Mark Gordon
Governor

Wyoming Transportation Commission

5300 Bishop Boulevard
Cheyenne, Wyoming 82009-3340

Brandt Lyman, Chairman
(307) 777-4007

Darin J. Westby, P.E.
Director

MEETING MINUTES

The Transportation Commission of Wyoming met via Zoom and in person in Cheyenne on March 19. Chair Lyman convened the meeting at 8:37 a.m. and subsequently turned the chairmanship over to Vice Chairman Willox. The following members were present, constituting a quorum.

Chair Brandt Lyman, Rock Springs *via Zoom*
Vice Chair Jim Willox, Douglas
Commissioner Micheal Baker, Thermopolis
Commissioner Pat Crank, Cheyenne
Commissioner Susan Holmes, Sheridan
Commissioner Mark Hughes, Sundance *via Zoom*
Commissioner Marlowe Scherbel, Afton *via Zoom*
Commission Secretary Kimberly Chapman
Director Darin Westby

Others present and participating in the meeting: Taylor Rossetti, Deputy Director/Support Services Administrator; Dennis Byrne, Chief Financial Officer; Rodney Freier, Budget Manager; Keith Fulton, Chief Engineer; Mark Ayen, Assistant Chief Engineer, Operations; Colonel Tim Cameron; Nathan Smolinski, Chief Technology Officer; Mike Kahler, Supervising Attorney General; MacKenzie Sewell, Assistant Attorney General; Doug McGee, Public Affairs; Pam Fredrick, Budget Office; Chelsey Lindsay, Budget Office; Nick Gronski, Procurement Services; Mattie Bray; Financial Services Controller; Brittany Wilson, MHP, CPA; Kara Poppe, Financial Services; Chris Pivik, Contracts & Estimates; Senator Stephan Pappas; John Cater, Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Division Administrator; Kelli Little, Wyoming Associated General Contractors (AGC), Government Affairs Director; Doug Jensen, Contracts and Estimates; John Davis, Management Services; and Susan Elliott, Executive Assistant.

1. Pledge of Allegiance: Vice Chairman Willox led the attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Changes to Agenda: Vice Chairman Willox noted that there were no changes to the agenda and it would stand as presented.

3. February 19, 2026, Business Meeting Minutes: It was recommended by Secretary Chapman, moved by Commissioner Baker, and seconded by Commissioner Hughes to approve the February 19, 2026, Business Meeting Minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

6. Highway Patrol Report: Col. Cameron presented the Fatal Crash Summary through February 28, 2026, which includes 17 fatal crashes involving 20 deaths. The fatalities include rollover crashes, multi-vehicle crashes, commercial crashes, and a single pedestrian struck.

   There have been six fatal crashes deemed drug or alcohol related, resulting in eight deaths through February 2026.

Of the 20 deaths this year, eight were attributed to not using occupant restraints. There were two fatalities involving individuals under the age of 21 in 2026 crashes.

Of the 17 fatal crashes so far this year, it is unknown whether four of those drivers had no distractions. One driver was distracted, and ten were not.

Of the 17 fatal crashes that have occurred this year, three occurred on city/county roads, six occurred on primary/secondary highways, and eight occurred on interstate highways.

The days of the week for fatal crashes in 2026 are as follows:

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

The times of day for fatal crashes in 2026 are as follows:

12:00 a.m. to 6:00 a.m.	3 crashes
6:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.	4 crashes
12:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.	6 crashes
6:00 p.m. to 12:00 a.m.	4 crashes

There were 492 Patrol investigated crashes in 2026.

Col. Cameron addressed the impact of recent windstorms in southeast Wyoming. He and Director Westby emphasized improving the exchange of vehicle weight data between the WHP and the Transportation Management Center (TMC) to ensure more accurate and effective blow-over advisories.

Marking his final meeting as WHP Colonel, Cameron expressed his gratitude to the commission for their support. Vice Chairman Willox then recognized the Colonel's retirement, extending the Commission's appreciation for his service to the state.

