

TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION OF WYOMING

The Transportation Commission of Wyoming met via telephone on April 16, 2020. Chairman Newton convened the business meeting at 9:30 a.m. Secretary Scott called the roll. The following members were present constituting a quorum:

Rick Newton, Chairman, Buffalo
Phil Schmidt, Vice Chairman, Casper
Mike Larson, Commissioner, Lusk
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; Troy Babbitt, Chief Technology Officer; Colonel Kebin Haller, Wyoming Highway Patrol (WHP) Administrator; Mike Kahler, Senior Assistant Attorney General; Ryan Thompson, Assistant Attorney General; Rodney Freier, Budget Program Manager; and Bryan Cawley, Division Administrator, Federal Highway Administration (FHWA).

Other meeting attendees: Erica Legerski, Senior Policy Advisor to Governor Gordon; Doug McGee, Public Affairs Program Manager; John Davis, Management Services Program Manager; Katie Legerski, Executive Director, Associated General Contractors (AGC) of Wyoming; David Rael, President, S & L Industrial; John Mulcare, Division Administrator for the FHWA Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA); and Cindy Thompsen, Deputy Division Administrator, FHWA.

1. Pledge of Allegiance: Chairman Newton led the attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance.
2. Approval of Minutes: It was recommended by Secretary Scott, moved by Commissioner Larson, seconded by Vice Chairman Schmidt, and carried to approve the minutes from the March 19, 2020, business meeting.
3. Director Reiner presented the Director's report.

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Briefing: Director Reiner advised that COVID-19 has had a significant impact on WYDOT operations over the past month. The Department is committed to taking care of its employees while accomplishing its mission throughout the COVID-19 environment. Director Reiner shared that he is very proud of how WYDOT employees have responded to the event and how they are taking care of business.

As of today, over 500 Department employees are teleworking. Director Reiner thanked Mr. Troy Babbitt and his staff for their extraordinary work to get those individuals situated so they are able to work from home.

Masks, hand sanitizer, and cleaning supplies have been distributed to WYDOT offices statewide. Larger field crews have split up to vary work schedules to maximize social distancing. Plexi-glass shields have been installed at most Driver Services, ports-of-entry, and other offices where employees deal face-to-face with the public. Troopers are still providing law enforcement on Wyoming highways.

Director Reiner has encouraged employees who are scared or those who may be facing some sort of hardship from COVID-19 to reach out to mental health and other professionals for assistance. The WYDOT employee assistance program is also available for those who may need some financial assistance.

Two WYDOT employees have tested positive for the virus; one is already back to work, and the other is doing fine and is expected to be back to work soon. In both cases, work areas were thoroughly cleaned, and no apparent cross contamination occurred within the work crews.

WYDOT has worked with the AGC of Wyoming to provide safe work conditions on highway construction projects.

Department personnel are actively participating in transporting COVID-19 supplies to and from various areas of the state, and highway message signs are being used to convey critical messages to travelers.

Director Reiner indicated WYDOT's budget will be impacted by the reduction in traffic on Wyoming highways due to the COVID-19 quarantine. This week's automobile traffic counts were 30 percent lower than normal, and commercial truck counts were 10 percent lower. Adjustments will be necessary in the months ahead to balance Department expenditures with the reduced fuel tax revenue.

Governor Gordon issued a letter on April 15, 2020, implementing a hiring freeze and asking that all state agencies seek ways to reduce budgets.

The American Association of State Highway & Transportation Officials (AASHTO) members met early this morning to discuss state departments of transportation (DOT) matters related to the pandemic. AASHTO will request \$50 billion in short-term federal "backstop" funds to replace DOT revenues lost because of the COVID-19 event. AASHTO is also working with Congress on a \$500 billion long-term funding solution for state DOTs.

The federal government is also distributing stimulus funds to states to cover COVID-19-related expenses. Wyoming anticipates receiving \$1.25 billion.

Wyoming airports will receive almost \$50 million in stimulus funds, and the Federal Transit Authority will provide WYDOT with about \$28 million, of which \$6 million will go toward Wyoming's urban system and the remaining \$22 million for distribution to 41 rural communities. The funds will be used to carry the programs through this crisis.

Director Reiner has started discussing with WYDOT leadership the best way to reopen the Department once Governor Gordon has given authorization to do so, including gradually allowing more individuals through the Driver Services offices.

Oversize Loads on Wyoming Highways: Director Reiner and Colonel Haller continue to work with WESTECH of Casper about their transporting mega-loads on Wyoming highways. More information will be shared with the Commission later.

Management Council Meeting: The Management Council Committee is meeting today to discuss interim topics and a potential special legislative session. WYDOT's proposed interim topics include revenue, highway safety, and statute updates.

Wind River Transit Authority (WRTA): On February 5, 2020, Director Reiner, Martin Kidner, and Sara Ellis met with the WRTA to address their non-compliance with federal documentation requirements. WYDOT withheld reimbursements to WRTA because of the findings.

