

## TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION OF WYOMING

The Transportation Commission of Wyoming met in the Sinclair Room at Little America Hotel, 2800 East Lincolnway, in Cheyenne, on December 6, 2018. Chairman Ruwart convened the business meeting at 1:30 p.m. The following members were present constituting a quorum:

Bob Ruwart, Chairman, Wheatland  
Mike Larson, Vice Chairman, Lusk  
Todd Seeton, Commissioner, Jackson  
Rick Newton, Commissioner, Buffalo  
Louie Pfrangle, Commissioner, Worland  
Jim Espy, Commissioner, Savery  
William T. Panos, 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; Mark Gillett, Assistant Chief Engineer for Operations; Taylor Rossetti, Support Services Administrator; Brian Olsen, Aeronautics Administrator; Dan Tolman, Information Technology Program Manager; Colonel Kebin Haller, Highway Patrol Administrator; Sam Voyles, Assistant Attorney General; Rodney Freier, Budget Program Manager; and Bryan Cawley, Division Administrator, Federal Highway Administration (FHWA).

Other meeting attendees: Tom DeHoff, District Engineer, Laramie; Lowell Fleenor, District Engineer, Casper; Keith Compton, District Engineer, Rock Springs; Scott Taylor, District Engineer, Sheridan; and Pete Hallsten, District Engineer, Basin.

Commissioner Phil Schmidt, of Casper, and Mike Kahler, Supervising Attorney General, were absent.

1. Pledge of Allegiance: Chairman Ruwart led the attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance.
2. Approval of Minutes: It was recommended by Secretary Scott, moved by Commissioner Newton, seconded by Commissioner Larson, and carried to approve the minutes from the November 15, 2018, breakfast meeting, business meeting, and education session.
3. Director Panos presented the Director's report.

Director Panos welcomed Ms. Carlson since he was unable to attend her first meeting with the Commission as chief engineer.

Government Efficiency Project: The 2018 Legislature passed SF-0120, Government Efficiencies Project. The bill provided authority to conduct and fund efficiency-related activities within state government, and to continue the Wyoming Spending and Government Efficiency Commission. The state signed a contract with consultants Alvarez and Marsal (A&M) to continue work on government savings and efficiency projects identified last year. In 2017, the Government

Savings and Efficiency Commission contracted with A&M to study several areas of state government. The goal was to find potential changes to government that would result in general fund savings or ways to conduct state operations more efficiently. The study results were incorporated into a final report to the legislature.

A&M will continue to work with the new administration, the legislature, and various state agencies to seek further efficiencies. A&M representatives have met with WYDOT executive staff several times to discuss organizational structure, span of control, supervisor-to-employee ratios, retention rates, recruitment, and other agency-specific issues. WYDOT staff was also asked to evaluate the efficiency of the Department of Administration and Information Enterprise Technology Services Division during one interview.

The final efficiency report is due to the legislature in late February. A copy of the final report will be shared with the Commission when it becomes available.

Governor's Supplemental Budget Request: Governor Mead has released his proposed supplemental budget request, including \$15 million for a capacity purchase agreement (CPA) to sustain Wyoming's commercial air service. The 2018 Legislature conditionally allocated the \$15 million pending input by the Commercial Air Service Improvement Council.

Governor Mead also requested funding for state employee cost-of-living increases. Director Panos noted that WYDOT employee raises have traditionally not been funded through the legislature's general fund. WYDOT staff is being proactive by communicating to the legislature and to Governor-elect Gordon to ensure that Department employees are not left behind and that additional funding is considered if the legislature approves salary increases for other agencies.

Commissioner Espy entered the meeting.

Joint Transportation, Highways & Military Affairs Committee (JTC) Meeting: The JTC will meet for its final interim committee meeting December 10, 2018, in Cheyenne. WYDOT is preparing testimony regarding various topics, including the Revenue Information System (RIS), I-80 rest areas, 2018 ten cent fuel tax revenue, oversize and overweight load movements, federal mineral royalties, and connected vehicles.

Joint Appropriations Committee (JAC) Budget Hearing: WYDOT will present its FY 2019 budget to the JAC on December 14, 2018. WYDOT did not request any supplemental funding for the upcoming fiscal year.

