

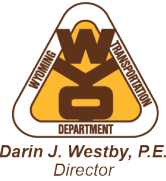


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Wyoming Transportation Commission

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Director

MEETING MINUTES

The Transportation Commission of Wyoming via Zoom and in person in Worland on June 18, 2026. Vice Chair Willox convened the business meeting at 10:02 a.m. The following members were present, constituting a quorum.

Vice Chair Jim Willox, Douglas
Commissioner Micheal Baker, Thermopolis
Commissioner Susan Holmes, Sheridan
Commissioner Mark Hughes, Sundance (*via Zoom for business meeting only*)
Commissioner Marlowe Scherbel, Afton (*via Zoom for business meeting only*)
Director Darin Westby
Commission Secretary Kimberly Chapman

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; Brian Olsen, Assistant Chief Engineer, Engineering and Planning; Mark Ayen, Assistant Chief Engineer, Operations; MacKenzie Sewell, Assistant Attorney General; Mark Wingate, State Planning Engineer; Brandi Miller, Local Government Coordination Supervisor; Nick Gronski, Procurement Services; Shawn Burke, Aeronautics Administrator; Pete Hallsten, District Engineer; Lyle Lamb, District Maintenance Engineer; Shawn Coggins, Maintenance Foreman; Brett Tillery, Highway Patrol Trooper; Tyle Myers, Highway Maintenance Technician; Cody Beers, Public Involvement Specialist; Charlotte Frei, Wyoming Transit Advisory Committee; Senator Stephan Pappas; and Susan Elliott, Executive Assistant.

Education Session

1. Tour of Worland WYDOT Facilities: The Commission participated in an education session in Worland starting at 8:15 a.m., which included site tours of two Department facilities. Commissioners first toured the existing WYDOT shop to assess the constraints of the outdated facility, which is insufficient to meet current local operational needs. The session concluded with a tour of a recently acquired property designated for future renovations to properly accommodate the Department's regional requirements.

Business Meeting

1. Pledge of Allegiance: Vice Chair Willox led the attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance.
2. Changes to Agenda: Vice Chair Willox noted there were no changes to the agenda.
3. May 21, 2026, Business Meeting Minutes and May 20, 2026, Education Session Minutes: It was recommended by Secretary Chapman, moved by Commissioner Holmes, and seconded by Commissioner Baker to approve the May 21, 2026, Business Meeting Minutes and the May 20, 2026, Education Session Minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

4. Correspondence: Mr. Olsen reviewed the letter from the Wyoming Transit Advisory Committee (WYTAC), included in the June 2026 meeting materials.

Mr. Olsen reported a \$3.1 million reduction in federal transit funding for FY 2026, dropping from \$10.6 million to \$7.5 million, due to the depletion of one-time COVID-19 relief carryover funds and a return to pre-pandemic baselines. Despite this reduction, WYTAC requested an additional \$5.7 million, representing a 76% increase over the baseline budget, to sustain existing operations and support proposed service expansions. Mr. Olsen confirmed that WYDOT has no unallocated funds available to cover the shortfall or the requested expansion.

Mr. Olsen stated that WYDOT recommends local transit providers approach the Legislature directly to request supplemental funding, such as an appropriation from the Legislative Stabilization Reserve Account (LSRA), noting that this approach has proven successful for providers in the past. He confirmed that should the Legislature choose to allocate these funds, WYDOT is willing to administer them.

Charlotte Frei, representing WYTAC and Wyoming 211, advocated for a one-year "bridge funding" strategy extending through October 2027. She stated that the projected 40% reduction in combined state and federal funding would severely impact Wyoming's 37 transit providers, including senior centers, the University of Wyoming, and disability service programs. Ms. Frei requested that the Commission evaluate internal options to provide temporary stabilization, allowing local communities adequate time to establish sustainable funding alternatives.

Mr. Olsen recommended that the Department draft a formal response to the WYTAC. The correspondence would clarify that WYDOT is unable to allocate additional funds to cover the budget shortfall, particularly in light of the Department's broader \$500 million revenue deficit. The letter would outline the established legislative process that local transit providers previously used to secure supplemental funding. The Commission reached a consensus directing staff to prepare a response on their behalf.