The WRTA is now compliant with federal documentation requirements and has received full payment.

Road User Charge Exploratory Working Group (RUCEWG) Update: The RUCEWG continues to work on developing a plan to collect money for road usage in Wyoming. The timeline for implementation is rather aggressive, but Director Reiner would like to stay the course to determine who and when drivers will be charged. Proposed entities to be charged are International Fuel Trade Agreement (IFTA) trucks, non-IFTA trucks, and automobiles.

WYDOT plans to present the idea at the next Joint Transportation, Highways & Military Affairs Committee meeting.

Assistant Attorney General Ryan Thompson joined the meeting.

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

FY 2020 Second Quarter Budget Revision: Mr. Freier explained the significant changes in the second quarter budget revision.

It was recommended by Mr. Freier, moved by Commissioner Dolezal, seconded by Commissioner Espy, and carried to approve the second quarter budget revision to the FY 2020 Operating Budget.

5. Monthly Budget Report: Mr. Freier presented the monthly budget report. The March 2020 budget report revealed that the Commission budget is 51 percent expended, and the Legislative budget is 47 percent expended, both of which are within budget tolerances.

As of March 31, 2020, the Department's statewide snow control budget was overrunning by about \$6.7 million.

6. It was recommended by Mr. Byrne, moved by Vice Chairman Schmidt, seconded by Commissioner Dolezal, and carried to approve purchase for Bid No. 20-104MD to furnish three each, complete-build platform lift trucks with combined cab and chassis and platform lifts, including installation, for information technology operations in Casper and Lander and for traffic operations in District 2. The bid was awarded to Fremont Motor Sheridan, of Sheridan, Wyoming, for the sum of \$345,177.00.

7. Revenue Projections: Early projections are that WYDOT revenue will be reduced due to the COVID-19 event. According to traffic counts over the past month, traffic is stabilizing. Diesel revenue accounts for about 60 percent of the Department's fuel tax income. Mr. Byrne indicated the Budget Program is keeping a close eye on revenues and expenditures to ensure WYDOT can live within its budget through FY 2020.

Mr. Byrne advised that COVID-19 may have an even greater impact on the Department's FY 2021 budget because that budget will be based upon actual revenues between now and September 30, 2020.

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

Reallocation of Resources and State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) Project Update: The Commission received a handout depicting a list of 12 improvement projects in the STIP that will be delayed in an effort to meet WYDOT's rehabilitation goals for miles of roadway and square feet of bridge deck.

Director Reiner and Ms. Carlson met with Governor Gordon on April 7, 2020, to discuss prioritization criteria, including safety, preservation, warranted capacity increases, urban projects, and projects that send funding to local communities. Governor Gordon concurred with the Department's philosophy, prioritization criteria, and the proposed list of delayed projects.

WYDOT will continue to monitor the STIP to balance funding and need for FY 2021. Once the new STIP is finalized, WYDOT will reach out to the impacted communities to share its reason for the delays.

Current goals used to establish the STIP were created years ago when resources were less constrained. Ms. Carlson anticipates the goals will change with the outcome and implementation of the transportation needs study.

Vice Chairman Schmidt stressed the importance of pursuing and implementing a road user charge in Wyoming to avoid such delays in the future.

Commercial Food Trucks at Wyoming Rest Areas: The FHWA recently authorized commercial food truck vendors to sell food at Wyoming's interstate rest areas during the COVID-19 event. The intent of the initiative is to provide food for travelers while restaurants face mandatory closures. WYDOT will use its variable message signs, portable message signs, and highway advisory radios to notify drivers of truck parking and food availability at interstate interchanges and rest areas as appropriate.

WYDOT created a permitting process for approval to sell food within a rest area, and a \$500,000 commercial general liability insurance policy is required for food truck vendors. The Wyoming Department of Agriculture distributed permit applications to food truck vendors on April 9, 2020, but to date, WYDOT has received no applications. WYDOT reserves the right to revoke a permit for any reason at any time. Permits expire on April 30, 2020, or when President Trump's emergency declaration expires, whichever occurs first. If the need continues beyond April 30, vendors may reapply for approval to continue serving food. Alcohol sales and consumption are prohibited; vendors must provide trash receptacles and remove trash daily; vendors must comply with all state and local laws, rules, and regulations; and vendors must abide by all current health orders and the Governor's executive orders.

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

Special Permitting Under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act: In coordination with FHWA, the U.S. Congress has clarified special permitting under the CARES Act for FY 2020. This legislation will help ensure continued free-flow of critical relief supplies and other essential goods when responding to emergency recovery efforts during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Act clarifies states' authority to issue permits for overweight/oversize vehicles and loads on interstate routes when the President declares an emergency or major disaster in accordance with the Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act of 1988.

The CARES Act also communicates to states and local highway agencies through FHWA division offices about their authority to use variable message signs for messages concerning during this national emergency.