7. Director’s Report: The Director’s Report was provided in written form, as included in the March 2026 meeting materials.

Director Westby provided an update on the recent Wyoming legislative session, characterizing it as a successful year for the Department despite a lack of significant new funding. While no major funding bills passed, legislators expressed strong interest in collaborating with WYDOT and the Wyoming Highway Patrol to find long-term solutions for funding mechanisms.

Legislation passed to transfer a portion of Department of Health land to WYDOT. This allows for the future relocation of the Lander headquarters and shop from its current location in the middle of town to a larger site near the Life Resource Center. While construction funds were not allocated, the land transfer allows WYDOT to use the State Building Commission process for future vertical construction.

Director Westby and Senator Pappas discussed how HB0052 changed electric vehicle (EV) taxation by removing "triple taxation" and reducing the administrative work for both owners and charging station hosts. A major component of this law is the elimination of taxes on Level 2 chargers, as the minimal revenue generated was often eclipsed by the cost of collecting those funds. The law sets a specific tax rate of $0.035 per kilowatt-hour for Level 3 chargers, to more effectively capture revenue from out-of-state travelers using high-speed charging infrastructure.

To further balance the financial impact on resident drivers, the annual registration decal fee for EVs has been halved, dropping from $200 to $100. Additionally, the new structure expands its reach to include plug-in hybrids, ensuring that these vehicles also contribute their fair share to the state’s road maintenance funds.

Director Westby commended the Management Services staff for their dedication in tracking legislation and providing impact summaries during the session. He noted that the session results exceeded early expectations, with several long-standing issues finally being resolved after years of previous attempts.

The Director announced several high-level personnel changes, starting with the retirement of Colonel Cameron from the Highway Patrol. Additionally, Management Services Program Manager John Davis is set to retire in early April, and Chief Technology Officer Nathan Smolinski will depart WYDOT on April 1 to accept a new position in Minnesota.

The formal search for a new Colonel has officially launched, beginning with a minimum 30-day advertisement period and an anticipated selection timeline of three to six months. The Director will serve as the interim administrator for the Highway Patrol to gain a deeper understanding of the WHP’s specific needs before a permanent hire is made. Commissioner Crank volunteered to represent the Commission on the interview panel.

Director Westby outlined a comprehensive itinerary for April, noting that the agency will conduct a series of regional town hall meetings from April 6 through April 9 to disseminate legislative updates and solicit staff feedback; in response, the Commission requested a full schedule of these sessions to facilitate their participation. Additionally, the Director will represent Wyoming at the AASHTO spring meeting in Savannah to advocate for the state’s interests regarding the federal rural funding formula and the pending Surface Transportation Reauthorization bill.

8. Chief Financial Officer's Report: Mr. Byrne presented the Chief Financial Officer's Report.

8A. McGee, Hearne, and Paiz Audit Presentation: Mr. Byrne introduced Brittany Wilson, a CPA with MHP, and Mattie Bray, WYDOT Financial Services Controller, to deliver the audit report for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2025.

Ms. Wilson presented the fiscal year 2025 audit report, which granted WYDOT an unmodified or "clean" opinion, confirming that the financial statements are fairly presented in all material respects. While the audit found no instances of non-compliance with state statutes, Wilson identified two significant deficiencies regarding internal controls. The first involved an audit adjustment of $4.4 million to correct the timing of revenue recognition for a new state appropriation to match federal infrastructure funding. While the Department initially recognized the full appropriation as revenue, Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) require revenue to be recognized only as federal funds are spent. Consequently, an adjustment was proposed to reduce current revenue to align with these eligibility stipulations.

The second deficiency concerned unrequested grant reimbursements, a repeat finding from the previous year. This issue stems from sub-grantees failing to provide timely expenditure data, which prevents WYDOT from accurately recording expenses and the corresponding federal revenue. However, Wilson noted that this finding was downgraded from a "material weakness" to a "significant deficiency" due to substantial progress made by program managers in collecting data from sub-recipients.