Additionally, the Commission advised that local transit providers explore alternative funding opportunities beyond WYDOT. Commissioners recommended engaging with other state entities that directly benefit from public transit services, specifically noting potential partnership and funding avenues within the Wyoming Department of Health to support specialized transit needs such as senior and medical transportation.

6. Director's Report: The Director's Report was provided in writing, as included in the June 2026 meeting materials.

Director Westby noted that the Department's leadership structure remains lean, with several key personnel fulfilling multiple responsibilities and serving in interim or acting administrator capacities. He explained that the interim period provides a good opportunity to closely evaluate the needs of each program, which will help set up permanent replacements for success once they are selected.

The Director recently attended the Highway Patrol Association's annual banquet. He noted ongoing internal discussions regarding the agency's professional boundary with the Association, which is a

501(c)(3) organization. Concerns were raised regarding the potential for public and legislative confusion regarding the distinction between the official Wyoming Highway Patrol and the Association due to shared names, logos, and seals. The Department is working to educate stakeholders on the separation of the two entities to protect troopers from conflicting roles involving lobbying and other activities.

Director Westby reported on a meeting with John McKinley and Commissioner Crank regarding a request to lower the speed limit on US Highway 191 in the Bondurant area. While historical engineering data and traffic metrics do not support a speed limit reduction, several alternative operational strategies and adjustments were proposed. A recent spring survey of Bondurant residents showed a tight split, with approximately 55% in favor of lowering the limit and 45% opposed. Mr. Ayens and his staff are currently evaluating potential alternative solutions.

7A. Monthly Budget Report: Mr. Freier presented the monthly budget report.

In response to an inquiry from Commissioner Scherbel, Mr. Freier reported that the Commission budget is on track at roughly 67% spent through eight months. He noted that while seasonal work creates minor fluctuations in specific line items, the overall maintenance program remains well within budget at 57% spent.

Mr. Freier provided an update on the FY 2027 budget process, noting that budget books have been distributed to the Commission. The first Budget Subcommittee meeting is scheduled for July 9 at 9:30 AM, with executive staff currently reviewing initial requests to identify necessary reductions.

In response to Commission inquiries regarding initial district requests, staff reported that first-round submissions total approximately \$24 million over the anticipated \$900 million budget, representing an overage of approximately 3%. Executive staff will continue to refine these figures throughout July and August ahead of the formal budget presentation in September.

7B. Award of Procurement Services Bids: Mr. Byrne presented the procurement bids for eight new rotary mowers. He recommended awarding the contract to the third-lowest bidder, noting that the lowest and second-lowest bidders failed to meet the required specifications. Although the bid exceeded the allocated budget for this item, Mr. Byrne explained that the additional costs will be offset by surplus funds from winter maintenance savings.

It was recommended by Mr. Byrne, moved by Commissioner Holmes, and seconded by Commissioner Baker to award bid number 26-169RE to Ron's Equipment Company, of Fort Collins, Colorado to provide eight new, current model 15-foot mowers in accordance with WYDOT specifications.

8. Chief Engineer's Report: The Chief Engineer's Report was provided in writing, as included in the June 2026 meeting materials.

In response to inquiries from Vice Chair Willox, Mr. Fulton reported that following a productive meeting with consultants, the National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (NEVI) project Request for

Proposal (RFP) is being updated to clarify port options and allowed station locations. A revised draft is expected to be issued in the coming weeks.

In response to questions regarding the Kemmerer – Evanston Wildlife Crossing Project, Mr. Fulton explained that the change order was necessary because soil conditions required piles to be driven three to five feet deeper than pre-construction drilling had anticipated. This extra depth required purchasing additional piling lengths that were not kept in stock.

- 8A. The Operations Report was provided in writing, as included in the June 2026 meeting materials.

In addition to the written report, Mr. Ayen reported that the lighting project for the Green River Tunnel is essentially complete, with consultants currently conducting final testing and compiling punch lists.