Director Panos congratulated and thanked Sam Voyles for his commitment to representing the Department in legal matters in recent years. Mr. Voyles is leaving his position as a state assistant attorney general to work in private practice.

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

Monthly Budget Report: Mr. Freier presented the monthly budget report. The November 2018 budget report revealed that the Commission budget is 16 percent expended, and the Legislative budget is 17 percent expended, which is within budget tolerances.

Mr. Freier noted that about \$5.2 million (21 percent) of the FY 2019 snow control budget has been expended so far.

Mr. Byrne explained that, in January 2019, a quarterly budget modification will be presented to the Commission for consideration. The remaining FY 2018 expenditures and revenues will be carried over and included in the FY 2019 budget modification.

5. Procurement Services Bid: It was recommended by Mr. Byrne, moved by Commissioner Newton, seconded by Commissioner Seeton, and carried to approve purchase for Bid No. 19-008MD to furnish 17 each, Class 8 cab and chassis, for delivery in Cheyenne. The bid was awarded to CMI-TECO, of Casper, Wyoming, for the sum of \$1,590,231.00.

6. Joint Revenue Committee Meeting: 19LSO-0092, Indexing Fuel Tax with the Consumer Price Index, was presented at the November 30, 2018, Joint Revenue Committee meeting. WYDOT executive staff testified to the impact that bill would have on the agency. If approved, the bill would adjust Wyoming's fuel tax on a per-gallon basis every two years in accordance with the Bureau of Labor Statistics Consumer Price Index. A preliminary analysis determined that indexing would generate an additional \$4 million annually for WYDOT. The Joint Revenue Committee passed the bill, and it will now be presented during the 2019 legislative session.

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

Change Order Approvals: Ms. Carlson reported on two change orders executed in November that exceeded \$250,000.

The Douglas West project on I-25 required a third change order for \$378,000, for removing and replacing four of the existing six bridge columns that were not structurally sound. Additional traffic control and shoring of the structure was required to remove the columns. The prime contractor, Oftedal Construction, subcontracted the work to Reiman Corporation. A post-construction review will be held with WYDOT design and construction personnel and contractor employees to assess the situation to ensure this does not occur on future projects.

The second change order approved by Ms. Carlson was for landslide mitigation near the Lava Mountain Ranch on Togwotee Pass. The Wind River has eroded the slope in the area, which initiated slope movement and a culvert to be severed underneath the roadway, causing a large sinkhole. A consultant was hired to design the repair, and the work has been added to the existing landslide project at a cost of \$529,623.

Prieto Access Update: At its November 15 meeting, the Commission was briefed about a request for access to the Prieto property located on US 287 south of Laramie. Ms. Carlson updated the Commission on the status of WYDOT's consideration of that access request and provided a property location map. The Access Review Committee denied the access because of the posted

65 mile-per-hour speed limit, spacing requirements, the lack of turn lanes, and traffic counts in the area.

Ms. Carlson discussed the status with Ms. Norma Munoz, an agent for the Prietos. In accordance with Wyoming statutes, Ms. Munoz will have to determine whether the matter should be brought before the Commission at a future meeting, or if they will petition Albany County to approve a private access to the property.

Request to Assume Responsibility for Sage Creek (Deep Creek) Road: Ms. Carlson recently received a letter from the Board of Carbon County Commissioners requesting that WYDOT take onto the state highway system the newly paved portion of County Road 401, from Rawlins south to the forest boundary. The Carbon County Commission believes the 34 miles of roadway is better served on the state system because of increased traffic from tourism, hunting, fishing, ranching, Continental Divide Hiking Trail, and logging interests over time.

WYDOT is reviewing the functional classification, the traffic counts, the roadway design standards, the right-of-way easement ownership and restrictions, the maintenance impacts to the Department, and the potential highway routes that could be exchanged for the new road. Ms. Carlson will bring the matter before the Commission for consideration when the review is complete.

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

Pooled Fund Project: WYDOT has been identified as a lead agency to advance two national pooled fund research projects. Pooled fund projects have regional or national significance, and their designation allows state departments of transportation to contribute up to 100 percent federal-aid funds to advance projects.