FHWA continues to work closely with AASHTO and other state transportation partners to facilitate a safe, efficient, and seamless transport of critical supplies nationwide, including support for the maintenance and operations within rest areas.

FHWA issued a notice of enforcement discretion that allows states to permit food truck vendors in rest areas to serve commercial truck drivers.

Federal Notices of Funding Opportunities: A notice of funding opportunity was issued for the University Transportation Center Program on March 30, 2020. Awards totaling about \$5 million dollars will be granted to four universities. Focus areas for the program are highly automated

transportation systems research, communications technology and e-commerce effects on travel demand, implications of accessible automated vehicles and mobility services for the disabled, and strategic implications of changing public transportation travel trends.

Another notice of funding opportunity was recently issued for highway use tax evasion grants. These grants will assist states to identify and combat fuel tax and heavy vehicle use tax evasion. Total available funding is \$8 million, and applications will be accepted through May 22, 2020.

Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) discretionary grants remain open to promote planning and capital investments in surface transportation infrastructure. The total available funding is \$1 billion, and BUILD grant applications are due May 18, 2020.

10. Mr. Fulton presented the Engineering and Planning report, beginning with the bid tabulations from the letting held by telephone on April 9, 2020.

Federal projects STPU-RO-B123014, ARSCT-B123A01, ARSCT-B123A02, and INFRA-I802220 combined, involving grading, draining, placing bases, bituminous pavement surfacing, concrete pavement, removal and replacement of a structure, conduit system, water systems, and miscellaneous work on approximately 1.00 mile of I-80, at the Rock Springs Interchange Road, in Sweetwater County. Completion date: August 31, 2022

Engineer's Estimate	\$27,346,840.00	
Wadsworth Brothers Construction Co., Draper, UT	\$28,290,946.18	+3.5%
Reiman Corp. & High Country Const., Inc. JV, Cheyenne, WY	\$28,449,057.62	
Oftedal Construction, Inc., Casper, WY	\$33,530,231.53	

When this project was approved for advertising for letting two months ago, WYDOT had verbal approval for the project from the Union Pacific Railroad. Two important agreements are still pending and not executed. One agreement is for the city water line improvement in the railroad right-of-way, and the other is for the new bridge over the railroad. It is unknown how long the railroad agreement will be delayed, and awarding the contract now could potentially jeopardize the project schedule and potentially spur a contractor claim before the project begins.

It was recommended by Mr. Fulton, moved by Commissioner Espy, seconded by Commissioner Filer, and carried to reject all bids and let the project again later after the railroad agreements are executed.

Federal project STP-B193020, involving electrical systems and miscellaneous work at various locations on the eastbound and westbound lanes of I-80, in Transportation District 3, including Sweetwater County. Completion date: June 30, 2021

(Approved)

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Engineer's Estimate	\$1,407,520.00	
Advanced Electrical Contracting, Inc., Sheridan, WY	\$1,054,377.50	-25.1%
Modern Electric Co., Casper, WY	\$1,391,839.50	
Casper Electric, Inc., Casper, WY	\$1,475,084.84	
Delta Wye, Inc., Gillette, WY	\$1,509,259.50	

It was recommended by Mr. Fulton, moved by Vice Chairman Schmidt, seconded by Commissioner Dolezal, 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 NHPP-GM-N202075, involving grading, culvert lining and cleaning, fencing, and miscellaneous work at various locations along US 287, beginning at reference marker (RM) 75.33, south of Lander, in Fremont County. Completion date: March 31, 2021

Engineer's Estimate	\$823,800.00	
Wilson Bros. Construction, Inc., Cowley, WY	\$797,940.00	-3.1%
71 Construction, Casper, WY	\$981,105.00	

It was recommended by Mr. Fulton, moved by Commissioner Larson, seconded by Commissioner Espy, 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-B209029, involving signing and miscellaneous work at various locations in Transportation Districts 2 and 4, in Campbell, Carbon, Converse, Goshen, Johnson, Natrona, Niobrara, and Platte counties. Completion date: September 30, 2020

Engineer's Estimate	\$740,700.00	
Signs Up LTD, Webster City, IA	\$713,450.00	-3.7%
Keyhole Technologies, LLC, Casper, WY	\$746,045.00	
S & L Industrial, Cowley, WY	\$848,395.00	

It was recommended by Mr. Fulton, moved by Vice Chairman Schmidt, seconded by Commissioner Dolezal, and carried that Signs Up LTD, Webster City, Iowa, 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-I805181, involving signing and miscellaneous work at various locations on I-80, in Albany and Carbon counties. Completion date: October 31, 2020

Engineer's Estimate	\$699,505.00	
S & L Industrial, Cowley, WY	\$879,849.50	+25.8%

Mr. David Rael, president of S & L Industrial, explained that his bids on the four projects in which his company was low bidder in this letting consider COVID-19-related expenses, such as above average wages to draw qualified personnel, individual hotel rooms and separate vehicles to protect workers, personal protective gear, and sanitizing materials to be used on those jobs.