Ms. Bray discussed the formal corrective action plans included in the report and stated that while the Department is committed to resolving both issues, the second deficiency remains largely dependent on the cooperation of outside entities. The Director acknowledged that although no audit finding is truly minor, the presence of only two relatively small issues is a testament to the Department's hard work, especially given the size and complexity of WYDOT's finances. Ms. Wilson highlighted the successful correction of two out of three prior-year findings, demonstrating the Department's commitment to resolving internal control issues.

Regarding federal funds, WYDOT expended approximately $487 million in fiscal year 2025. The Department was categorized as a "not low-risk auditee" due to prior material weaknesses. However, the audit of four major federal programs, including airport improvements and highway planning, resulted in no internal control deficiencies or compliance issues.

The report also addressed actuarially determined liabilities for pensions and post-employment benefits, as well as the continued use of the "modified approach" for reporting infrastructure assets, which allows the Department to expense maintenance costs provided specific condition ratings are maintained.

Ms. Wilson commended the Financial Services Program for the seamless adoption of several new accounting standards, including GASB 101 through 104, and thanked the staff for their cooperation during the audit. In response to questions from the Commission, she clarified that GASB 101 updates

the calculation for compensated absences such as sick leave by basing liabilities on projected usage to improve financial statement clarity.

In response to inquiries regarding the audit team following a recent RFP, Ms. Wilson confirmed that the MHP team has remained largely consistent, ensuring continuity and institutional knowledge.

Mr. Byrne commended the professionalism of the entire Financial Services team, specifically highlighting the work of Controller Mattie Bray, Accounting Manager Kara Poppe, and the internal review staff for their efforts in managing a nearly billion-dollar financial statement.

It was recommended by Mr. Byrne, moved by Chairman Lyman, and seconded by Commissioner Baker to accept the audit report. The motion carried unanimously.

8B. Monthly Budget Report: Mr. Freier presented the monthly budget report, noting that snow control expenditures through February totaled $16.4 million, approximately $3.6 million below the five-year average. These savings will be reallocated within the $122 million regular maintenance budget to address infrastructure repairs necessitated by recent high-wind events across the state.

Regarding wildlife initiatives, the Wildlife License Plate and donation account has reached nearly $3 million. Commissioner Crank and another member of the Wildlife Fund Board will meet with WYDOT and the Wyoming Game and Fish Department to identify smaller, high-impact crossing projects. This effort seeks to leverage state funds against private donations to reduce animal-vehicle collisions and property damage. Director Westby stated that the agencies will utilize an existing priority list to strategically allocate revenue and demonstrate the program's value to the public.

Mr. Byrne noted that Mr. Olsen will present a proposal at a future meeting to allocate $1.6 million from the Wildlife License Plate fund for a specific wildlife project.

Mr. Freier informed the Commission that Pam Fredrick and Chelsey Lindsay will present the monthly budget report and second-quarter budget modification at the next meeting in his absence.

8C. Award of Procurement Services Bids

Mr. Byrne introduced three procurement items for approval, including two items that were previously on the Over $200,000 List, but came in over budget. The first item was a request to approve the procurement of hot plant mix, warm plant mix, and tack oil for various locations in the state. The procurement total of $5.44 million exceeds the original $4.65 million estimate by approximately $874,000. Mr. Byrne explained this was a direct result of increased material costs and proposed reallocating funds from lower-priority maintenance items to cover the difference without increasing the overall budget.

Commissioners expressed concern regarding potential price increases, with Commissioner Crank noting the lack of detail surrounding price escalation triggers. Mr. Byrne and Mr. Ayen clarified that while vendors factor in some risk, significant escalators, specifically related to oil/binder costs, are subject to existing change order policies. It was noted that if costs increase beyond the approved $5.44

million, the department would either reduce the total tonnage of material purchased or return to the Commission for further approval.