Improvements to Estimating Project Costs: Mr. Cawley congratulated WYDOT on its accuracy of engineer's estimates for surface transportation projects let in FY 2019. In FY 2016, WYDOT awarded 42 percent of its project to low bidders that were within 10 percent of the engineer's estimate. In FY 2017, 54 percent of its contracts were awarded to low bidders that were within 10 percent, and in FY 2018, 60 percent of all highway contracts were awarded to low bidders within 10 percent of the engineer's estimate.

Final Payments on WYDOT Surface Transportation Projects: WYDOT has worked very hard throughout the past year to close some stale-but-active federal projects, or projects that have been authorized for construction for over three years. In FY 2018, 158 federally-funded projects were classified as stale-but-active, totaling \$43.4 million. WYDOT has reduced its stale-but-active projects to 80, totaling \$30.9 million. These projects remain open for various reasons, including pending litigation, final documents awaiting submission, or for other reasons. As projects were closed last year, about \$12 million was released and re-obligated to advance new federal construction projects.

Ms. Carlson noted that closing stale projects also benefits the contracting community as it frees up their bonding capacity to bid on projects.

9. Mr. Fulton presented the Engineering and Planning report, beginning with the bid tabulations from the letting held December 5, 2018, in Cheyenne.

Federal projects STP-0300039 and ARSCT-0300A03 combined, involving grading, draining, profile milling plant mix, placing crushed base and bituminous pavement surfacing, concrete pavement, sidewalk, curb and gutter, electrical, bridge removal, and miscellaneous work on approximately 2.10 miles of WYO 59, beginning at reference marker (RM) 3.01, in the city of Gillette, in Campbell County. Completion date: June 30, 2020

Engineer's Estimate	\$8,613,593.50	
Simon Contractors and its subsidiaries, Cheyenne, WY	\$8,129,515.60	-5.6%
Croell, Inc., Sundance, WY	\$8,399,409.32	
S & S Builders, LLC, Gillette, WY	\$8,654,956.45	
DRM, Inc., Gillette, WY	\$8,728,205.19	
Powder River Construction, Inc., Gillette, WY	\$9,386,501.39	

It was recommended by Mr. Fulton, moved by Commissioner Newton, seconded by Vice Chairman Larson, and carried that Simon Contractors and its subsidiaries, 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. The City of Gillette concurs with the authority for rendering services (ARSCT) portion of this project.

State project SCP-TC-1206008, involving grading, draining, placing crushed base and bituminous pavement surfacing, full-depth reclamation, chip seal, bridge replacements, and miscellaneous work on approximately 12.10 miles of WYO 238, beginning at RM 0.00, between Auburn and Afton, in Lincoln County. Completion date: June 30, 2020

Engineer's Estimate	\$6,849,998.50	
Kilroy, LLC, Afton, WY	\$6,949,949.00	+1.5%
H-K Contractors, Inc., Idaho Falls, ID	\$6,796,777.00	
Plus 5% for Comparison	\$7,136,615.85	
Kilgore Companies dba Lewis & Lewis, Inc., Rock Springs, WY	\$7,826,127.45	
DePatco, Inc., Idaho Falls, ID	\$8,588,888.88	
Plus 5% for Comparison	\$9,018,333.32	

It was recommended by Mr. Fulton, moved by Commissioner Seeton, seconded by Vice Chairman Larson, and carried that Kilroy, LLC, Afton, Wyoming, having prequalified in accordance with rules and regulations adopted by the Transportation Commission of Wyoming, be awarded the contract as low bidder.

State project SCP-TC-N852003, involving grading, draining, milling plant mix, placing bases, bituminous pavement surfacing (recycle), chip seal, box culverts, and miscellaneous work on approximately 11.90 miles of US 85, beginning at RM 35.31, between Cheyenne and Torrington, in Laramie County. Completion date: June 30, 2020

Engineer's Estimate	\$5,063,556.50	
JTL Group, Inc. DBA Knife River, Cheyenne, WY	\$5,277,369.24	+4.2%
Simon Contractors and its subsidiaries, Cheyenne, WY	\$5,599,868.43	

It was recommended by Mr. Fulton, moved by Commissioner Espy, seconded by Commissioner Pfrangle, 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.