It was recommended by Mr. Fulton, moved by Commissioner Filer, seconded by Commissioner Espy, and carried that S & L Industrial, 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-B209030, involving signing and miscellaneous work at various locations statewide. Completion date: April 30, 2021

Engineer's Estimate	\$525,590.00	
S & L Industrial, Cowley, WY	\$560,371.00	+6.6%

It was recommended by Mr. Fulton, moved by Commissioner Dolezal, seconded by Vice Chairman Schmidt, and carried that S & L Industrial, 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-0107028, involving electrical systems and miscellaneous work at two locations on WYO 210, east and west of I-25, in the city of Cheyenne, in Laramie County. Completion date: March 31, 2021

Engineer's Estimate	\$487,379.00	
Advanced Electrical Contracting, Inc., Sheridan, WY	\$366,092.50	-24.9%
Delta Wye, Inc., Gillette, WY	\$370,108.00	
Casper Electric, Inc., Casper, WY	\$442,284.84	
Modern Electric Co., Casper, WY	\$499,499.00	

Vice Chairman Schmidt noted that this project is necessary because of an F.E. Warren Air Force Base (WAFB) decision to change the access points to the base, and he asked if WAFB is participating in the cost of this project. Mr. Fulton indicated WYDOT is talking with WAFB leadership about sharing the cost, but for now the Department is paying for the project. Director Reiner advised that the current WAFB commander is enforcing force protection standards imposed by the Department of Defense for all military bases, which necessitated changing the base's access points. WAFB is working aggressively with Wyoming's Congressional delegation to acquire funding for the new traffic light installations, but funding has not been secured yet. Director Reiner believes that, for safety reasons, the project should move forward.

It was recommended by Mr. Fulton, moved by Vice Chairman Schmidt, seconded by Commissioner Larson, 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. Vice Chairman Schmidt voted no.

Federal project HSIP-B204027, involving the installation of pavement markings and miscellaneous work at various locations in Transportation District 4, including Campbell, Crook, Johnson, Sheridan, and Weston counties. Completion date: October 31, 2020

Engineer's Estimate	\$308,450.00	
S & L Industrial, Cowley, WY	\$370,000.00	+20.0%

It was recommended by Mr. Fulton, moved by Vice Chairman Schmidt, seconded by Commissioner Dolezal, and carried that S & L Industrial, 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-B203021, involving installing pavement markings and miscellaneous work at various locations in Transportation District 3, in Lincoln, Sublette, Sweetwater, Teton, and Uinta counties. Completion date: October 31, 2020

Engineer's Estimate	\$292,650.00	
S & L Industrial, Cowley, WY	\$367,700.00	+25.6%

It was recommended by Mr. Fulton, moved by Commissioner Larson, seconded by Commissioner Espy, and carried that S & L Industrial, 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-B205015, involving the installation of pavement markings and miscellaneous work at various locations in Transportation District 5, including Big Horn, Fremont, Hot Springs, Natrona, and Park counties. Completion date: October 31, 2020

Engineer's Estimate	\$246,300.00	
Traffic Safety Services Inc., Bismarck, ND	\$232,937.50	-5.4%
S & L Industrial, Cowley, WY	\$294,100.00	

It was recommended by Mr. Fulton, moved by Vice Chairman Schmidt, seconded by Commissioner Larson, and carried that Traffic Safety Services Inc., Bismarck, 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.

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

RAILROAD PROJECT

Campbell County

RHC CN17050; BNSF, Svalna Road near Gillette; FY 2020; surfacing; request federal preliminary engineering funds of \$500; request federal construction engineering and construction funds of \$214,011

ROADWAY PROJECTS

Carbon County

NHPPI-SF I804273; I-80 Fort Steele Interchange; RM 229.00 through 229.36; safety improvements; FY 2020; request federal preliminary engineering funds of \$3,750; request federal construction engineering and construction funds of \$83,750

DR DR16953; I-80, westbound lane, structure KJC; RM 219.76; repair bridge rail; FY 2020; request preliminary engineering funds of \$2,000; request construction engineering and construction funds of \$22,000

Various Counties

HSIP B223030; Sweetwater and Uinta counties; various locations on I-80; epoxy striping; FY 2022; request federal preliminary engineering funds of \$24,750; estimated construction engineering and construction cost is \$550,000

STIMULUS PROJECTS

Big Horn County

STP 0201020; Manderson to Hyattville, River South Section; RM 6.50 to 11.50; level, overlay, and chip seal; FY 2020; request federal preliminary engineering funds of \$110,000

Campbell County

NHPP N432061; Gillette Streets, Union Chapel and Southern Drive, 4th Street and Warlow Drive; RM 107.97, 109.72, 115.28, and 115.46; intersection and ADA upgrades; FY 2020; request federal preliminary engineering funds of \$90,000

STP P461002; Gillette to Montana, Corral Creek; RM 123.77 to 135.90; mill and overlay; FY 2020; request federal preliminary engineering funds of \$230,000

