

## TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION OF WYOMING

The Transportation Commission of Wyoming met in the I-80 Room of the Wyoming Department of Transportation (WYDOT) Training Center, 5300 Bishop Boulevard, in Cheyenne on April 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  
Jim Espy, Commissioner, Savery  
Jon Dolezal, Commissioner, Evanston  
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; Mark Gillett, Assistant Chief Engineer for Operations; Taylor Rossetti, Support Services Administrator; Brian Olsen, Aeronautics Administrator; Pat Lewis, Chief Technology Officer; Colonel Kebin Haller, Wyoming Highway Patrol (WHP) Administrator; Rodney Freier, Budget Program Manager; Tom DeHoff, District Engineer, Laramie; and Bryan Cawley, Division Administrator, Federal Highway Administration (FHWA).

Other meeting attendees: Chairman Michael Von Flatern, Joint Transportation, Highways & Military Affairs Committee; Erica Legerski, Governor's Office Liaison; Katie Legerski, Wyoming Contractors Association; Mike Kahler, Supervising Attorney General; Jeff Brown, State Highway Development Engineer; and Doug McGee, Public Affairs Program Manager.

Commissioner Phil Schmidt, of Casper, 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 Espy, seconded by Commissioner Filer, and carried to approve the minutes from the March 21, 2019, breakfast meeting, business meeting, and education session.
3. Director Reiner presented the Director's report.

Director Reiner's First Month in Office: During his first 18 days in his new role, Director Reiner has met with executive staff, district engineers, program managers, and others to learn about the Department. Director Reiner noted he has thoroughly enjoyed meeting and working with the highly motivated, dedicated, and focused WYDOT employees whose mission is to serve the public.

Director Reiner has also met with the Wyoming Contractors Association and the Wyoming Trucking Association leadership, the FHWA, Public Safety Communications Commission (PSCC) members, and Erica Legerski, WYDOT's liaison to Governor Gordon's office.

Wyoming Law Enforcement Academy Training Facility: To improve efficiency, Director Reiner recently approved moving the Wyoming Highway Patrol's basic training academy to the Laramie County Community College (LCCC) in Cheyenne. Colonel Haller will share more information about this change later in the meeting under the Highway Patrol report.

Etna North Project: At its October 2017 business meeting, the Commission approved a Resolution for the Exercise of Eminent Domain for the Afton to Thayne (Etna North) project, in Lincoln County. There are 129 private landowners involved in the property acquisition phase, and the project will be let May 9. WYDOT has made every attempt to negotiate with the remaining landowners who have not signed agreements. The Department plans to move forward with condemnation proceedings soon so the project can get underway. Ms. Carlson will present further details about the next steps under the Chief Engineer's report later in the meeting.

WYDOT 2018 Customer Satisfaction Survey: The Commission will hear the results of the 2018 Customer Satisfaction Survey, recently conducted by the University of Wyoming Survey and Analysis Center, during an education session this afternoon. Director Reiner noted he was very pleased with the results, particularly in the area of the WHP.

Revised WYDOT Change Order Policy: WYDOT recently revised its Operating Policy 24-1, Monetary Limits and Spending Authority, to increase the dollar threshold for district engineer approval of change orders. Director Reiner advised this change was necessary to increase efficiency at the district level.

Capacity Purchase Agreement (CPA) for Enhanced Air Service: WYDOT has reached an agreement with a new airline to provide enhanced air service to several Wyoming communities. Mr. Olsen will provide further detail under the Aeronautics report later in the meeting.

Joint Transportation, Highways & Military Affairs Committee (JTC) Interim Meeting: The JTC will meet in Gillette, May 14-15, 2019. WYDOT topics include wildlife crossings, WyoLink, and the Revenue Information System (RIS).

Miscellaneous Comments: Director Reiner will meet with various entities and WYDOT district leadership statewide in the coming weeks to discuss his future vision for the agency.

Director Reiner shared a story about an incident that occurred on April 16, 2019. Mr. Tucker Court, a highway maintenance worker from Rock Springs, was conducting litter control along I-80, and as he came to a stop off the shoulder of the road, a smaller vehicle struck his WYDOT pickup. The driver of the smaller vehicle had fallen asleep at the wheel. The driver's vehicle ultimately caught fire, and Mr. Court rushed to his aid and put out the fire. Director Reiner and Chief Engineer Carlson spoke with Mr. Tucker yesterday by phone to offer their appreciation for rescuing the other driver, and to wish him well in his recovery.

4. FY 2019 Second Quarter Budget Revision: Mr. Freier explained the significant changes that were included in the second quarter budget revision.

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

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

Monthly Budget Report: Mr. Freier presented the monthly budget report. The March 2019 budget report revealed that the Commission budget is 47 percent expended, and the Legislative budget is 46 percent expended, which is within budget tolerances.

