction projects statewide, including 13 in District 1, 12 in each of Districts 2 and 3, 17 in District 4, and 15 in District 5. This is five fewer active projects than last month. Most projects are still behind schedule because of the wet spring, which will ultimately affect paving operations throughout the construction season.

Commissioner Schmidt asked what method the Department uses to notify the public of project delays. Mr. McGee advised that the Public Affairs Office and district public relations specialists distribute press releases to the media about various project-related topics. Social media is also used to disseminate information of interest to the public.

Ms. Carlson advised that WYDOT received word from the Burlington Northern Railroad (BNRR) that the contractor on Lovell to Cowley (Sage Creek Section) project was not following the approved safety plan. The BNRR shut down the contractor working on the bridge over the BNRR, because the contractor was dropping piers in an unsafe manner.

The BNRR also cited a contractor's employees who did not possess their safety training cards while working on the Garner Lake Road project, which resulted in their dismissal from the project.

The BNRR shut down bridge work on the Sheridan Interchange project because the contractor was working within 25 feet of the railroad tracks without a flagger on site.

Ms. Carlson plans to discuss these violations with the Wyoming Contractors Association (WCA) leadership this week to avoid such infringements in the future.

Road and bridge work continues on two separate projects on Interstate 80 in District 3, which requires head-to-head, one-lane traffic.

Districts 1, 2, 4, and 5 are hosting STIP meetings with local governments and the public. District 3 has completed their STIP meetings.

Maintenance Update: Summer maintenance operations are in full swing, including asphalt patching, chip sealing, mowing, ditch cleaning, delineator and guardrail repairs, and trash pick-up.

The state hot plant was recently moved to Buffalo and is producing hot mix for District 4. Other districts are paving and patching using commercial mix.

The D6 landslide, just above the site of the Chief Joseph slide, has moved .75-inch in two weeks. An emergency contract is being sought to stabilize and repair the slide. The slide is in a crucial winter range, so work will have to be complete by November 15, 2019.

Another landslide is occurring at the top of Dead Indian Pass that will also involve a major stabilization contract. The district is working to slow the slide movement, so that work can begin on the slide repair next spring.

Medal of Honor Highway: Districts 2 and 5 are installing the necessary sign posts for the Medal of Honor Highway. A ceremony will be held August 20, 2019, at the Orin Junction Rest Area, located at Milepost 126 on I-25, to commemorate the Medal of Honor Highway designation made by the legislature during the 2019 session. WYDOT will install the Medal of Honor Highway signs along the route, from the border of Yellowstone National Park to the Nebraska state line, after the August 20 event.

Wild Horse Highway Signage: District 5 sign crews are also installing the Wild Horse Highway signs on US 14/16/20, between Lovell and Cody. A Wild Horse Highway dedication is planned at 10:00 a.m. on August 24, 2019, at the Friends of A Legacy (FOAL) kiosk, located 27 miles east of Cody.

Tornado Damage: A tornado touched down June 19, 2019, that tore down some WYDOT snow fence along US 16. Another tornado touched down on July 6, 2019, on US 30 near Bosler Junction that wiped out about 100 feet of right-of-way fence and left a lot of debris along the fence line. A third tornado touched down July 16, 2019, near Sundance. Ms. Carlson was unsure of any damage from that storm event.

Traffic Operations Update: Routine striping and striping operations on newly paved roadways continues statewide. Sign repairs and replacements are also ongoing.

Electricians are performing annual signal inspections and installing pending upgrades. District 3 traffic crews are replacing or repairing damaged light poles and beacons on Teton Pass. District 1 Traffic has been meeting with various organizations to increase safety on WYO 230, near Woods Landing. Two recent truck crashes, one of which was a fatality, spurred the installation of signs to alert drivers to the curve in the roadway through the canyon.

Mechanics Update: District 1 mechanics are assessing the damage to their rotary snowplow that occurred during spring snow removal on the mountain passes. Other districts are busy repairing equipment for summer operations, such as paving and chip sealing equipment.

WYDOT Facilities Update: District 5 is still assessing hail damage that occurred on July 12 in Thermopolis. Fifteen pieces of equipment and vehicles incurred damaged in that storm.

Another significant hailstorm occurred yesterday in Gillette. The damage from that storm has not been determined.

Dude Solutions is still conducting its building assessment to develop WYDOT's Facilities Management System. Ms. Carlson expects data compilation to be complete by December 2019. Facility condition index scores will be established for every WYDOT-owned building and equipment by determining today's value and dividing it by replacement value. These scores will be used to establish a long-term facilities management plan.

WYDOT Recruiting: Two major coal mines in northeastern Wyoming filed for bankruptcy and closed, leaving 700 people unemployed in Campbell County. The Department's Human Resources Program recently hosted a job fair in Gillette, and WYDOT is actively recruiting to fill vacant positions.