STP P461003; Gillette to Montana, Little Powder River; RM 135.90 to 142.07; mill and overlay with ADA; FY 2020; request federal preliminary engineering funds of \$115,000

STP 2300042; Reno Junction to Wright; RM 51.04 to 66.20; mill, overlay, and bridge end reconstruction; FY 2020; request federal preliminary engineering funds of \$205,000

Carbon County

STP P221051; Riverside to the Colorado state line, Beaver Creek Section, RM 100.00 to 110.13; mill, overlay and chip seal; request move to FY 2020 from FY 2024

STP P231026; Walcott Junction to Hanna; RM 235.23 to 244.00; mill, overlay and chip seal; FY 2020; request federal preliminary engineering funds of \$138,500

STP 0401039; Baggs to Encampment, Encampment West; RM 50.00 to 57.70; mill, overlay, and chip seal; FY 2020; request federal preliminary engineering funds of \$140,000

Converse County

NHPP N431039; Douglas to Gillette; RM 42.00 to 54.00; vaulting repair; FY 2020; request federal preliminary engineering funds of \$78,650

STP 0505020; Casper to Glenrock, Glenrock West; RM 166.03 to 176.39; mill, level, and overlay, FY 2020; request federal preliminary engineering funds of \$176,534

Fremont County

NHPP N203075; Hudson to Riverton, Riverton South; RM 97.26 to 101.50; mill, overlay, and chip seal; FY 2020; request federal preliminary engineering funds of \$105,000

STP P142053; Lander to Farson, South Pass three lane section; RM 51.00 to 62.00; shoulder flattening; FY 2020; request federal preliminary engineering funds of \$50,000

STP 0707008; WYO 134, Missouri Valley Road; RM 9.00 to 15.20; mill, overlay, and chip seal; FY 2020; request federal preliminary engineering funds of \$135,000

Hot Springs County

STP 0901112; WYO 171, Grass Creek Road; RM 0.00 to 8.63; overlay, chip seal, and reset cattleguards; FY 2020; request federal funds of \$135,000

Johnson County

NHPPI I255119; Casper to Buffalo, Kaycee Area; RM 243.88 to 271.93; culvert lining; FY 2020; request federal preliminary engineering funds of \$200,000

Laramie County

STP 0107029; Cheyenne West, Happy Jack Road; RM 0.00 to 10.38; mill, overlay, and chip seal; FY 2020; request federal preliminary engineering funds of \$209,000

STP U212021; Cheyenne, College Drive, Fox Farm to Pershing; RM 5.36 to 8.21; mill and overlay; FY 2020; request federal preliminary engineering funds of \$300,000

Lincoln County

NHPP N121117; Sage Junction to Kemmerer, Twin Creek Section; RM 38.00 to 45.80; mill, overlay, and chip seal; FY 2020; request federal preliminary engineering funds of \$170,000

Natrona County

STP P421026; I-25 to Edgerton, Smokey Gap Section; RM 93.45 to 102.30; mill, level, and overlay; FY 2020; request federal preliminary engineering funds of \$167,000

STP 1301020; Casper Mountain Road; RM 6.00 to 8.55; rock-fall remediation; FY 2020; request federal preliminary engineering funds of \$145,000

STP W258026; Casper, Wyoming Boulevard; RM 12.93 to 16.81; mill and overlay; FY 2020; request federal preliminary engineering funds of \$250,000

Park County

STP 1507045; Chief Joseph Highway, Two Dot Section; RM 38.20 to 46.20; fencing; FY 2020; request federal preliminary engineering funds of \$25,000

Sheridan County

NHPPI I901123; Montana State Line to Ranchester, westbound lane; RM 2.6 to 4.19; realignment; FY 2020; request federal preliminary engineering funds of \$200,000

STP P352038; Johnson-Big Horn County Line, east to Burgess Junction; RM 80.45 to 82.45; pavement surfacing; FY 2020; request federal preliminary engineering funds of \$42,500

STP P352039; Burgess Junction to Lovell; RM 85.67 to 92.30; pavement surfacing; FY 2020; request federal preliminary engineering funds of \$125,000

Sublette County

NHPP N132111; Daniel Junction to Bondurant Road; RM 120.20 to 123.60; fencing; FY 2020; request federal preliminary engineering funds of \$22,500

NHPP N132112; Daniel Junction to Bondurant Road; RM 131.30 to 136.40; fencing; FY 2020; request federal funds of \$40,000

NHPP N132113; Pinedale Streets; RM 98.90 to 100.30; pavement rehabilitation; FY 2020; request federal preliminary engineering funds of \$140,000

Sweetwater County

STP P171032; Rock Springs to Utah State Line; RM 545.50 to 551.40; pavement rehabilitation; FY 2020; request federal preliminary engineering funds of \$120,000

STP 1900045; Green River to Utah state line; RM 0.8 to 2.7; pavement rehabilitation; FY 2020; request federal preliminary engineering funds of \$135,000