6. It was recommended by Mr. Byrne, moved by Commissioner Espy, seconded by Commissioner Dolezal, and carried to approve purchase for Bid No. 19-122AC to furnish guardrail repair and associated work at various locations in Districts 3 and 5. S&L Industrial, of Cowley, Wyoming, was awarded the bid for the sum of \$369,993.40.

7. Indexed Fuel Tax Collections, Consumer Price Index Versus Wyoming Cost of Living Index: At its March 21, 2019, business meeting, the Commission requested information about indexed fuel tax collections and how much revenue would have been collected if the tax had been indexed over the years. Mr. Byrne provided a handout titled, "Indexed Fuel Tax Collections, Consumer Price Index versus the Wyoming Cost of Living Index." Using the Wyoming Cost of Living Index (WCLI), \$271 million more would have been collected if indexing was implemented in 1999, and the tax rate would have been \$0.227 per gallon by 2013. Using the Consumer Price Index (CPI) through 2013, approximately \$178.5 million more would have been collected, and the tax rate would have been \$0.194 per gallon.

The Legislature approved a \$0.10 per gallon fuel tax increase in 2014. Using the WCLI, the state would have collected an additional \$13,812,958 in fuel tax for use on Wyoming highways while the per-gallon tax would have increased by only \$0.01. Applying the CPI to the \$0.24 per gallon gas tax between 2014 and 2018 would have generated an additional \$12,909,677 in fuel tax revenue.

WYDOT prepared information about the potential impacts of removing Federal Mineral Royalty (FMR) distributions and replacing it with fuel tax indexing. Based on today's revenue scenario, WYDOT would have lost \$23 million with the potential removal of FMR funds, and the indexing would have realized a net loss of \$140 million to the Department over the next 11 years. Mr. Byrne estimated it would take 23 years for WYDOT to make up the \$140 million loss.

Mr. Byrne also explained the loss of buying power, inflation to the 2019 budget, and WYDOT's actual funding needs today.

8. Budget and Audit Committee: Commissioner Espy suggested appointing a three-member Budget and Audit Committee, so the Commission can become more engaged in supporting WYDOT staff in finding a solution to WYDOT's financial shortfall.

It was moved by Commissioner Espy, seconded by Commissioner Dolezal, and carried to appoint a Budget and Audit Committee within the Commission, to consist of three members, one from each Commission term, and members to be appointed by Chairman Larson. Chairman Larson appointed himself, Commissioner Schmidt, and Commissioner Filer to serve on the committee.

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

Change Orders: Ms. Carlson recently approved Change Order No. 2 for the District 3 patching contract. The change order was for \$929,741 and is for patching at additional locations identified between Mileposts 131 and 136 on I-80. Verbal approval to proceed with the work was granted April 3, 2019.

A change order worth \$353,670 was also verbally approved April 8, 2019, for additional patching material on the I-80 Point of Rocks West Section between Mileposts 120 and 130. The additional patching is needed to accommodate diverted traffic onto the eastbound lane.

Ms. Carlson came before the Commission in December 2018 to add a new landslide repair near the Lava Creek Ranch to an existing landslide repair on Togwotee Pass. The additional work required a change order for \$529,623. A subsequent geological study deemed that a larger riprap material was necessary for the repair, requiring a new material source. The additional materials and labor were recently approved by a change order amounting to \$119,550, or 22.6 percent of the original contract amount.

District Engineer Approval Authority: The current threshold for the district engineers' change order approval is \$50,000. Director Reiner and Chief Engineer Carlson agreed to raise the district engineers' approval authority to \$100,000 and the assistant chief engineers' approval authority to \$150,000. This modification will result in fewer contractor delays. Ms. Carlson will work with the chief financial officer to monitor costs, keep expenditures stable, and ensure no issues arise from this change.

Beartooth Highway Project Update: The FHWA Central Federal Lands Office in Lakewood, Colorado will open bids for the Beartooth Highway Project on May 2, 2019. The estimated project cost is between \$14 million and \$17 million. WYDOT received a \$16.6 million Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery grant for the project. After receiving the grant, the Department deemed the grant would not cover the entire project, so alternates were included in the bidding process to gain the best product for the available dollars.

The Transportation Commission meets in Cody, June 20, 2019. A June 19 education session about the Beartooth Highway project is planned, followed by a tour of the Beartooth Highway and Chief Joseph landslide repair.

Wildlife Crossings: The Joint Transportation, Highways & Military Affairs Committee (JTC) will consider wildlife crossings as a 2019 interim topic. Ms. Carlson will present historic information to the JTC about measures taken by WYDOT and plans for new wildlife crossings at

wildlife hot spots in Wyoming. A Wildlife Summit was held in 2017, and the Wyoming Wildlife Roadway Initiative Implementation Team (WRIIT) was established to address wildlife crossing issues. The WRIIT identified 43 priority wildlife crossing sites, and the group pared the list down to the top 10 priority projects. Ms. Carlson will present the top 10 projects and their related cost estimates to the JTC at their May 15, 2019, interim meeting.

