Honorable Dave Freudenthal  
State Capitol Building  
200 West 24th Street  
Cheyenne, WY 82002-0010

Dear Governor Freudenthal:

This letter is in response to Item 17 of Executive Order 2010-4, which requires state agencies to report to the Office of the Governor detailing the agency’s action to implement this executive order. Following are the actions the Wyoming Department of Transportation (WYDOT) will take as a result of the executive order.

Item 2 of the executive order recognizes that existing land uses in core population areas will not be managed under core population area stipulations. Therefore, all lands currently within existing WYDOT rights-of-way and those existing necessary for the operation and maintenance of the highway system that pass through core areas will not be managed under the core population area stipulations. Similarly, materials pits, mitigation sites, or other highway appurtenances currently held by WYDOT in core population areas will not be managed under core population area stipulations.

In keeping with Item 3 of the executive order, new rights-of-way as well as any new department borrow areas, materials pits or plant sites, mitigation sites, or other highway appurtenances within core populations areas will be authorized only when it can be demonstrated that the activities will not cause declines in greater sage-grouse populations consistent with coordination with resource and regulatory agencies and the applicable stipulations outlined in Executive Order 2010-4.

To this end, WYDOT will raise the awareness of the core population areas with our personnel responsible for the design, construction, and maintenance of highway facilities. WYDOT will continue to work closely with the Wyoming Game and Fish Department to mitigate sage-grouse and other wildlife disturbances utilizing existing protocols that we have mutually developed. When necessary, WYDOT will work closely with the resource agencies to modify protocols to meet the requirements of the executive order.
If you have any questions concerning WYDOT’s response to Executive Order 2010-4 or would like more information, please let me know.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

John F. Cox, Director