STP W374012; Little America East; RM 69.80 to 83.60; pavement rehabilitation; FY 2020; request federal preliminary engineering funds of \$245,000

STP W376001; Rock Springs Streets, South Side Belt Loop; RM 0.00 to 4.47; pavement rehabilitation; FY 2020; request federal preliminary engineering funds of \$170,000

Various Counties

SCP B201101; District 1 Stimulus Project Design, various locations; develop project list, initial scope and begin design; FY 2020; request state preliminary engineering funds of \$40,000

SCP B202102; District 2 Stimulus Project Design, various locations; develop project list, initial scope and begin design; FY 2020; request state preliminary engineering funds of \$40,000

SCP B203103; District 3 Stimulus Project Design, various locations; develop project list, initial scope and begin design; FY 2020; request state preliminary engineering funds of \$40,000

SCP B204104; District 4 Stimulus Project Design, various locations; develop project list, initial scope and begin design; FY 2020; request state preliminary engineering funds of \$40,000

SCP B205105; District 5 Stimulus Project Design, various locations; develop project list, initial scope and begin design; FY 2020; request state preliminary engineering funds of \$40,000

STP W319007; Glendo North, Converse and Platte counties; RM 212.41 to 226.13; overlay; FY 2020; request federal preliminary engineering funds of \$240,000

STP B211045; District 1, various locations; crack seal, FY 2020; request federal preliminary engineering funds of \$100,000

STP B215042; District 5, various locations; guardrail; FY 2020, request federal preliminary engineering funds of \$50,000

STP B215043; District 5, Big Horn and Washakie counties, various locations; pit reclamation; FY 2020; request federal preliminary engineering funds of \$50,000

12. Second-Quarter State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) Addendum: Mr. Fulton presented the second-quarter addendum to the FY 2020 STIP, including the project authorizations just approved by the Commission. A revised second quarter STIP addendum will be shared with the Commission when the approved project authorizations are merged into the STIP document.

It was recommended by Mr. Fulton, moved by Vice Chairman Schmidt, seconded by Commissioner Espy, and carried to approve the second-quarter addendum to the FY 2020 STIP.

13. Mr. Gillett presented the Operations report.

Construction Update: There are currently 40 active construction projects statewide. Some of the more noteworthy projects include:

- The Beartooth Highway preconstruction conference call was held last Friday, April 10, 2020.
- The Cody Streets project is proceeding with the contractor taking advantage of historic low traffic volumes during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Two District 3 overlay projects are underway on I-80.
- The contractor is setting new bridge girders on the Snake River South project north of Hoback Junction.

One contractor has delayed work on a Jackson-area project due to COVID-19.

WYDOT recently had its first employee test positive for COVID-19. The employee works on the Evanston engineering crew; he has recovered and is back to work.

District 2 Construction Engineer Appointment: Mark Williams, former district traffic engineer, has been named the new district construction engineer in Casper.

Maintenance Update: Between snowstorms, maintenance personnel are repairing fence and potholes, and performing erosion repair work and litter control. District guardrail crews are repairing damaged guardrail when they are not plowing snow.

District 5 has started the process of reopening seasonal closures on US 14A above Lovell, and on US 20 to Yellowstone National Park west of Cody.

A natural avalanche occurred on US 191 in Hoback Canyon last week. No vehicles were in the area at the time.

WYDOT snowplows have been struck 25 times this winter compared to 28 strikes one year ago.

The Commission received a spreadsheet depicting “Total Statewide Monthly Snow Control Costs by Fiscal Year With 5-Year Average.” The graph on the handout showed that FY 2020 snow control costs are significantly higher than the five-year average.

Mr. Gillett provided the Commission another handout titled, “Wyoming SNOTEL Current Snow Water Equivalent (SWE) % of Normal.” The handout contained a map depicting most drainage areas across Wyoming at 108 to 122 percent snow-water equivalent, which suggests some potential flooding in certain areas this spring.

WYDOT has received some complaints that truck drivers have not been able to find adequate food sources. Messages are being broadcast on permanent message signs, through the highway advisory radios, and mobilized portable message signs to notify drivers of truck parking and food availability at interstate interchanges and rest areas as appropriate.

WYDOT personnel are participating in COVID-19 supply deliveries statewide. Facilities and Maintenance Program personnel are building plexi-glass shields for Driver Services and other areas where public interaction is required for doing business.

Traffic Operations Update: District striping crews have started striping operations as weather permits. Sign crews have also begun installing new signs and repairing damaged signs.

Electrical crews are performing routine maintenance on signals, repairing highway lighting, and repairing roadside electronic devices.

Mechanics Update: Mechanic shops are repairing snow removal equipment and preparing summer equipment as time allows.

District 2 mechanics are performing repairs to the hot plant machine for asphalt patching operations expected to begin in about two weeks.

WYDOT Facilities Update: All WYDOT facilities are operational statewide except the Meriden Rest Area, located on US 85 between Cheyenne and Torrington. The rest area has been closed for some time because of water well issues.