It was recommended by Mr. Byrne, moved by Commissioner Holmes, and seconded by Commissioner Baker to award Bid Numbers 26-027MA, 26-065MA, 26-066MA, 26-067MA, and 26-068MA to JTL Group, Inc. dba Knife River, of Cheyenne, Wyoming; Croell, Inc., of Sundance, Wyoming; 71 Construction, of Casper, Wyoming; Kilgore Companies, LLC, dba Lewis & Lewis, Inc., of Rock Springs, Wyoming; Sacrison Paving, Inc., of Whitewood South Dakota; and Simon Contractors, of Gillette, Wyoming for the sum of $5,439,572.50 to procure 63,020 tons of hot plant mix, warm plant mix and tack oil. The motion carried by a 5-1-1 vote, with Commissioner Crank voting in opposition and Chairman Lyman recusing himself due to a conflict of interest regarding the portion of the bid involving Kilgore Companies LLC.

Mr. Byrne introduced the second item, a request to approve the procurement of a new four-wheel drive mechanical street sweeper (Bid Number 26-072). Although the total cost of $344,402 exceeded the initial estimate by $19,402, he explained that the overage would be covered by savings from patrol car procurements that came in under budget.

It was recommended by Mr. Byrne, moved by Commissioner Crank, and seconded by Commissioner Hughes to award Bid Number 26-072RE to Jack's Truck Center, Inc./Floyd's Truck Center, of Gillette, Wyoming, for the sum of $344,402 to procure a new, current model four-wheel mechanical street sweeper. The motion carried unanimously.

The final item, Bid 26-101, involved Phase Two of the web camera upgrades intended to improve system reliability for the Transportation Management Center (TMC) and public travel information. The project was not included on the Over $200,000 List because it utilizes a Budget Authority Roll (BAR) from fiscal year 2025, allowing previously approved funds to be carried forward into fiscal year 2026 for expenditure.

It was recommended by Mr. Byrne, moved by Commissioner Baker, and seconded by Commissioner Holmes to award Bid Number 26-101MA to Advanced Electrical Contracting, Inc., of Sheridan, Wyoming, for the sum of $1,492,898.52 to furnish web camera upgrades-Phase II. The motion carried unanimously.

9. Chief Engineer's Report: The Chief Engineer's Report was provided in written form, as included in the March 2026 meeting materials.

Mr. Fulton reported that a contract has been executed with HDR to initiate design services for the relocation and renovation of the Transportation Management Center (TMC) and the Wyoming Highway Patrol Dispatch Center. Bidding and permitting are tentatively scheduled for February 2027, and staff are currently evaluating temporary lease options in Cheyenne to accommodate personnel during the construction phase. Additionally, Mr. Fulton noted that plans for new construction have been discontinued in favor of remodeling the existing planning building located on the headquarters campus.

Commissioner Crank raised concerns that the project is moving forward without a definitive cost estimate or a clear long-range plan, contending that the $40 million currently held in the Facilities Improvement Plan may already be unofficially allocated to the Jackson housing project. He advised that securing a lease at this stage may be premature, suggesting that such commitments should follow the Commission's formal approval of the entire remodel project.

Mr. Fulton, Director Westby, and Mr. Byrne clarified that while $3 million was authorized for design, the remaining balance in the facilities savings account remains available for Commission allocation. Mr. Byrne noted that although a previous Commission approved $20 million for the TMC project, the current Commission retains the authority to reallocate those funds. Mr. Fulton added that the design phase is essential to refining the budget and determining the project's feasibility.

Director Westby clarified that the department is not yet asking for a full construction appropriation, but rather informing the Commission of the planning process required to provide a professional cost estimate. Vice Chairman Willox noted that the Commission may need to evaluate the urgency of the TMC relocation in the context of other statewide facility needs once final figures are available.

Commissioner Baker requested clarification regarding a change order totaling $395,000 resulting from a utility company's failure to perform according to the project schedule. Mr. Fulton explained that the utility company's delay necessitated additional payments to the contractor. To resolve the matter, WYDOT will serve as a pass-through entity, receiving reimbursement from the utility company for delay costs and facilitating payment to the contractor.

9Ai. Mr. Fulton presented the Engineering and Planning Report, beginning with the bid tabulations from the March 12, 2026, letting.