Federal projects STP-PM-B193018 and CMP-PM-B193028 combined, involving milling plant mix, bituminous pavement surfacing, and miscellaneous work at various locations in Transportation District 3, including Lincoln, Sublette, and Sweetwater counties. Completion date: October 31, 2019

Engineer's Estimate	\$3,698,820.00	
Kilgore Companies dba Lewis & Lewis, Inc., Rock Springs, WY	\$4,603,267.72	+24.5%
H-K Contractors, Inc., Idaho Falls, ID	\$4,769,777.00	

It was recommended by Mr. Fulton, moved by Commissioner Espy, seconded by Vice Chairman Larson, and carried that Kilgore Companies dba Lewis & Lewis, Inc., Rock Springs, 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 STP-PM-B183013 and ARSCT-B183A01 combined, involving chip sealing and miscellaneous work at various locations in Transportation District 3, including Sublette and Sweetwater counties. Completion date: July 31, 2019

Engineer's Estimate	\$2,543,885.00	
H-K Contractors, Inc., Idaho Falls, ID	\$2,636,860.00	+3.7%
Intermountain Slurry Seal, Inc., Watsonville, CA	\$2,639,992.00	

It was recommended by Mr. Fulton, moved by Vice Chairman Larson, seconded by Commissioner Seeton, 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 NHPP-DR51892, involving grading, draining, and miscellaneous work on US 26 at RM 102.81, between Diversion Dam and Riverton, in Fremont County. Completion date: June 30, 2019

Engineer's Estimate	\$1,504,005.00	
Kilroy, LLC, Afton, WY	\$1,146,859.80	-23.7%
71 Construction, Casper, WY	\$1,260,028.00	
Oftedal Construction, Inc., Casper, WY	\$1,460,400.30	
Wilson Bros. Construction, Inc., Cowley, WY	\$1,476,535.00	
JR Civil, LLC, Sheridan, WY	\$1,600,480.00	
R. S. Bennett Construction Co., Inc., Big Piney, WY	\$1,626,170.00	
Patrick Construction, Inc., Lander, WY	\$1,878,879.80	

It was recommended by Mr. Fulton, moved by Commissioner Pfrangle, seconded by Commissioner Seeton, and carried that Kilroy, LLC, Afton, 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.

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

#### **FREMONT COUNTY**

STP DR52149; Moran Junction to Dubois, Togwotee Pass Corridor; RM 36.20 to 36.40; slide repair; FY 2019; request federal construction engineering and construction funds of \$510,600

#### **LARAMIE COUNTY**

SCP U212017; Cheyenne Streets, College Drive and Southwest Drive; RM 0.25; signal; FY 2019; request state preliminary engineering funds of \$5,000; request state construction engineering and construction funds of \$128,000; 50 percent to be reimbursed by Cheyenne Frontier Days

Mr. Rossetti entered the meeting.

11. Mr. Gillett presented the Operations report.

Chairman Ruwart welcomed and recognized District Engineers Tom DeHoff, Lowell Fleenor, Keith Compton, Scott Taylor, and Pete Hallsten for their hard work in keeping their districts operating and for competently facing difficult challenges throughout the year.

District Engineer Reports: Mr. Gillett asked each district engineer to share what counties are included in their transportation districts, and to share their biggest challenges within their districts. Following is a summary of the challenges quoted by the district engineers.

- District 1, Mr. DeHoff: In the past year, District 1 was able to reduce its preventable accidents. Recruitment and employee retention continues to be a significant issue.
- District 2, Mr. Fleenor: Limited funding, personnel and manpower, and retaining employees have become very critical issues district-wide.
- District 3, Mr. Compton: Employee retainage and retention is the primary concern for District 3. Road deterioration is also becoming a great concern on I-80 district-wide. I-80

has been patched for so long that full-depth stripping has occurred and new full depth surfacing will be required to repair the roadway in the future.

- District 4, Mr. Taylor: Employee retainage and recruitment are becoming more problematic, as individuals are accepting other employment for significantly higher salaries.
- District 5, Mr. Hallsten: Employee recruitment and retention, particularly for commercial driver license (CDL) operators, and a shrinking operations budget are the most significant challenges for his district. Mr. Hallsten noted that the District 5 maintenance budget has been reduced by over 25 percent over the last three years.

Director Panos suggested working with the Wyoming Contractors Association Training Center, Wyoming Board of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES), and other education entities to develop a training program for commercial drivers, and asked Ms. Carlson and Mr. Gillett to research ways to enhance WYDOT's ability to draw more experienced CDL drivers. Director Panos also recommended reviewing all maintenance classifications to determine whether every position needs to require a CDL.