14. Colonel Haller presented the Highway Patrol report.

The Fatal Crash Summary through March 31, 2020, includes 11 fatal crashes involving 13 deaths. The fatalities include 2 rollover crashes, 8 multi-car crashes, 2 fixed objects, and 1 pedestrian. Of the 11 fatal crashes that have occurred in 2020, 7 involved commercial vehicles.

There was one fatal crash deemed drug or alcohol related, resulting in one death, a pedestrian.

Of the 13 deaths that have occurred this year, 5 can be attributed to the non-use of occupant restraints, with 1 involving a rollover crash, 3 involving multi-car collisions, and 1 involving a fixed object. Three of those who died from the non-use of occupant restraints were Wyoming residents. One person who perished was under 21 years of age, and that death was because of the failure to use a proper occupant restraint.

Of the 11 fatal crashes so far this year, one of those drivers had no distractions, none had distractions from outside the vehicle, and one driver was distracted by something inside the vehicle. In 7 of the 11 fatal crashes, it was unknown whether a distraction caused the incident.

Of the 11 fatal crashes that have occurred this year, 5 of them occurred on primary/secondary highways, 4 occurred on interstate highways, and 2 occurred on city/county roads.

Three multiple-fatality crashes occurred on Wyoming highways in 2020, of which one involved multiple vehicles, and one involved a commercial vehicle. None of these crashes were alcohol related.

In locations where rumble strips/stripes were present, there were 5 crashes. There were 4 crashes where rumble strips/stripes were not present.

Inclement weather or road conditions have contributed to 7 vehicle crashes in 2020, which resulted in 7 deaths. Speed was considered a factor in 3 of the vehicle crashes that caused 3 deaths.

The days of the week for fatal crashes in 2020 were as follows:

Sunday	3 crashes
Monday	1 crash
Tuesday	1 crash
Wednesday	1 crash
Thursday	1 crash
Friday	2 crashes
Saturday	2 crashes

The times of day for fatal crashes in 2020 were as follows:

12:00 a.m. to 6:00 a.m.	1 crash
6:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.	5 crashes
12:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.	4 crashes
6:00 p.m. to 12:00 a.m.	1 crash

The Commission also heard the following statistics:

- 50 percent of people dying in rollover crashes were unbelted.
- 38 percent of people dying in multi-vehicle crashes were unbelted.
- 50 percent of people dying in fixed object crashes were unbelted.
- 62 percent of fatalities this year have been drivers.
- 31 percent of fatalities this year have been passengers.
- 75 percent of Wyoming residents who died were unrestrained.
- 25 percent of non-residents who died were unrestrained.
- Alcohol and/or drug impairment was a factor in 8 percent of the fatalities.

Patrol-Investigated Crash Summary: The Patrol-Investigated Crash Summary depicts 1,579 crashes statewide, involving 582 commercial vehicles.

The Commission also received a pin map depicting the locations of the 2020 fatal crashes.

Commercial Driver Hours of Service Amendment: The FMCSA extended its waiver of the hours-of-service rule for commercial truck drivers transporting supplies and essential goods during the COVID-19 pandemic. The waiver is effective until May 15, 2020. Governor Gordon concurred with the waiver and granted permission for WYDOT to waive permit fees for those transporting supplies and essential goods during these unprecedented times.

New Troopers: WHP has nine new troopers working in the field with seasoned officers. The new troopers were not able to formally graduate or conduct their field training because of the

COVID-19 event. WHP will host a formal graduation when it is safe to do so. In the meantime, new troopers are assisting with transporting COVID-19 supplies and materials, participating in “Books and Badges,” a program where troopers read children’s books from their cars, in uniform. The purpose of the program is to enhance agency representation and connection, compassion, and trust during these trying times. The program has been well received by teachers, parents, and children nationwide.

Commissioner Espy left the meeting.

Revised Towing Rules Update: The WHP has worked with the Wyoming Towing Association to develop new towing rules and regulations and the Chapter 5 weights rule. WYDOT has submitted the rules to the state attorney general for legal review. Director Reiner will review the final documents before submission the Governor’s office for final approval.

Highway Patrol-related Legislative Interim Topics: The WHP is preparing for discussion about interim topics for the May 21-22, 2020, Joint Transportation, Highways & Military Affairs Committee (JTC) meeting. Possible interim topics include a primary seatbelt law, child safety restraints, distracted driving, increasing traffic bonds, and automated vehicle identification on Teton Pass and in construction zones.

WYDOT will also testify before the Joint Judiciary Committee on May 20, 2020, about driving under the influence (DUI) refusals and closing the loopholes in existing legislation.

15. Mr. Olsen presented the Aeronautics report beginning with the March 31, 2020, Aeronautics Flight Operations Passenger Summary Report and Wyoming Aircraft Accident Report.