The Legislature passed a bill in 2019 to establish a wildlife license plate. Proceeds from the license plate sales will help pay for future wildlife crossings. The top priority wildlife crossing project focuses on preventing deer collisions in and around Dubois. Seven portable dynamic message signs have been purchased for use in cautioning drivers about the significant deer population in the area. Permanent, dual speed limit signs and overhead message signs are also included in Phase 2 to address the issue. The estimated cost of Phase 2 is about \$750,000, and Ms. Carlson hopes to utilize funds from the wildlife license plate sales for designing this project.

National Governor's Association (NGA) Conference, West Regional Transportation Electrification Workshop: Ms. Carlson and Mr. Fulton attended the NGA Conference in Seattle, Washington on April 3-4, 2019. Wyoming is a signatory on the Western States Regional Electric Vehicle Memorandum of Understanding. Ms. Carlson plans to attend upcoming meetings with other western states, via telephone, and become more involved in the regional deployment of electric vehicle charging stations. Wyoming's focus when developing a plan will be I-80, I-25, and I-90.

WYDOT cannot sell power through the charging stations, so it plans to work with truck stops and other business owners to develop charging stations. Wyoming received \$1.25 million from the 2017 Volkswagen emissions settlement. WYDOT will use those funds to establish charging stations on interstate routes and near Yellowstone Park in Wyoming.

Etna North Project Update: At its October 2017 business meeting, the Commission approved a Resolution for the Exercise of Eminent Domain for the Thayne to Afton Road project, Etna North Section. Following resolution approval, WYDOT reached out to the 14 remaining landowners with which WYDOT had not successfully negotiated, to no avail. Five of the remaining landowners dispute WYDOT's valuation of their property, and nine are fundamentally opposed to the project. WYDOT will soon begin condemnation proceedings, which will postpone the \$20 million Etna project until FY 2020. Three other smaller projects will be accelerated into FY 2019 to fill the void left by the Etna North project.

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

FY 2019 On-the-Job-Training/Support Services (OJT/SS) Funds: WYDOT recently received \$37,760 in federal funds for OJT/SS. The allocation does not require the state to provide matching funds. The program affords WYDOT the opportunity to partner with the Wyoming Contractors Association to recruit minority- and female-owned businesses to work in Wyoming. OJT/SS funds also provide training and employment opportunities for women, minorities, and disadvantaged individuals starting into the construction industry.

Stale-But-Active Construction Projects Update: Mr. Cawley noted that, since February 2019, 12 projects have been finalized, allowing \$1.7 million in federal funds to be repurposed for much needed construction projects in Wyoming.

Wyoming's 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Transportation and Safety Congress: Wyoming's 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Transportation and Safety Congress was held in Casper last month. The event was a success based upon the collaboration between WYDOT, counties, cities, metropolitan planning organizations, vendors, and the University of Wyoming. Three sessions were presented at the event, including local public agency certification, work zone safety and flagger certification, and a tract that focused on Wyoming-specific transportation-related updates. Approximately 250 participants attended the event.

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

Federal project STP-PM-B181010, involving grading, placing crushed base, concrete slab replacement, and miscellaneous work at various locations in Transportation District 1, including Laramie County. Completion date: June 30, 2020

Engineer's Estimate	\$2,455,430.00	
S & S Builders, LLC, Gillette, WY	\$2,169,882.50	-11.6%
Simon Contractors and its subsidiaries, Cheyenne, WY	\$2,460,045.02	
Acme Concrete Paving, Inc., Spokane, WA	\$3,498,325.00	

It was recommended by Mr. Fulton, moved by Commissioner Espy, seconded by Commissioner Dolezal, and carried that S & S Builders, LLC, 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 STP-BR-B192017 and DR24283 combined, involving grading, placing crushed base and bituminous pavement surfacing, concrete slab replacement, bridge rehabilitation, and miscellaneous work at various locations in Transportation District 2, including Converse, Laramie, and Platte counties. Completion date: July 31, 2020

Engineer's Estimate	\$3,983,184.00	
Dietzler Construction Corporation, Yoder, WY	\$2,988,550.00	-25.0%
S & S Builders, LLC, Gillette, WY	\$3,109,087.65	
Reiman Corp., Cheyenne, WY	\$3,489,681.10	

It was recommended by Mr. Fulton, moved by Commissioner Pfrangle, seconded by Commissioner Filer, and carried that Dietzler Construction Corporation, Yoder, 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-PM-B183015, involving placing crushed base, concrete slab replacement, and miscellaneous work at various locations in Transportation District 3, including Teton and Uinta counties. Completion date: October 31, 2019

Engineer's Estimate	\$ 828,450.00	
DePatco, Inc., Idaho Falls, ID	\$1,370,577.75	+65.4%
JM Concrete, Inc., Idaho Falls, ID	\$2,271,300.00	

It was recommended by Mr. Fulton, moved by Commissioner Dolezal, seconded by Commissioner Filer, and carried that DePatco, 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. Vice Chairman Newton and Commissioner Espy voted no.

