

TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION OF WYOMING

The Transportation Commission of Wyoming met via teleconference in the Commission Room of the Transportation Headquarters building in Cheyenne on July 17, 2008. The meeting was convened at 8:30 a.m. by Chairman Hawkins. The following members were present constituting a quorum:

Rip Hawkins, Chairman, Devils Tower (via telephone)
Susan Dziardziel, Vice Chair, Douglas (via telephone)
Emerson Scott III, Commissioner, Dayton (via telephone)
Charlie Monk, Commissioner, Lovell (via telephone)
Cactus Covello, Jr., Commissioner, Torrington (via telephone)
Jim Latta, Commissioner, Pinedale (via telephone)
Sandi McCormick, Commissioner, Rock Springs (via telephone)
John F. Cox, Director
Sandra J. Scott, Commission Secretary

Also present at and participating in the meeting were: Delbert McOmie, Chief Engineer; Pat Collins, Assistant Chief Engineer of Engineering and Planning; Tim Hibbard, Assistant Chief Engineer of Operations; Dennis Byrne, Aeronautics Administrator; Kevin Hibbard, Budget Officer; Doug McGee, Public Affairs Manager; Mike Kahler, Assistant Attorney General; Ken Spear, Contracts & Estimates Engineer; Phil Miller, Division Administrator, Federal Highway Administration; and Erik Miller, Vista West Engineering, Sheridan (via telephone).

Colonel Sam Powell, Wyoming Highway Patrol Administrator, was absent.

1. Secretary Scott advised of a late-scheduled delegation. Mr. Jeff Hermreck, project manager for Custom Lighting Services, LLC, of Sandy, Utah, attended the meeting via telephone to defend his company's bid on the Pinedale Streets and Sand Draw to Boulder projects. It was moved by Commissioner Latta, seconded by Commissioner Scott, and carried to add the delegation to the agenda.
2. It was recommended by Secretary Scott, moved by Commissioner Covello, seconded by Commissioner Monk, and carried to approve the minutes from the June 19, 2008, regular business meeting and executive session.
3. Director Cox presented the Director's report.

Appointment of Internal Review Services Manager: Director Cox advised that Mrs. Kristin Burkart was named the new Internal Review Services Manager on July 17, 2008. Mrs. Burkart served as acting Internal Review Services Manager for the last eight months. Director Cox expressed confidence that she will continue to serve the Department with utmost competence.

Western Association of State Highway & Transportation Officials (WASHTO) Meeting: WYDOT executive staff members and department heads will attend the WASHTO meeting in Portland, Oregon, the week of July 21, 2008. The federal highway re-authorization bill will be a primary topic at the meeting. WASHTO state representatives will discuss several bill-related resolutions at the Portland Chief Executive Officer (CEO) meeting.

Joint Transportation, Highways & Military Affairs Interim Committee (JTC) Meeting: The JTC will meet at the Douglas Fairgrounds, July 23-24, 2008. WYDOT topics will be discussed on Thursday, July 24.

4. Director Cox presented the Support Services report.

Director Cox informed the Commission about three legislatively appropriated WYDOT programs needing more personnel – Driver Services, Human Resources, and Highway Patrol.

The Driver Services Program will need 18 new positions to fully implement the federally mandated REAL ID Program. An initial request has been made to Governor Freudenthal for nine new positions. Four positions are also needed very soon to cover supervisory deployments to Driver Services' field offices. Governor Freudenthal has requested written justification for the four vacancy requests before granting his approval.

The Human Resources (HR) Program also needs another HR professional at headquarters. Written justification must also be provided to the Governor before it is approved.

The Highway Patrol needs one more position for the Overweight Loads office. Director Cox advised the Commission of permit issuance delay complaints.

These position vacancies must be moved from the Commission-funded to the Legislature-funded pool, which may require a future request for additional Commission-approved positions, if the need arises. The Commission budget will also be impacted by the change. Chairman Hawkins suggested a proposed increase to Driver Services fees to cover these job-related expenditures. Director Cox stressed that the immediate need for these jobs is crucial.

Commissioner Latta expressed a need to inform the Legislature about the funding need for the additional positions and suggested creating a Commission newsletter to keep the Legislature acquainted with Department needs. Commissioner Scott stressed the importance of balancing the level of information that is presented to legislators. Commissioner Covello suggested a one or two-page newsletter be distributed after the new legislators take office.

Verisol™ Update: Director Cox informed the Commission that the implementation of the Verisol™ web-based insurance verification system is underway.

5. Mr. Kevin Hibbard presented the Budget report beginning with the Third-Quarter Budget Revision.

Mr. Hibbard advised that \$4 million per year was added to the Department's oversize and overweight permits fees because of recent legislation which increased those fees. The Department requested drivers license fee increases to cover operations costs, but that legislation failed in the Senate during third reading.

Mr. Hibbard reported that fuel revenues exceeded expectations during the third quarter. Additional money was moved into the maintenance budget during the third quarter to cover the \$4 million account shortfall for snow removal. Another \$2 million was moved from cash flow reserves to fund other immediate Department needs.

It was recommended by Mr. Hibbard, moved by Commissioner Latta, seconded by Commissioner Covello, and carried to approve the Fiscal Year 2008 Third-Quarter Budget Revision.

6. Mr. Kevin Hibbard presented the monthly budget report.

7. Mr. Collins presented the Engineering and Planning report beginning with the bid tabulations from the July 10, 2008, letting held in Casper.