Federal Projects STP-N212124; ARSCT-N212A06; and STP-E-N212127 combined for approximately 0.50 mile of reconstruction, water and sanitary sewer replacement and landscaping enhancements on Poplar Street and West Collins Drive in Casper. Completion Date: September 30, 2028.

Engineer's Estimate	*$11,651,181.00*	
Oftedal Construction, Inc., Casper, WY	$12,880,514.72	10.6%
Western Municipal Construction of Wyoming, Inc., Casper, WY	$13,212,399.46	
Excel Wyoming Go Pro Construction Co. Joint Venture, Sheridan, WY	$14,792,434.60	
W.W. Clyde & Co., Orem, UT	$15,757,550.41	

It was recommended by Mr. Fulton, moved by Commissioner Holmes, and seconded by Commissioner Crank that Oftedal Construction, Inc., of Casper, Wyoming, having prequalified in accordance with rules and regulations adopted by the Transportation Commission of Wyoming, be awarded the contract as low bidder. The motion carried unanimously.

Chair Lyman left the meeting at 10:45 a.m.

Federal Project STP-BR-B243002 for rehabilitating three bridges on the east- and west-bound lanes of I-80 at RM 5.91 and on WYO 414 at RM 99.89 in Uinta County. Completion Date: October 31, 2027.

Engineer's Estimate	*$7,698,255.00*	
Coldwater Group, Inc., Pleasant View, UT	$8,506,023.50	10.5%
Reiman Corp., Cheyenne, WY	$10,602,305.50	

It was recommended by Mr. Fulton, moved by Commissioner Hughes, and seconded by Commissioner Baker that Coldwater Group, Inc., of Pleasant View, Utah, having prequalified in accordance with rules and regulations adopted by the Transportation Commission of Wyoming, be awarded the contract as low bidder. The motion carried unanimously.

Federal Project STP-0600021 to mill, overlay, and chip seal on WYO 116 beginning at RM 22.51 for approximately 6.1 miles between Sundance and Upton in Weston County. Completion Date: June 30, 2027.

Engineer's Estimate	*$3,568,003.00*	
Bituminous Paving, Inc., Ortonville, MN	$3,018,356.12	-15.4%
McGarvin-Moberly Construction Co., Worland, WY	$3,051,719.44	
Croell, Inc., Sundance, WY	$3,216,082.28	
Northern Improvement Company, Fargo, ND	$3,795,536.85	
Avail Valley Construction-WY, LLC, Afton, WY	$3,955,555.00	
Simon Contractors, Cheyenne, WY	$3,973,310.00	

It was recommended by Mr. Fulton, moved by Commissioner Holmes, and seconded by Commissioner Baker that Bituminous Paving, Inc., of Ortonville, Minnesota, having prequalified in accordance with rules and regulations adopted by the Transportation Commission of Wyoming, be awarded the contract as low bidder. The motion carried unanimously.

Federal Project STP-P292006 for mill, overlay chip seal, and one bridge rehabilitation on US 14A beginning at RM 29.52 for approximately 4.24 miles between Garland and Byron in Park County. Completion Date: August 31, 2028.

Engineer's Estimate	*$2,699,127.00*	
Mountain Construction Company, Lovell, WY	$2,474,592.03	-8.3%
Century Companies, Inc., Lewistown, MT	$2,499,959.00	
McGarvin-Moberly Construction Co., Worland, WY	$2,669,316.59	

It was recommended by Mr. Fulton, moved by Commissioner Baker, and seconded by Commissioner

Hughes that Mountain Construction Company, of 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 motion carried unanimously.

Federal Project STP-B264028 for chip sealing at various locations in Transportation District 4 on approximately 47.75 miles in Campbell, Niobrara, and Weston Counties. Completion Date: August 31, 2026.