Federal project NHPP-N361062, involving grading, draining, placing bases, bituminous pavement surfacing, chip sealing, and miscellaneous work on approximately 6.60 miles of US 16, beginning at reference marker (RM) 18.53 and County Road 20-55, between Worland and Ten Sleep, in Washakie County. Completion date: June 30, 2020

Engineer's Estimate	\$3,536,996.50	
Mountain Construction Company, Lovell, WY	\$3,557,053.78	+0.6%
McGarvin-Moberly Construction Co., Worland, WY	\$3,650,056.82	
Century Companies, Inc., Lewistown, MT	\$3,782,389.85	
Simon Contractors and its subsidiaries, Cheyenne, WY	\$4,034,779.73	

It was recommended by Mr. Fulton, moved by Commissioner Filer, seconded by Commissioner Pfrangle, 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 STP-BR-B195008, involving grading, placing crushed base and bituminous pavement surfacing, bridge rehabilitation, and miscellaneous work at various locations in Transportation District 5, including Big Horn and Park counties. Completion date: October 31, 2020

Engineer's Estimate	\$1,650,178.00	
S & S Builders, LLC, Gillette, WY	\$2,055,705.00	+24.6%
Gerber Construction, Inc & subsidiary, Lehi, UT	\$2,100,815.00	
Reiman Corp., Cheyenne, WY	\$2,257,411.10	

It was recommended by Mr. Fulton, moved by Commissioner Filer, seconded by Commissioner Pfrangle, and carried that S & S Builders, LLC, 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 project NHPP-GM-B145005, involving grading, draining, guardrail work, and miscellaneous work on approximately 4.60 miles of US 16/20, at various locations between Manderson and Basin, in Big Horn County. Completion date: October 31, 2019

Engineer's Estimate	\$1,384,329.00	
Wilson Bros. Construction, Inc., Cowley, WY	\$1,241,428.10	-10.3%
Oftedal Construction, Inc., Casper, WY	\$1,268,442.50	
Patrick Construction, Inc., Lander, WY	\$1,758,942.00	

It was recommended by Mr. Fulton, moved by Commissioner Dolezal, seconded by Commissioner Filer, 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 STP-2203017, involving scrub seal, crack surfacing, and miscellaneous work on approximately 14.50 miles of WYO 434, just south of its intersection with US 16, beginning at RM 0.267, in Washakie County. Completion date: August 31, 2019

Engineer's Estimate	\$ 826,200.00	
Intermountain Slurry Seal, Inc., North Salt Lake, UT	\$1,096,450.00	+32.7%

It was recommended by Mr. Fulton, moved by Commissioner Espy, seconded by Commissioner Filer, and carried that Intermountain Slurry Seal, Inc., North Salt Lake, Utah, 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. Mr. Fulton presented the following project for Commission consideration. Fremont County let the project, and it involves Industrial Road Program (IRP) funds, so it requires Commission concurrence in the award.

State project IRP-CN10109 (County Road 10-176, Moneta to Lysite), involving construction of the roadway improvements in Fremont County, which involves construction of safety shoulders along plus or minus 8.2 miles of roadway, and guardrail installation in areas where slope construction is not feasible. The project is located in Transportation District 5, including Fremont County. Completion date: October 31, 2019

Engineer's Estimate	\$1,560,770.10	
R.S. Bennett, Big Piney, WY	\$1,429,748.50	-8.4%
Wilson Brothers, Lovell, WY	\$1,856,952.50	
Patrick Construction, Lander, WY	\$2,072,289.00	

It was recommended by Mr. Fulton, moved by Commissioner Espy, seconded by Commissioner Dolezal, and carried to concur in the award of this project to R.S. Bennett, of Big Piney, Wyoming.



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

**FREMONT COUNTY**

HRRR HR19501; Wind River Indian Reservation, various locations; guardrail; FY 2019; request federal preliminary engineering funds of \$4,381; request federal construction engineering and construction funds of \$95,411

HRRR HR19502; Wind River Indian Reservation, various locations; rumble strips; FY 2019, request federal preliminary engineering funds of \$3,285; request federal construction funds of \$35,003

HRRR HR19503; Wind River Indian Reservation, various locations, sign replacement; FY 2019, request federal preliminary engineering funds of \$4,381; request federal construction engineering and construction funds of \$76,796

**GOSHEN COUNTY**

HRRR HR19201; various county roads; centerline markings; FY 2019; request federal preliminary engineering funds of \$5,000; request federal construction engineering and construction funds of \$104,510

**LINCOLN COUNTY**

HRRR HR19301; various county roads; delineator posts; FY 2019; request federal construction funds of \$40,000

HRRR HR19302; County Road 306, north side; guardrail; FY 2019; request federal construction funds of \$60,000

HRRR HR19303; various county roads; centerline markings; FY 2019; request federal construction funds of \$110,000

**SHERIDAN COUNTY**

NHPP N372048; US 14, Ranchester, Burlington Northern Railroad Separation; FY 2019; drilled shaft for load testing for future bridge; request federal construction funds of \$100,000

14. Second-Quarter State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) Addendum: Mr. Fulton presented the second-quarter addendum to the FY 2019 STIP.