Mr. Gillett expressed his appreciation to the district engineers for their extraordinary work throughout the past year, and for their dedication and commitment in their roles.

Construction Update: Only 15 highway construction projects remain active this winter, including four in District 1, two in District 2, three in District 3, one in District 4, and five in District 5. Most of these projects have ongoing bridge work or cleanup that can be managed during the colder months.

WYO 196, the Chief Joseph Highway, has been reopened to two-way traffic following repairs to a major landslide that occurred over the summer. The final surfacing will be laid next spring.

Oftedal Construction and its insurance company are removing the large dirt-hauling truck that crashed while working on a WYDOT project and rolled into Dead Indian Creek on October 12, 2018. The wreckage is being cut into sections, and two helicopters are being used to air-lift the pieces to a nearby staging area.

Maintenance Update: Maintenance crews have been very busy with snow control operations statewide. I-80 in southeast and I-90 in northeast Wyoming were closed over the Thanksgiving weekend because of winter conditions. US 287 south of Laramie was closed November 29, I-25 north of Chugwater was closed on December 4, and I-80, between Rock Springs and Evanston, was closed December 5 due to crashes.

Seasonal winter closures have been implemented on WYO 130, WYO 70, and US 14A. The goal is to reopen these highways before Memorial Day 2019.

Six WYDOT snow plow trucks have been involved in crashes so far this year. Two were struck from behind, destroying the sanders, and in one instance, a snowplow driver suffered a concussion but was able to return to work the next day. Both plow trucks were taken out of service, refitted with new sanders, and were put back into service by the next day. Three wing



plows have been hit by passing motorists, but the trucks were not damaged. One other plow truck struck a vehicle with its wing plow. There were no injuries reported in that incident, and the truck remained in service.

Mr. Gillett provided a handout depicting the number of snowplow operator vacancies. Following are vacancy statistics statewide as of December 1, 2018.

	Vacant Maintenance <u>Positions</u>	Positions with 18 months <u>or less experience</u>
District 1	6 (6%)	40 (40%)
District 2	5 (5%)	22 (23%)
District 3	10 (12%)	22 (26%)
District 4	18 (23%)	21 (27%)
District 5	3 (4%)	13 (16%)
Total	42 (10%)	118 (27%)

Mr. Gillett noted that it typically takes about three months to fill a position, and some vacancies have been open for over a year.

Traffic Operations Update: Striping crews have suspended their work for the winter. Crews are assisting with maintenance and snow removal operations and/or tearing down, cleaning, and replacing parts on the striping equipment.

Sign crews are upgrading signs, weather permitting, and electrical crews are maintaining lighting and signals and installing new beacons and similar devices statewide.

Mechanics Update: Mechanics are very busy repairing snowplows and other equipment.

WYDOT Facilities Update: Wagonhound Rest Area remains closed due to adjacent construction on I-80. The facility is expected to reopen Monday.

12. Colonel Haller presented the Highway Patrol report.

The Fatal Crash Summary through November 30, 2018, includes 95<sup>1</sup> fatal crashes involving 106<sup>1</sup> deaths. The fatalities include 38 rollover crashes, 43 multi-car crashes, four fixed objects, 15 motorcycles, one ATV, and five pedestrians. Of the 106 fatal crashes that have occurred in 2018, 12<sup>2</sup> involved commercial vehicles.

There were 30<sup>3</sup> fatal crashes deemed drug or alcohol related, resulting in 35<sup>3</sup> deaths. Of those deaths, 20 were attributed to not using occupant restraints. Thirteen were rollover crashes, 14 were multi-car crashes, two involved fixed objects, three involved motorcycles, and three

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<sup>1</sup> Numbers at the time of reporting; final numbers may change.

<sup>2</sup> Number not included in total deaths (sub-crash data).

<sup>3</sup> Not all chemical tests were available at the time of reporting.

involved pedestrians. Of the 35 drug- or alcohol-related fatalities, one<sup>2</sup> involved a commercial vehicle.