Engineer's Estimate	*$2,526,780.00*	
Bituminous Paving, Inc., Ortonville, MN	$2,730,230.00	8.1%
Intermountain Slurry Seal, Inc., Salt Lake City, UT	$2,947,938.00	
Hardrives Construction, Inc., Billings, MT	$3,102,492.67	
Simon Contractors, Cheyenne, WY	$3,369,858.00	
H-K Contractors, Inc., Idaho Falls, ID	$3,467,669.00	

It was recommended by Mr. Fulton, moved by Commissioner Baker, and seconded by Commissioner Holmes that Bituminous Paving, Inc., of Ortonville, Minnesota, having prequalified in accordance with rules and regulations adopted by the Transportation Commission of Wyoming, be awarded the contract as low bidder. The motion carried unanimously.

Federal Project STP-0302096 for mill and overlay on US 14/16 beginning at RM 96.27 on approximately 3.00 miles between Buffalo and Gillette in Campbell County. Completion Date: October 31, 2026.

Engineer's Estimate	*$1,954,170.00*	
Croell, Inc., Sundance, WY	$1,289,569.39	-34.0%
Simon Contractors, Cheyenne, WY	$1,661,265.00	
Bituminous Paving, Inc., Ortonville, MN	$1,733,890.00	
Avail Valley Construction-WY, LLC, Afton, WY	$2,085,555.00	

It was recommended by Mr. Fulton, moved by Commissioner Hughes, and seconded by Commissioner Holmes that Croell, Inc., of Sundance, Wyoming, having prequalified in accordance with rules and regulations adopted by the Transportation Commission of Wyoming, be awarded the contract as low bidder. The motion carried unanimously.

Federal Project STP-PM-B261022 for slab repair at various locations on WYO 210 for approximately 0.20 miles in Transportation District 1 in Laramie County. Completion Date: October 31, 2026.

Engineer's Estimate	*$1,566,460.10*	
Simon Contractors, Cheyenne, WY	$1,553,892.50	-0.8%

Reiman Corp., Cheyenne, WY	$1,607,572.95
S & S Builders, LLC, Gillette, WY	$1,646,444.00
ZAK Dirt, Inc., Longmont, CO	$1,648,748.25
Concrete Works of Colorado, Inc., Lafayette, CO	$1,889,567.95
A-Core Concrete Cutting, Inc., Murray, UT	$2,385,912.00

It was recommended by Mr. Fulton, moved by Commissioner Holmes, and seconded by Commissioner Baker that Simon Contractors, of Cheyenne, Wyoming, having prequalified in accordance with rules and regulations adopted by the Transportation Commission of Wyoming, be awarded the contract as low bidder. The motion carried unanimously.

Federal Projects STP-PM-B261019 and SCP-TC-B261034 for chip sealing at various locations in Transportation District 1 on approximately 21.00 miles in Carbon and Laramie Counties. Completion Date: August 31, 2026.

Engineer's Estimate	*$1,537,526.00*	
Bituminous Paving, Inc., Ortonville, MN	$1,306,876.50	-15.0%
Intermountain Slurry Seal, Inc., Salt Lake City, UT	$1,505,782.90	
Simon Contractors, Cheyenne, WY	$1,700,776.50	

It was recommended by Mr. Fulton, moved by Commissioner Holmes, and seconded by Commissioner Baker that Bituminous Paving, Inc., of Ortonville, Minnesota, having prequalified in accordance with rules and regulations adopted by the Transportation Commission of Wyoming, be awarded the contract as low bidder. The motion carried unanimously.

Federal Project STP-PM-B262023 for chip sealing at various locations on WYO 253 and US 26/85 on approximately 10.40 miles in Goshen and Natrona Counties. Completion Date: August 31, 2026.

Engineer's Estimate	*$1,387,244.80*	
Bituminous Paving, Inc., Ortonville, MN	$1,148,247.50	-17.2%
Hardrives Construction, Inc., Billings, MT	$1,229,924.93	
Intermountain Slurry Seal, Inc., Salt Lake City, UT	$1,258,669.08	
Simon Contractors, Cheyenne, WY	$2,138,873.40	

It was recommended by Mr. Fulton, moved by Commissioner Baker, and seconded by Commissioner Crank that Bituminous Paving, Inc., of Ortonville, Minnesota, having prequalified in accordance with rules and regulations adopted by the Transportation Commission of Wyoming, be awarded the contract as low bidder. The motion carried unanimously.