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

15. It was recommended by Mr. Fulton, moved by Commissioner Dolezal, seconded by Commissioner Filer, and carried to approve the following Resolution for Abandonment.

**RESOLUTION FOR ABANDONMENT**

WHEREAS, under the provisions and authority of W.S. 24-3-126, the Transportation Commission of Wyoming may abandon or relinquish any portion of state highways upon reconstruction or relocation of an existing state highway; and

WHEREAS, a portion of Wyoming Department of Transportation's right-of-way for Hwy 87/Speigelberg, Circle 8, Sheridan County, Wyoming, established under Project Number SN FAP-83, is no longer needed for state highway or public use purposes. Said portion being described as follows:

Part of the NW¼ of Section 35, Township 55 North, Range 84 West of the 6<sup>th</sup> Principal Meridian, Sheridan County, Wyoming, more particularly described as follows:

That portion of the existing right-of-way easement as described in Block 57 at page 343 of the Sheridan County Records, which lays within Tracts of Arab Acres Subdivision, as recorded June 6, 1961, in Book 2 of Plats on Page 52.

The above described parcel of land contains 0.14 acre, more or less.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Transportation Commission of Wyoming hereby abandons the above-described land as provided for under provisions and authority of W.S. 24-3-126.

16. Mr. Gillett introduced Mr. Tom DeHoff, District Engineer from Laramie, to present the District 1 State-of-the-District report.

District 1 State-of-the-District Report: Mr. Tom DeHoff, District Engineer from Laramie, presented the District 1 state-of-the-district report.

District 1 encompasses Laramie, Carbon, and Albany counties, and more than one-fourth of the state's population lives within District 1 boundaries. The U.S. Census Bureau recently reported that Laramie County is on track to have over 100,000 residents by 2020, or about 7,000 more residents than in 2010. Albany County has grown by more than 2,300 residents since 2010. Carbon County has fewer residents today than in 2010.

WYDOT crews assisted the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) and firefighting crews to put out the Ryan Fire in Carbon County. The fire began September 15, 2018, ultimately burning 28,585 acres and coming within one-half mile of Highway 230 south of Riverside.

District 1 is considering lighted wildlife crossing signs district-wide. The district is working with the Wyoming Game and Fish Department to identify wildlife migration corridors where the new LED signs may help to avoid vehicle-wildlife collisions. Apart from the LED signs, district staff is working with the Game and Fish Department to develop early plans for a wildlife crossing over I-80 near Halleck Ridge. The Wildlife Roadway Initiative Implementation Team identified this location as the second highest priority in the state for consideration of an overpass because of significant mule deer and elk migrations.

Several new very large wind energy projects will be developed in Carbon County over the next few years. Districts 1 and 2 have communicated with the energy companies to guide their transportation plans along state highways to enable economic development while still providing a safe and efficient transportation system for travelers.

A resurfacing project will begin within the next few weeks on Grand Avenue, between 3<sup>rd</sup> Street and 15<sup>th</sup> Street, in Laramie. The project involves new curb and gutter, traffic signal replacement, and ADA-compliant intersections.

Plans are underway to revamp 3<sup>rd</sup> Street in Laramie. WYDOT, the City of Laramie, and Laramie Main Street Alliance hosted a public meeting about the project. Laramie residents and business owners provided significant input about the design.

WYDOT is working on a preliminary design for the Winter Freight Improvement Plan. The plan includes the construction of two new truck parking lots and the addition of a third lane at two locations along I-80. A federal grant will fund the project. The project will be let in FY 2022.

WYDOT crews and the WHP assisted with the Badger Creek Fire in Albany County that began June 10, 2018. The fire burned 21,310 acres in a matter of days due to high winds and dry conditions. The fire crossed Highway 230 in several places near Fox Park and Mountain Home, necessitating closing the road during the middle of the summer recreation season. The fire also caused the closure of Highway 10 as it spread eastward. Department forces replaced about two miles of burned right-of-way fence along Highway 230 because of the fire.

WYDOT is working with Wyoming State Parks and the USFS on a project to expand the snowmobile parking areas on WYO 130.

An EF-3 tornado struck north of Laramie, in Albany County, on June 6, 2018. The tornado made a path through an unoccupied area and crossed U.S. 30/287, destroying WYDOT's right-of-way fence in the process. WYDOT closed US 30/287 during the tornado, and maintenance crews repaired the right-of-way fence the next day.