Of the 106 deaths that have occurred this year, 47 can be attributed to the non-use of occupant restraints, with 27 involving rollover crashes, 17 involving multi-car collisions, and three involving fixed objects. Forty of those who died from the non-use of occupant restraints were Wyoming residents. Fifteen of those who perished were under 21 years of age, and 10 of those fatalities were attributed to the failure to use proper occupant restraints.

Of the 95 fatal crashes that have occurred this year, 51 of them occurred on primary/secondary highways, 23 occurred on interstate highways, and 21 occurred on city/county roads.

Eight multiple-fatality crashes occurred on Wyoming highways in 2018, of which one involved a commercial vehicle and four were alcohol related.

In locations where rumble strips/stripes were present, there were 40<sup>4</sup> crashes. There were 51 crashes where rumble strips/stripes were not present.

Inclement weather or road conditions contributed to 12 vehicle crashes in 2018, which resulted in the same number of deaths. Speed was considered a factor in 14 of the vehicle crashes that caused 14 deaths.

The days of the week for fatal crashes in 2018 were as follows:

Sunday	12 crashes
Monday	17 crashes
Tuesday	11 crashes
Wednesday	4 crashes
Thursday	17 crashes
Friday	17 crashes
Saturday	17 crashes

The times of day for fatal crashes in 2018 were as follows:

12:00 a.m. to 6:00 a.m.	22 crashes
6:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.	21 crashes
12:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.	27 crashes
6:00 p.m. to 12:00 a.m.	25 crashes

In 33<sup>4</sup> crashes, there was no indication of driver distraction as the cause of the crashes, two<sup>4</sup> cases where there was a distraction from outside the vehicle, and one<sup>4</sup> case where a distraction was recorded from inside the vehicle. Overall in 2018, there were 59<sup>4</sup> cases where it is unknown whether distractions caused the fatal crashes.

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<sup>4</sup> Numbers at the time of reporting from submitted crash reports.

Chairman Ruwart asked if drug and alcohol-related crashes is trending upward. Colonel Haller indicated that alcohol and drug use is a significant factor in Wyoming's highway fatalities.

The following statistics were also provided to the Commission:

- 68 percent of those who died in rollover crashes were unbelted.
- 40 percent of all those who died in multi-vehicle crashes were unbelted.
- 75 percent of all those who died in fixed-object crashes were unbelted.
- 75 percent of the fatalities in 2018 were drivers.
- 21 percent of fatalities this year have been passengers.
- 70 percent of the resident fatalities were unrestrained.
- 3 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 5,865<sup>5</sup> crashes statewide, of which 4,856<sup>5</sup> involved non-commercial vehicles, and 1,009<sup>5</sup> involved commercial vehicles.

A pin map was also provided to the Commission depicting the locations of the 2018 fatal crashes.

Trooper Recruitment and Vacancies: The Wyoming Highway Patrol (WHP) currently has 25 trooper, four dispatcher, and one port-of-entry vacancies statewide. Advertising and testing is being conducted to fill these positions.

Colonel Haller provided the Commission with a briefing paper regarding trooper recruitment and what the Department is doing to hire troopers and dispatchers and to promote experienced personnel.

Rocky Mountain High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (RMHIDTA): The WHP participates in RMHIDTA, a program that focuses on regions with high drug trafficking rates like Interstate 80. Captain Jim Thomas, of Rock Springs, was recently chosen to receive the RMHIDTA Outstanding Commander Award for 2018 for his extraordinary leadership, his success in drug interdiction seizures and successful prosecutions, and his proven achievements in overseeing the WHP's K-9 team. Captain Thomas received his award at the RMHIDTA awards banquet on December 11, in Denver, and he is now a candidate to receive the same award nationally.

Shop-With-a-Cop Event: The WHP will participate in "Shop-With-a-Cop" on December 19, 2018. The annual event is an opportunity for WHP members to share with underprivileged children at Christmas time and to provide them with gifts for their families. Through donations, the Wyoming Highway Patrol Employees' Association (WHPEA) provides approximately \$750 to each of the 19 WHP divisions for the Shop-With-a-Cop event. Food items will also be provided to some families that may need Christmas dinner.

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<sup>5</sup> Does not contain all crashes worked; some reports are still pending.

13. Mr. Olsen presented the Aeronautics report beginning with the November 2018 Aeronautics Flight Operations Passenger Summary Report.