In response to inquiries from Commissioner Baker regarding the impact of data centers and wind farms, Mr. Ayen stated that the Department's primary focus is managing safe system access and protecting infrastructure from damage during construction. Access requests are managed through a structured policy overseen by district traffic engineers and the State Traffic Program. Under this policy, large-scale developers are required to fund, design, and construct any highway infrastructure improvements necessitated by their projects. Upon completion and inspection, WYDOT assumes ownership of the new infrastructure and absorbs it into the state highway system for ongoing maintenance.

9. Highway Patrol Report: Director Westby presented the Fatal Crash Summary through May 31, 2026, which includes 37 fatal crashes involving 44 deaths. The fatalities resulted from rollover crashes, multi-vehicle crashes, and commercial vehicle crashes.

There have been 16 fatal crashes deemed drug or alcohol related, resulting in 20 deaths through May 2026.

Of the 44 deaths this year, 22 were attributed to not using occupant restraints. There were eight fatalities involving individuals under the age of 21 in 2026 crashes.

Of the 37 fatal crashes so far this year, it is unknown whether 18 of those drivers had no distractions. Two drivers were distracted, and 17 were not.

Of the 37 fatal crashes that have occurred this year, eight occurred on city/county roads, 16 occurred on primary/secondary highways, and 13 occurred on interstate highways.

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

Sunday	10 crashes
Monday	4 crashes
Tuesday	4 crashes

Wednesday	5 crashes
Thursday	6 crashes
Friday	4 crashes
Saturday	4 crashes

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

12:00 a.m. to 6:00 a.m.	8 crashes
6:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.	7 crashes
12:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.	10 crashes
6:00 p.m. to 12:00 a.m.	12 crashes

There were 1,453 Patrol investigated crashes to date in 2026.

Director Westby reported that a recent "State Stat" data review with Patrol leadership analyzed traffic stops, crashes, and fatalities. The resulting heat maps confirmed that supervisors are successfully positioning troopers in high-priority locations. Although budget constraints, mileage limits, and a lack of paid overtime have slightly reduced overall performance metrics, trooper visibility remains high through strategic stationary patrols.

The Director reported on a recent critical incident in Carbon County where the Patrol assisted local law enforcement. A wounded sheriff's deputy is recovering in a Colorado hospital, and while the responding trooper's vehicle was disabled by gunfire, the trooper was unharmed. The Department quickly provided a replacement vehicle from inventory to maintain operational capacity. Additionally, Employee Assistance Program (EAP) and chaplain resources were immediately deployed to support the mental health of all involved personnel, including dispatchers and the trooper.

The Patrol conducted a comprehensive, two-hour internal after-action review of the incident response, in which they evaluated communication, equipment, and logistics. The review concluded that the agency performed exceptionally well and identified minor areas for continuous operational improvement.

10. Aeronautics Report: The Aeronautics Report was provided in writing, as included in the June 2026 meeting materials.

In response to Vice Chair Willox's inquiries regarding rising fuel costs, Mr. Burke noted that fuel currently represents the airline industry's highest expense, outpacing labor costs. While initial concerns regarding summer jet fuel shortages in Europe have stabilized—partly due to the strategic release of U.S. reserves—fuel prices continue to put financial pressure on the industry nationwide.

Despite higher ticket prices resulting from increased fuel costs, statewide passenger enplanements are projected to rise over the summer. Strong discretionary spending on air travel indicates a healthy regional economy.

11. Support Services Report: The Support Services Report was provided in writing, as included in the June 2026 meeting materials.

Mr. Rossetti reported that personnel trends have significantly improved over the previous year and noted that the Department continues to recruit robustly. He attributed the recent dip in full-time positions to seasonal transitions and retirements.

Mr. Rossetti detailed the upcoming market-rate adjustments, which scale from 1.4% to approximately 20% depending on occupational classification. Within the Highway Patrol, Trooper II roles will receive a 20% increase following significant upward market shifts, while Trooper I roles will increase by roughly 12.5%. Additionally, frontline maintenance positions will see increases between 11.4% and 12.3%, which translates to a starting wage increase of exactly \$2.60 per hour effective July 1.

He clarified that individual salary modifications will be applied uniformly using a "compa-to-compa" methodology, which maintains an employee's existing relationship to the market center point. For example, an employee at a 93% compa-ratio prior to the shift will maintain that same 93% ratio on the updated tables.