While District 1 crews are working hard across all of southeast Wyoming, some of the biggest challenges are happening in Laramie County. Rapid growth in Cheyenne is affecting the state highway system throughout the metro area, as hundreds of new homes are planned for construction. Further development on Cheyenne's east side and the new Sweetgrass Development to the south are among the biggest projects. WYDOT is proactively planning for the future of those areas.

District 1 recently announced the construction of a new right-turn lane on US 30 at Whitney Road in east Cheyenne. This project will help address increasing traffic in the coming years as well as residents' concerns about that intersection. The district also has a future project planned in FY 2024 that will expand US 30 to five lanes from Pershing Boulevard east to Archer in Cheyenne.

WYDOT is also planning to reconstruct College Drive in south Cheyenne, near LCCC, to a right-angle intersection from the curve that exists today. The current estimate for the project is more than \$20 million, but the project will be necessary as the Sweetgrass Development begins to take shape. A groundbreaking will take place in the fall for a new 77,000 square foot

convention center in that area. The project will be complete by 2021 at a cost of about \$55 million.

WYDOT has been working with the U.S. Air Force to identify a location for the annual Air Force Thunderbirds performance during Cheyenne Frontier Days. The Thunderbirds' air show will be held at F.E. Warren Air Force Base this year due to the development of Sweetgrass near Laramie County Community College.

WYDOT has resumed responsibility from the City of Cheyenne for traffic signal maintenance on state highways in Cheyenne. The city had originally agreed to maintain those signals, but they recently opted to end that long-time agreement with WYDOT. This change necessitated hiring one new traffic operations employee in District 1.

The district has had major turnover within its Maintenance Program, primarily because of non-competitive wages with the private sector. District maintenance crews have lost workers with many years of experience. Mr. DeHoff hopes the problem can be resolved in the future.

Equipment used by district forces is aging, and repairs are becoming more frequent. Mr. DeHoff expressed concern about not having adequate resources for crews to perform their mission.

Mr. Gillett continued with the rest of the Operations report.

Construction Update: Construction season is underway with 4 active projects in District 1, 11 in District 2, 9 each in Districts 3 and 4, and 10 in District 5, for a total of 43 projects statewide. Two of the largest projects are the Sheridan Interchange on I-90 and Jackson South on US 191.

Maintenance Update: Another major snowstorm impacted Wyoming roads on April 10-11, 2019. This storm was not as intense as the March weather event, but it affected the entire state. A few highways were closed from crashes, not necessarily because of snow accumulation. I-80 was closed from Cheyenne east to the Nebraska state line at the request of the Nebraska Department of Transportation.

Crews from Districts 4 and 5 have started snow removal on US 14A between Sheridan and Lovell over the Big Horn Mountains. District 1 will begin snow removal in the near future on WYO 130 over the Snowy Range and WYO 70 over the Sierra Madre Mountains.

Mr. Gillett advised that maintenance crews have experienced a very difficult winter season this year, perhaps the toughest in the last five years. Mr. Gillett acknowledged maintenance forces for their efforts and offered his appreciation for their persistent commitment to their work.

Between snowstorms, maintenance crews have begun fence repair, street sweeping, filling potholes, replacing delineators posts, preparing for paving, and conducting other spring activities.

Many snowplows have been involved in crashes this winter, including 4 in District 1, 10 in District 2, 4 in District 3, 6 in District 4, and 4 in District 5, for a total of 28 snowplow hits this winter.

District 3 performed seven man-made avalanche missions this month. Teton Pass was closed on two separate occasions for a total of only three hours to remove snow from the roadway.

A weight restriction was recently implemented on US 191, between Kaycee and Mayoworth, as frost thawing and overweight haul trucks were causing the pavement to crumble at several locations along that route. Repairs are underway.

Surface cracking and potholes have necessitated reducing the speed limit on I-80 between Lyman and Patrick Draw.

WYO 338, between Sheridan and Decker, Montana, sustained damage to the road surface due to increased traffic from a recent I-90 closure necessitated by the Big Horn River overtopping the interstate. WYDOT will have to repair the road damage on WYO 338 in the near future.

Mr. Gillett provided the Commission with a snow pack-water equivalent map. The map depicted only a few areas in Wyoming that could potentially experience minor spring flooding.

Traffic Operations Update: Traffic crews are finishing their winter maintenance on the striping units, and they have begun spring striping operations as weather permits.

Mechanics Update: Mechanic shops are busy repairing snow removal equipment from the last storm and preparing equipment for summer maintenance operations.

WYDOT Facilities Update: All Wyoming rest areas are open at this time.