15. Colonel Haller presented the Highway Patrol report.

The Fatal Crash Summary through June 30, 2019, includes 63 fatal crashes involving 80 deaths. The fatalities include 29 rollover crashes, 34 multi-car crashes, 1 fixed object, 7 motorcycles, 2 ATVs, and 7 pedestrians. Of the 63 fatal crashes that have occurred in 2019, 17 involved commercial vehicles.

There were 20 fatal crashes deemed drug or alcohol related, resulting in 26 deaths. Of those deaths, 15 were attributed to not using occupant restraints. Twelve were rollover crashes, 10 were multi-car crashes, 2 involved motorcycles, and 2 involved pedestrians.

Of the 80 deaths that have occurred this year, 33 can be attributed to the non-use of occupant restraints, with 22 involving rollover crashes and 11 involving multi-car collisions. Twenty-four of those who died from the non-use of occupant restraints were Wyoming residents. Six of those who perished were under 21 years of age.

Of the 63 fatal crashes so far this year, it was deemed that 24 of those drivers had no distractions, 2 had distractions from outside the vehicle, and 2 drivers were distracted by an object inside the vehicle. In 31 of the 63 fatal crashes, it was unknown whether a distraction caused the incident.

Of the 63 fatal crashes that have occurred this year, 29 of them occurred on primary/secondary highways, 21 occurred on interstate highways, and 13 occurred on city/county roads.

Of the multiple-fatality crashes occurred on Wyoming highways in 2019, 4 involved rollovers, 10 involved multiple vehicles, 4 involved commercial vehicles, and 4 were alcohol related.

The days of the week for fatal crashes in 2019 were as follows:

Sunday	11 crashes
Monday	9 crashes
Tuesday	10 crashes
Wednesday	7 crashes
Thursday	7 crashes
Friday	5 crashes
Saturday	14 crashes

The times of day for fatal crashes in 2019 were as follows:

12:00 a.m. to 6:00 a.m.	7 crashes
6:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.	18 crashes
12:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.	22 crashes
6:00 p.m. to 12:00 a.m.	16 crashes

In locations where rumble strips/stripes were present, there were 23 crashes. There were 30 crashes where rumble strips/stripes were not present.

Inclement weather or road conditions contributed to 15 vehicle crashes in 2019, which has resulted in 15 deaths. Speed was a factor in 14 of the vehicle crashes that caused 14 deaths.

Of the deaths attributed to impairment in 2019, 31 percent involved rollovers, 23 percent involved multiple vehicles, 25 percent involved motorcycles, and 21 percent involved pedestrians.

The following statistics were also provided to the Commission:

- 76 percent of those who died in rollover crashes were unbelted.
- 32 percent of all those who died in multi-vehicle crashes were unbelted.
- 68 percent of the fatalities in 2019 were drivers.
- 25 percent of the fatalities in 2019 were passengers.
- 57 percent of the resident fatalities were unrestrained.
- 10 percent of the non-resident fatalities were unbuckled.
- Alcohol and/or drug impairment was a factor in 33 percent of the fatalities.

Patrol-Investigated Crash Summary: The Patrol-Investigated Crash Summary depicts 3,099 crashes statewide, of which 2,174 involved non-commercial vehicles, and 925 involved commercial vehicles.

The Commission also received a pin map depicting the locations of the 2019 fatal crashes.

Trooper Vacancies Update: The WHP hired 11 new troopers this week, which brings the current vacancies to 10. Three of the new troopers are pre-certified and have prior law enforcement experience, so they will join the WHP next week. The Dispatch Center currently has eight vacancies, and there are five vacancies in the ports-of-entries statewide.

Wyoming State Capitol Celebration: The Wyoming State Capitol Building reopened to the public, and a celebration was held July 10, 2019, to commemorate the multi-year restoration project. The WHP provided security for the event.

Effective July 10, the WHP officially took over all security for the State Capitol Building.

Campbell County Mine Closures: The WHP assisted the Campbell County Sheriff's Office with securing the recent closure of two mines near Gillette. Hazardous materials onsite required law enforcement involvement in those closures.

Wyoming Highway Patrol Employees' Association (WHPEA): On June 22, 2019, the WHPEA hosted its annual awards banquet. Twenty-three awards were presented to troopers, dispatchers, ports-of-entry officers, and civilian employees. Director Reiner and a few elected officials attended the event.

State Transportation Innovation Council (STIC) Award: The STIC recently awarded the WHP \$100,000 to purchase drones to reconstruct and collect data from crime scenes and crash investigations. The drones may also be used for search and rescue efforts. The \$100,000 will cover the cost of six drones, the required software, video cameras, mounting equipment, and training/certification to use the drones. Five troopers from WHP crash teams are already trained to use drones, and they will soon be certified in drone use.

The WHP is working with the Aeronautics Division to develop policy for the drone use.