9Aii. March 2026 STIP Addendum Approval: Mr. Fulton presented the March 2026 STIP Addendum.

The commissioners discussed the Green River tunnel project including the overall project cost, current condition of the tunnels, potential upgrades, and the need for a long-term plan to address tunnel maintenance and potential expansion.

It was recommended by Mr. Fulton, moved by Commissioner Holmes and seconded by Commissioner Hughes to approve the March 2026 STIP Addendum. The motion carried unanimously.

9Aiii. Use of Right of Way Abandonment and Relinquishment: Mr. Fulton presented two requests regarding right of way easements.

Mr. Fulton recommended approving a resolution to abandon an excess 0.3-acre right of way easement interest parcel along Wyoming Highway 93 in Converse County. Originally acquired in 1953, the easement is no longer needed for state operations and was relinquished at the request of the adjacent landowner, Wagonhound Land and Livestock Company. The abandonment of the easement interest involves no infrastructure changes and was recommended by the District Engineer.

It was recommended by Mr. Fulton, moved by Commissioner Crank and seconded by Commissioner Baker to approve the resolution for abandonment of the excess right of way easement interest parcel along WYO 93 in Converse County. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Fulton sought approval of a resolution to relinquish property to the City of Evanston that was mistakenly acquired in the Transportation Commission's name during a federally funded Surface Transportation Program - Urban (STP-U) project. The department has since updated its internal checklists to prevent similar administrative errors, and this action officially transfers the land to the city as originally intended.

It was recommended by Mr. Fulton, moved by Commissioner Holmes and seconded by Commissioner Hughes to approve the resolution of relinquishment to the City of Evanston. The motion carried unanimously.

9B. The Operations Report was provided in written form, as included in the March 2026 meeting materials.

Mr. Ayen provided a report on the facility impacts resulting from a recent windstorm in southeast Wyoming. Following an inquiry from Commissioner Baker regarding warranty coverage for damaged salt-sand sheds at Quealy Dome, Arlington, and Wagonhound, Mr. Ayen detailed the extent of the structural damage and clarified the specific limitations of the building material warranties.

In response to a question from Commissioner Hughes, Mr. Ayen explained that the STIP rebalancing process involves aligning available construction funding with the addition or shifting of specific projects. He confirmed that this rebalancing is part of the ongoing effort to establish a formal priority rating model, though the department remains in a transitional phase while collaborating with the STIP subcommittee to refine the system.

Vice Chairman Willox recognized the retirement of District 3 District Engineer John Eddins, expressing gratitude for his dedicated service and his many contributions to the department.

10. Aeronautics Report: The Aeronautics Report was provided in written form, as included in the March 2026 meeting materials.

Director Westby noted that the department successfully secured $18.4 million for the Capacity Purchase Agreement through the legislative budget process, utilizing the Department of Tourism's operations account, the State Loan and Investment Board's transportation enterprise fund, and general funds.

The Department also navigated a legislative challenge regarding its aircraft fleet. A line-item veto by the Governor preserved both state planes after a House amendment sought to force a sale, though the operating budget was reduced to the level of a single aircraft for one year. Director Westby and Mr. Byrne noted that while the state still supplements aircraft costs, the gap between the hourly block rate and actual variable expenses has narrowed significantly due to recent rate increases.

As an addition to his earlier report, Director Westby reported on the successful legislative approval of a market adjustment for all staff, transitioning employees to the 2024 pay table effective July 1. While the state remains two years behind current market rates, it reduces the previous four-year gap. As the legislature did not provide a direct appropriation, the Department will fund the adjustment within its existing budget. Mr. Byrne noted that vacancy savings will be utilized to cover the 90-day period between the July 1 implementation and the start of the new fiscal year on October 1. Director Westby emphasized that these adjustments are critical for market competitiveness rather than standard raises and affirmed the Department's commitment to pursuing biennial updates for staff retention.