17. Colonel Haller presented the Highway Patrol report.

The Fatal Crash Summary through March 31, 2019, includes 26<sup>1</sup> fatal crashes involving 35<sup>1</sup> deaths. The fatalities include 9 rollover crashes, 22 multi-car crashes, and 4 pedestrians. Of the 26 fatal crashes that have occurred in 2019, 13<sup>2</sup> involved commercial vehicles.

Colonel Haller noted that 17 fatalities occurred in March alone, and the trend is related to driver behavior, particularly distracted driving. The WHP is working hard to educate the public about safety awareness, and to provide enforcement to change this movement. WYDOT's variable speed limit signs are also being used to generate a safer driving environment.

Of the 35 deaths that have occurred this year, 16 can be attributed to the non-use of occupant restraints, with 5 involving rollover crashes and 11 involving multi-car collisions. Ten of those who died from the non-use of occupant restraints were Wyoming residents. Four of those who

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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).

perished were under 21 years of age, and one of those fatalities was attributed to the failure to use proper occupant restraints.

There were 5<sup>3</sup> fatal crashes deemed drug or alcohol related, resulting in 9<sup>3</sup> deaths. Of those deaths, 2<sup>3</sup> were attributed to not using occupant restraints. One was a rollover crash, 7 were multi-car crashes, and 1 involved a pedestrian. Of the 9 drug- or alcohol-related fatalities, none involved commercial vehicles.

Of the 26 fatal crashes that have occurred this year, 13 of them occurred on primary/secondary highways, 12 occurred on interstate highways, and one occurred on a city/county road.

Of the multiple-fatality crashes that occurred on Wyoming highways in 2019, 7 involved multiple vehicles, 3 involved commercial vehicles, and 2 were alcohol related.

In locations where rumble strips/strips were present, there were 13<sup>4</sup> crashes. There were 11<sup>4</sup> crashes where rumble strips/strips were not present.

Inclement weather or road conditions contributed to 5 vehicle crashes in 2019, which resulted in 7 deaths. Speed was considered a factor in 7 of the vehicle crashes that caused 9 deaths.

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

Sunday	2 crashes
Monday	1 crashes
Tuesday	5 crashes
Wednesday	6 crashes
Thursday	5 crashes
Friday	4 crashes
Saturday	3 crashes

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

12:00 a.m. to 6:00 a.m.	2 crashes
6:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.	9 crashes
12:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.	10 crashes
6:00 p.m. to 12:00 a.m.	5 crashes

Of the 26 fatal crashes, it is unknown whether distraction was a contributing factor in 10 of the incidents.

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

<sup>4</sup> Numbers from crash reports received as of the time of reporting.

The Commission also heard the following statistics:

- 67 percent of those who died in rollover crashes were unbelted.
- 41 percent of all those who died in multi-vehicle crashes were unbelted.
- 60 percent of the fatalities in 2019 were drivers.
- 29 percent of the fatalities in 2019 were passengers.
- 59 percent of the resident fatalities were unrestrained.
- 11 percent of the non-resident fatalities were unbuckled.
- Alcohol and/or drug impairment was a factor in 26 percent of the fatalities.

Colonel Haller advised that drug impairment arrests have increased this year, and that he anticipates drug-related apprehensions will eventually surpass alcohol-related arrests in the near future.

Patrol-Investigated Crash Summary: The Patrol-Investigated Crash Summary depicts 1,684<sup>5</sup> crashes statewide, of which 1,032 involved non-commercial vehicles and 652 involved commercial vehicles.

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

Wyoming Highway Patrol Basic Academy Location: As stated by Director Reiner earlier in the meeting, the WHP's basic training academy will be moving to the Laramie County Community College (LCCC) in Cheyenne. The WHP conducted a business case study to determine the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and potential threats from the proposed move to LCCC. The move will allow trooper cadets and recruits to utilize the LCCC classrooms, dorm rooms, gymnasium, and cafeteria during training events. The WHP will also have dedicated office space for its trainers. LCCC will benefit from having added law enforcement presence on campus and at a nearby daycare facility. The overall cost of logistics and resources will also be less at the new location. Colonel Haller also hopes to increase WHP recruitment by hosting trooper training at the college.

Trooper Recruitment: The WHP currently has 18 trooper candidates who have passed the trooper examination and background checks. Five of the 18 are pre-certified law enforcement officers, and this fact will allow them to begin their WHP careers sooner. If all 18 candidates ultimately become troopers, WHP will have 14 trooper positions left to fill. Testing will be held again in late May or early June to fill the 14 remaining trooper positions.

Annual Visit with WHP Personnel: Colonel Haller has begun his annual visits with WHP field offices. So far, Colonel Haller has found that, although most personnel are tired, morale is good and dedication to their mission remains high. Adequate compensation continues to be a frequent discussion topic.

WYDOT 2018 Customer Satisfaction Survey: The 2018 Customer Satisfaction Survey results will be presented during an education session this afternoon. Colonel Haller advised that the

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

WHP received very good results from the survey, which proves the WHP's commitment to providing good customer service.