Mr. Rossetti reported that the salary adjustments will cost between \$14 million and \$17 million annually. This amount is already fully absorbed into the baseline \$24 million oversubscription figure for the fiscal year 2027 budget build, requiring no separate allocations from construction projects. As an other-funded entity, the Department will cover the increases by billing adjusted rates against active federal projects and utilizing unencumbered fuel tax revenues.

While the Commission has the statutory authority to reject or defer these adjustments due to a lack of dedicated general-fund appropriations, Director Westby and Mr. Rossetti strongly recommended immediate adoption to address critical recruitment and retention challenges.

12. Chief Technology Officer's Report: The Chief Technology Officer's (CTO) Report was provided in writing, as included in the June 2026 meeting materials.

Mr. Rossetti reported that the job posting for the CTO position continues to attract a robust and active pool of applicants. He noted that while the technology teams are successfully managing daily operations, his extended time working closely with these programs provides valuable insight into the strategic direction, long-term goals, and specific qualities the agency should prioritize when hiring a permanent CTO.

Commissioner Baker raised a question regarding a significant \$1.4 million encumbrance under the CTO line item in the Monthly Budget Report, which pushed the budget utilization to 82%. Mr. Rossetti said that it was likely an encumbrance related to an IT contract.

13. July 2026 Commission Meeting: Secretary Chapman announced that the next meeting is scheduled for July 16, 2026, at 8:30 a.m. This will be an entirely virtual meeting with no in-person component.
- 14A. G. Clyde Larson Memorial Award Presentation: Vice Chair Willox introduced the award ceremony, noting it was an opportunity to recognize outstanding employees for exceptional service. Director Westby outlined the history of the G. Clyde Larson Memorial Award, which was established in 1969 to recognize heroic actions by Highway Department employees. He announced that Tyle Myers, a highway maintenance technician from Meeteetse, was selected as the 63rd recipient of the award.

Trooper Tillery described the incident prompting the award nomination, detailing how Mr. Myers observed tire tracks leaving the roadway, investigated the scene, and located a vehicle that had traveled down a steep embankment. Mr. Myers took immediate action to secure emergency assistance and aid the trapped occupants, ultimately saving a woman and her infant. Trooper Tillery commended Mr. Myers' courage, compassion, and commitment to public service, noting that his actions went far beyond his normal duties.

Mr. Hallsten, who submitted the nomination, further praised Mr. Myers' humility, character, and dedication to community service.

Following the remarks, Mr. Myers was formally presented with the G. Clyde Larson Memorial Award. His name will be engraved on the permanent memorial plaque displayed at WYDOT Headquarters in Cheyenne.

- 14B. Legislator Comments: Senator Pappas announced that the Joint Transportation Committee's highway funding working group—consisting of himself, Senator Cooper, and Representatives Larson and Nicholas—will hold a virtual stakeholder meeting on Monday, June 22, 2026, from 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM. Key stakeholders, including WYDOT, the Taxpayers Association, Wyoming Association of Municipalities, and the Wyoming County Commissioners Association, have been invited to provide input ahead of the next joint committee session. Senator Pappas extended an open invitation to all Transportation Commissioners to attend or participate in the virtual session.
 - 14C. Commissioner Comments: Commissioner Hughes apologized for his absence and noted that due to a prior commitment, he will be unable to attend the July Commission meeting. Commissioner Scherbel conveyed his appreciation for the day's discussions and shared his hope of attending the in-person meeting in August. Commissioner Holmes thanked the local staff for the facility tours, noting that it is highly valuable to see the physical environments where agency personnel work..
- Commissioner Baker expressed his appreciation for the Commission traveling to Thermopolis and commended Tyle Myers on his heroic actions leading to the G. Clyde Larson Award. Vice Chair Willox noted that seeing the Worland facility firsthand highlighted the positive impact the upcoming relocations and structural upgrades will have on staff. He commended Director Westby and Mr. Rossetti for their diligent coordination with legislative committees and statewide partners.
16. Vice Chair Willox adjourned the meeting at 11:58 a.m. on Thursday, June 18, 2026.