11. Support Services Report: The Support Services Report was provided in written form, as included in the March 2026 meeting materials.

Vice Chairman Willox sought more information on the authorized pay adjustments, which are estimated to cost approximately $13 million annually. Mr. Rossetti confirmed that the Department will be required to reallocate $3.25 million in the operating budget to cover the fiscal year mismatch between July and September.

In response to a question from Commissioner Baker, Mr. Rossetti noted that while total staffing has plateaued at approximately 1,820 employees, overall vacancies have decreased to roughly 10 percent. He also expressed concern over the loss of significant institutional knowledge due to high-level retirements. To mitigate gaps, the Department is exploring the reclassification of long-term vacancies into more hirable roles in IT and accounting.

Commissioner Crank and other members voiced frustration with the State Department of Administration and Information's hiring system. Director Westby confirmed that he is advocating system improvements through the Governor's workforce sub-cabinet and the Department is currently developing an RFP to potentially engage an outside firm to modernize recruitment strategies.

Commissioner Hughes left the meeting at 11:38 a.m.

12. Chief Technology Officer's Report: The Chief Technology Officer's Report was provided in written form, as included in the March 2026 meeting materials.

Mr. Smolinski informed the commission that a microwave system upgrade is scheduled to start in April. Due to favorable weather conditions, the project timeline has been advanced from the typical late-spring start date to allow for an earlier deployment of field personnel.

Mr. Smolinski reported that the department is advancing two key 911 initiatives following the passage of Senate File 32. A $750,000 statewide study is underway to plan the transition to Next Generation 911, with an RFP being released immediately to meet a September reporting deadline for the Joint Corporations Committee. This study will evaluate governance, funding, and the balance between physical consolidation and technological regionalization to improve system redundancy and reliability. Additionally, a $3 million state appropriation has been established to provide gap funding for Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs). The application period scheduled to open July 1 and grant reimbursements expected to commence in January 2027.

Mr. Smolinski announced his upcoming departure from WYDOT, expressing appreciation to the Commission for their support during his tenure as Chief Technology Officer and commending the dedication of his staff. Vice Chairman Willox recognized Mr. Smolinski's significant contributions to the state and emergency communications, concluding with well wishes for his future endeavors.

13. April 2026 Commission Meeting: Secretary Chapman announced that the April 2026 Commission meeting will be held in Cheyenne. She also announced that the June meeting will take place in Thermopolis.

14A. Legislator Comments: Senator Pappas provided a brief update on the legislative session, including the restoration of funds from the Governor's proposed budget and the focus on WYDOT issues.

Senator Pappas noted the upcoming Management Council meeting on April 1, where the JTC will provide a briefing on transportation topics. He outlined the committee's priorities for WYDOT, which include funding solutions, the license plate replacement cycle, safety concerns, statewide GIS coordination, and statutory updates. He also discussed the need for a report on the state aircraft.

Senator Pappas announced the JTC interim schedule, with meetings set for May 4 and 5 in Casper, August 20 and 21 in Evanston, and November 9 and 10 in Cheyenne.

14B. Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Scherbel noted the challenge of losing qualified staff and wished Director Westby success in recruiting their replacements. Commissioner Baker commented on the quality and utility of the presentations at the WYDOT/AGC Coop Meeting. Commissioner Crank thanked his fellow commissioners for the collegiality that facilitates robust discussion and good work. Commissioner

Holmes expressed her appreciation for the breakout sessions at the Coop Meeting and commended the high quality of the staff presentations. Vice Chairman Willox expressed particular interest in the presentation regarding the Green River tunnels and thanked the staff who participated in the Coop Meeting. He also welcomed Ms. Chapman as the commission secretary and thanked Director Westby and the executive team for their hard work during the legislative session.

16. The meeting was adjourned by Vice Chairman Willox at 12:08 p.m. on Thursday, March 19, 2026.