COVID-19 Impact on Aviation and Airports: Enplanement numbers have dropped to unprecedented levels during the COVID-19 event. The Transportation Security Administration reported that security screenings have dropped by about 95 percent from one year ago.

Trans States Airlines and Raven Airlines have permanently ceased operations. Airlines have parked about 12,500 aircraft worldwide.

Airports receive income from landing fees and fuel flowage fees, so significantly reduced air travel has slashed airport revenue globally. The CARES Act allocated about \$10 billion to shore up airports nationwide. The U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) announced this week the stimulus funding distribution formula. Of the \$10 billion, about \$500 million is to help cover the required federal matching funds on any FY 2020 airport projects.

General aviation airports, or airports with no commercial air service, will receive about \$100 million. Commercial airports will receive the remaining \$9.4 billion and distribution is to be based on airport enplanements, debt service, and how much unrestricted funding they have on hand.

Mr. Olsen estimates there are about 25 airport projects in Wyoming this year that meet the criteria to receive funding, and there are about 25 general aviation airports in Wyoming.

Overall, Wyoming will receive about \$50 million in stimulus funds for airports. The funding is very flexible and may be used for anything that legally meets the Federal Aviation Administration federal use policies for airports.

Aeronautics Commission Appointment: Governor Gordon recently appointed Ms. Anja Bendel, of Chugwater, to represent District 1 on the Aeronautics Commission. Ms. Bendel is currently the director of business development for Cheyenne LEADS, and she brings significant economic development knowledge to the Aeronautics Commission.

16. Mr. Rossetti presented the Support Services report.

Employment Summary: WYDOT employed 1,945 personnel as of April 7, 2020, compared to 1,946 a month ago and 1,925 one year ago.

Governor Gordon issued a state hiring freeze yesterday. WYDOT is working with the State Department of Administration and Information Human Resource Division to mitigate the road ahead for necessary staffing.

Director Reiner has conducted four employee town hall meetings so far. About 500 employees have attended the Google Hangouts meetings, with good results. It appears these meetings have had more attendees than past in-face meetings.

Executive Order 2020-4, Suspension of Provisions of Certain Statutes and Rules Related to Drivers Licenses Due to a Public Health Emergency: On March 24, 2020, Governor Gordon signed an Executive Order that offers temporary relief from certain driver licensing and motor vehicle registration. The Executive Order allows:

- A 90-day grace period for renewing driver licenses that expire between March 15 and June 1, 2020. Those taking advantage of the grace period will not be charged late fees.
- A 90-day suspension of all Class C, non-commercial, driving tests. Driver Services will conduct commercial driving tests appointment only, and applicants may require additional health screening questions. WYDOT will re-evaluate this suspension on April 20, 2020, and determine whether to rescind the restriction.
- The director can modify or reduce the number of examinations, as appropriate, based on available resources.

Mr. Rossetti noted that a few Driver Services offices statewide have adjusted their hours of operation due to COVID-19-related staffing issues caused by the need for flexible work schedules.

The Motor Vehicle Services program has also felt the impact of COVID-19. The pandemic coincided with the IFTA and International Registration Plan (IRP) quarterly fee collection

period. Many are opting to pay fees online, but MVS made changes to procedures, their environment, and personnel schedules to accommodate adequate social distancing while still serving the public.

17. Mr. Babbitt presented the Chief Technology Officer's report.

COVID-19 Briefing: WYDOT information technology (IT) staff have worked tirelessly to prepare personnel for teleworking. IT addressed bandwidth, hardware and software, data and voice line troubleshooting, establishing virtual private network connections, gathering enough laptop computers, and other obstacles to accommodate over 500 employees working from home during the COVID-19 event.

Additional consoles were established for the Highway Patrol Dispatch Center to accommodate social distancing.

WYDOT is using Google Hangouts Meet for meetings, with up to 150 participants at one time, with virtually no technical difficulties.

COVID-related messages are broadcast to travelers statewide using dynamic message signs and highway advisory radios.

WyoLink Update: The WyoLink tower at Buffalo is operational. Towers are almost complete at Orin Junction and Wright and, barring unforeseen circumstances, they should be operational within the next two months.

Revenue Information System (RIS) Update: WYDOT continues to work with MathTech, Inc., the consultant performing the RIS study, to map the existing mainframe processes to develop the RIS replacement.

Mr. Babbitt noted that, due to the significant COVID-19-related unemployment, there is a nationwide call for COBAL programmers. Many state unemployment services systems are written in COBAL, so the demand could become very competitive and drive future costs for hiring qualified programmers to map the RIS.

NextGen 911 Update: Mr. Babbitt continues to work with local public safety officials to finalize a statewide 911 plan, which will make Wyoming eligible to apply and compete for federal 911 Plan grants. WYDOT must submit the plan to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) by July 31, 2020.

18. It was moved by Commissioner Filer, seconded by Vice Chairman Schmidt, and carried to adjourn the meeting. Chairman Newton adjourned the meeting at 12:10 p.m., on Thursday, April 16, 2020.