18. Chairman Larson recessed the meeting at 12:02 p.m., on Thursday, April 18, 2019. The Commission had lunch with February, March, and April 2019 service award recipients.

19. Chairman Larson reconvened the business meeting at 1:50 p.m., on Thursday, April 18, 2019. Vice Chairman Newton, Ms. Erica Legerski, and Mr. Jeff Brown did not return to the meeting.

20. Mr. Olsen presented the Aeronautics report beginning with the March 2019 Aeronautics Flight Operations Passenger Summary Report.

Capacity Purchase Agreement Update: In 2018, the Commercial Air Service Improvement Council worked to solicit requests for proposals (RFP) to select an airline to provide commercial air service at Sheridan, Riverton, Rock Springs, and Gillette. Two RFPs were received, one from Denver Air Connection and another from SkyWest Airlines. Interviews were conducted and SkyWest was selected to serve Wyoming communities. Contract negotiations are underway with the four airports. Mr. Olsen anticipates the contracts will be executed by June 30, 2019.

21. Mr. Rossetti presented the Support Services report.

Employment Summary: WYDOT employed 1,923 personnel as of April 2, 2019, compared to 1,914 a month ago and 1,898 one year ago. There are currently 86 WYDOT positions advertised statewide, of which 66 are field positions and 31 of those positions are for seasonal employment.

WYDOT will participate in job fairs at LCCC in Cheyenne and Sheridan College this month to fill various positions.

Driver Services Operations: The Driver Services office in Baggs recently experienced a connectivity issue, which necessitated providing a manual testing option for customers needing a driver's license renewal. A makeup date for driver's license issuances will be held in Baggs in May. Notification of the additional testing opportunity was issued to Baggs-area customers on April 15, 2019.

Legislative Update: The passage of SF007, Alternate Penalties & Pretrial Release for Alcohol Crimes, during the 2019 legislative session requires creating a new rule for alternative penalties for DUI offenses.

HB0191, Driver's Licenses - Medical Alert Designation, also passed during the 2019 session. The bill requires a symbol be placed on certain licenses that will alert first responders when individuals have a medical condition.

JTC Interim Topics: Mr. Rossetti advised that the JTC plans to attempt to modernize some outdated transportation-related statutes that are no longer applicable or pertinent to WYDOT operations.



The Revenue Information System (RIS) is also an interim topic. WYDOT is working closely with the State Enterprise Technology Services to identify the needs, continue education efforts, identify and bring together the stakeholders and create a way for the Legislature to understand so a solution can be found for a RIS replacement. The current estimate to replace RIS is about \$68 million.

22. Mr. Lewis presented the Chief Technology Officer's report.

JTC Interim Topic - Public Safety Communications Commission (PSCC) Overview: Mr. Lewis advised that future PSCC funding will be discussed at the May 15, 2019, JTC meeting in Gillette.

Next Generation 911 Coordinator Position: During the 2019 session, the Legislature directed Governor Gordon to appoint a Next Generation 911 coordinator. Establishing this position is one requirement to be completed in order to be eligible for future federal funding.

Director Reiner nominated Mr. Troy Babbitt, WYDOT's Emergency Communications Program Manager, for the position. Mr. Lewis will keep the Commission informed of Governor Gordon's decision about the appointment.

WyoLink Tower Buildout Update: In 2013, the PSCC developed and recommended a list of 16 new WyoLink towers that were still needed to complete the initial installations, in an effort to establish interoperable communications throughout Wyoming. Through legislative action, the PSCC was moved from the Department of Homeland Security to reside with WYDOT in 2017. WYDOT was able to allocate about \$16 million in federal funds to build those 16 towers, and received approval to proceed from FHWA in early 2018. Over the last two years, the steps for identifying and negotiating for specific tower locations through preliminary surveys and environmental/NEPA process approvals on the majority of the towers have been completed and construction is now beginning in several locations.

A groundbreaking ceremony will be held in Buffalo May 14, 2019, for the first of the 16 WyoLink tower sites. Mr. Lewis invited Transportation Commission members to attend the event.

The Commission also received the monthly WyoLink site location update during the Chief Technology Officer's report. The Wright, Orin Junction, and Lusk WyoLink towers will be underway in the near future.

WYDOT's "511" Map Application: WYDOT's Intelligent Transportation Systems/Graphical Information Systems (ITS/GIS) personnel are continuously updating, maintaining, and improving the "511" web application. Wyoming's ports-of-entries and operating hours were recently added to the "511" map. Mr. Lewis noted that the Department's "511" application received 1.2 billion hits in 2017, and 1.6 billion hits were received in 2018.

23. It was moved by Commissioner Espy, seconded by Commissioner Filer, and carried to adjourn the meeting. Chairman Larson adjourned the meeting at 2:20 p.m., on Thursday, April 18, 2019.