Commercial Air Service Council Meeting: The fourth and final Council meeting was held in Gillette on November 28. The draft memoranda of understanding (MOU) to be signed by four local communities receiving commercial air service were discussed at the meeting. The MOUs will be finalized and signed by the local communities within the next few months.

The request for proposals (RFP) for an air service provider has been publicized, and proposals are due December 20. An air service carrier will be selected and contract negotiations will be made over the next few months.

State Aircraft Maintenance: Both state Cessna aircraft were recently flown to Mesa, Arizona, and Wichita, Kansas, for their annual maintenance review. N101WY and N102WY were deemed in excellent condition, and no maintenance was needed on either plane. The next scheduled maintenance is in March 2019. Mr. Olsen acknowledged Mr. Tory Meisel, Chief Pilot and Flight Operations Manager, and his crew for their extraordinary work to keep the jets in prime condition.

Unmanned Aerial Aircraft: Governor Mead has signed an MOU with North Dakota Governor Burgum to promote cooperation of unmanned aerial systems (UAS). The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) launched a pilot program about six months ago to integrate UAS into national air space. North Dakota was selected to participate in the pilot program, which will allow some regulatory relief for integrating UAS into the airspace system. The MOU allows WYDOT to participate in the program using similar regulations.

14. Mr. Rossetti presented the Support Services report.

Employment Summary: WYDOT employed 1,914 personnel as of December 3, 2018, compared to 1,912 a month ago and 1,906 one year ago. WYDOT's current vacancy rate is 7 percent. There are currently 75 WYDOT positions advertised statewide, which comprises about 30 percent of all State of Wyoming job postings. Of the 75 vacant positions, 48 are outside Cheyenne. Forty of those are maintenance positions, including mechanics and snow plow operators.

An electronic exit survey is offered to those who leave WYDOT employment. About 41.5 percent of those who left WYDOT in 2018 have responded to the survey. Of the respondents, roughly 25 percent remain in public service positions, which is evidence that state jobs are no longer competitive with other public service agencies.

Mr. Rossetti also noted that the 2018 legislature passed a bill that allows 18-year-olds to test for CDL licenses and operate commercial vehicles in-state. A letter was subsequently sent to the federal government requesting similar changes to the federal law. No response has been received to date.

Mr. Rossetti presented Director Panos with his five-year certificate of service and commemorative pin.

Governor's Supplemental Budget Request to the Legislature: Governor Mead's supplemental budget included a request for state employee compensation adjustments. Mr. Rossetti noted that WYDOT has historically not received general funds to pay for its employees' salary increases. If the legislature approves the request, WYDOT may have to cover the \$2.3 to \$3.5 million expenditure.

15. Mr. Tolman presented the Chief Technology Officer's report in Mr. Lewis' absence.

Joint Transportation, Highways & Military Affairs Committee (JTC) Meeting: The JTC will meet Monday, December 10, 2018, in Cheyenne. WYDOT's Geographic Information Systems/ Intelligent Transportation Systems (GIS/ITS) Program Manager Vince Garcia will present information about the Connected Vehicle Project at the meeting.

Wyoming "511" Update: In response to public request, the low bandwidth version of the Wyoming "511" maps were recently updated to streamline and improve functionality. Mr. Tolman provided handouts of the new maps and web camera views to illustrate the improvements.

Winter Weather and System Availability: Mr. Tolman spoke about the critical nature of being able to connect to variable speed limit signs and dynamic message signs during winter conditions and to ensure accurate information is conveyed for the safety of the travelling public. Mr. Tolman informed the Commission of an upcoming maintenance event the morning of December 10, 2018, that will impact this connectivity, and he assured the Commission that the Information Technology Program is working very closely with the Wyoming's Enterprise Technology Services (ETS) to minimize any negative impacts of the event.

New Voice-Over Internet Protocol (IP) System: Mr. Tolman advised that WYDOT is implementing a new voice-over IP system. Voice-over IP is a technology for the delivery of voice communications over Internet Protocol (IP) networks, such as the Internet. The change will impact all WYDOT desk phones. The new system will use existing data network hardware and will significantly reduce costs.

16. It was moved by Commissioner Seeton, seconded by Vice Chairman Larson, and carried to adjourn the meeting. Chairman Ruwart adjourned the meeting at 4:19 p.m., on Thursday, December 6, 2018.