Wyoming Civil Air Patrol (WCAP) Involvement in WHP Pursuits: The WHP recently met with the WCAP to discuss their potential involvement with future WHP pursuits. During a recent pursuit, which ultimately led to a multi-person manhunt, the WHP noticed a plane flying overhead. The pilot notified troopers on the ground of the suspects' whereabouts. The WCAP has offered to provide their services in the future. The WHP is still working out the details with the WCAP to hire their services, should the need arise.

Electronic Permitting: Electronic permitting is an agenda item for the August 12 JTC meeting in Cheyenne. The WHP will outline the costs, the current process, and the benefits of electronic permitting at the JTC meeting. The WHP has coordinated with the Wyoming Trucking Association, and it plans to work with the WCA to share the benefits of the new system.

Sturgis and Ham 'n Jam Motorcycle Rallies: Colonel Haller advised that the WHP is gearing up for the Sturgis and Motorcycle rallies. The rallies have been relatively uneventful in recent years, and Colonel Haller anticipates this year's rallies will be conducted in the same manner.

16. Mr. Olsen presented the Aeronautics report beginning with the June 2019 Aeronautics Flight Operations Passenger Summary Report and the Wyoming Aircraft Accident Report.

Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) Update: The Aeronautics staff is drafting a WYDOT policy and an operations manual for UAS use. These documents are expected to be complete before the end of 2019.

A small task force will be developed to establish how data is managed and used within the Department. The FHWA has also created a UAS peer exchange with other states to learn how they manage UASs. Mr. Olsen and other WYDOT staff will attend the first peer exchange meeting in Grand Forks, North Dakota, in early October, to learn about what has worked well and what has not worked for other states.

Capacity Purchase Agreement (CPA) Update: On June 24, 2019, the Aeronautics Commission awarded the CPA to SkyWest Airlines. In accordance with a footnote in the 2019 budget bill, the agreement was executed by June 30, 2019.

Negotiations and MOUs with the Gillette, Rock Springs, Sheridan, and Riverton airports are going well. Mr. Olsen hopes to have all MOUs executed by the end of August 2019. The Aeronautics Commission will meet again after negotiations are complete to approve the MOUs.

The CPA and MOUs include some performance metrics that did not exist before, including reliability guarantees, on-time performance requirements, and performance in each community as it relates to the amount the state is spending per passenger.

Flights in Gillette and Rock Springs under the new CPA will begin October 1, 2019. Sheridan and Riverton flights will begin in mid-January 2020.

Colonel Haller left the meeting.

Wyoming Airport Projects Update: Wyoming has 40 airport projects underway, of which grants have been issued on about half of them. Wet spring weather has significantly delayed many of the projects.

17. Mr. Rossetti presented the Support Services report.

Employment Summary: WYDOT employed 1,944 personnel as of June 26, 2019, compared to 1,950 a month ago and 1,925 one year ago.

Employee Compensation Meetings: WYDOT staff continues to work with the Wyoming Department of Administration and Information (A&I) about compensation and the Department's inability to retain qualified employees in certain fields of work. Mr. Rossetti believes talks are going well, but it will take some time to work through the issues and the change process.

Employee Housing in Teton County: WYDOT is working with other agencies to identify ways to assist employees working in Teton County with housing. The Wyoming Game & Fish, Workforce Services, and Family Services have expressed interest in joining forces to identify a solution to the lack of affordable housing in the area. If a solution is found, WYDOT may attempt to implement those changes in other problem areas throughout the state.

Prototype of the 2024 Wyoming License Plate: Mr. Rossetti shared several prototypes of the 2024 Wyoming license plate. In the past, a photograph was used for the background on the Wyoming plate. Since a photo is difficult to reproduce in high resolution, artwork may be used as the background on the 2024 plate for clarity. Another option may be to create a plate with a solid background.

18. Mr. Rossetti presented the Chief Technology Officer's report in the Chief Financial Officer's absence.

Next Generation 911 Meeting: During the 2019 session, the legislature passed HB0161, Statewide 911 Coordinator. Governor Mark Gordon appointed Mr. Troy Babbitt as the statewide 911 coordinator. Mr. Babbitt worked with several federal agencies to develop a two-day training for members of public safety answering points, which is where all 911 calls are routed. The training is underway in Casper this week.

Mainframe Migration: The state's mainframe computer system will be migrated to the Cloud September 13-15.

WyoLink Tower Build-Out Update: The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process is nearly complete for the Buffalo, Lusk, Orin Junction, and Lusk tower sites. Construction is expected to begin in August and September at those sites.

WYDOT is working with local communities and operators to establish the remaining 12 towers. Each tower project is included in the STIP.

Other agencies have contacted WYDOT expressing interest in purchasing WyoLink equipment and consoles with the Department to obtain a cost break and a consistent product. WYDOT will make an effort to accommodate those requests.

19. It was moved by Commissioner Filer, seconded by Commissioner Schmidt, and carried to adjourn the meeting. Chairman Larson adjourned the meeting at 12:07 p.m., on Thursday, July 18, 2019