COMMISSION DISTRICT 3

Jim Latta - Commissioner

State project SCP-SL-N104067, involving grading, draining, placing crushed base and bituminous pavement surfacing, and miscellaneous work on 3.62 miles on Service Road 132 (Henry's Road) along US 26, beginning at milepost 0.00 between the Hoback Junction and Jackson, in Teton County. Completion date - October 31, 2009

Engineer's Estimate	\$1,649,905.60
Mountain Construction Company, Lovell, WY	\$1,933,518.00 +17.2%
McGarvin -Moberly Construction Company, Worland, WY	\$1,944,281.50
Evans Construction Company, Jackson, WY	\$2,238,987.60

It was recommended by Mr. Collins, moved by Commissioner Monk, seconded by Commissioner Latta, and carried that **Mountain Construction Company, Lovell, Wyoming**, having prequalified in accordance with rules and regulations adopted by the Transportation Commission of Wyoming, be awarded the contract as low bidder.

State projects SCP-SL-N132096 and SCP-SL- N132097 combined, involving installation of flashing beacon systems, roadway lighting system, and miscellaneous work on US 191 and WYO 351 in the town of Pinedale, in Sublette County. Completion date - July 31, 2009

Engineer's Estimate	\$322,874.00	
Custom Lighting Services, L.L.C. and Subsidiaries, Kansas City, MO	\$239,738.50	
Plus 5% for comparison	\$251,725.43	
Irregular Proposal (did not use current proposal bid disk)		
Modern Electric Co., Casper, WY	\$281,518.00	-14.7%

Mr. Collins introduced Mr. Jeff Hermreck, Project Manager for Custom Lighting Services. Mr. Hermreck explained that his firm prepared, but did not submit, a bid for this project in May. When preparing the bid for the July 10 letting, Mr. Hermreck neglected to use the current bid package, which included some revised project specifications and information. Mr. Hermreck advised that the incident was unintentional, verbally acknowledged the current bid package document changes, and stated that the changes did not affect his company's bid.

Mr. Collins advised that the *WYDOT Standard Specifications for Road & Bridge Construction* dictate that contractors must use the current bid package when bidding WYDOT projects. The project completion date was one of the primary changes made in the new bid package, which could potentially change bid results. Mr. Collins recommended rejecting the bid from Custom Lighting Services, LLC, and awarding the project to the second low bidder.

Commissioner Latta expressed the Commission's fiduciary responsibility to Wyoming taxpayers. Mr. Collins advised that complying with WYDOT specifications is also a meaningful obligation and is crucial to maintain integrity in the bidding process.

Chairman Hawkins asked Mr. Hermreck if their company had access to the current bid package. Mr. Hermreck indicated he did have the disk containing the latest bid package and thought he was using the latest version. Mr. Spear explained the process that contractors use to load the bid disk and prepare their bids.

Mr. Kahler advised that the WYDOT Standard Specifications give the Commission some discretion in these circumstances.

It was recommended by Mr. Collins, moved by Commissioner McCormick, seconded by Commissioner Scott, and unanimously carried that **Modern Electric Co., Casper, Wyoming**, having prequalified in accordance with rules and regulations adopted by the Transportation Commission of Wyoming, be awarded the contract. The Federal Highway Administration concurred with this decision.

**COMMISSION DISTRICT 4
Emerson Scott III - Commissioner**

Federal projects ACSTP-P432032, ARSCT-P432032 and STP-E-P432042 combined, involving grading, draining, placing subbase, crushed base and bituminous pavement surfacing, concrete pavement, curb and gutter, sidewalk, storm sewer system, water main replacement, sanitary sewer system, electrical systems, fencing, and miscellaneous work on 0.81 mile of WYO 59 (Douglas Highway) in the city of Gillette, in Campbell County. Completion date - September 30, 2009

Engineer's Estimate	\$13,515,548.35	
Upper Plains Contracting, Inc., Aberdeen, SD	\$11,594,186.50	-14.2%
S & S Builders, LLC, Gillette, WY	\$11,825,021.92	
Concrete Works of Colorado, Inc., Lafayette, CO	\$12,635,963.66	
Heavy Constructors, Inc., Rapid City, SD	\$12,927,586.00	

It was recommended by Mr. Collins, moved by Commissioner Latta, seconded by Commissioner Scott, and carried that **Upper Plains Contracting, Inc., Aberdeen, South 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.

State project SCP-SL-B082059, involving grading, draining, erosion control, removal and replacement of fencing, and miscellaneous work on 0.19 mile of I-25, beginning at reference marker 258.98, in Johnson County. Completion date - November 30, 2008

Engineer's Estimate	\$592,033.00	
Reiman Corp., Cheyenne, WY	\$695,372.25	+17.5%
71 Construction, Casper, WY	\$760,979.86	
Wilson Bros. Construction, Inc., Cowley, WY	\$770,143.00	

It was recommended by Mr. Collins, moved by Commissioner Scott, seconded by Vice Chair Dziardziel, and carried that **Reiman Corp., Cheyenne, Wyoming**, having prequalified in accordance with rules and regulations adopted by the Transportation Commission of Wyoming, be awarded the contract as low bidder.

State project DR40505, involving damage repair including milling plant mix, placing crushed base and bituminous pavement surfacing, structure, and miscellaneous work on 0.32 mile of WYO 450 (Coal Haul Road), reference marker 55.71, in Campbell County. Completion date - October 15, 2008

Engineer's Estimate	\$528,104.50
Reiman Corp., Cheyenne, WY	\$473,420.00 -10.4%
Heavy Constructors, Inc., Rapid City, SD	\$579,341.04
Plus 5% for comparison	\$608,308.09

It was recommended by Mr. Collins, moved by Commissioner Latta, seconded by Commissioner Scott, and carried that **Reiman Corp., Cheyenne, Wyoming**, having prequalified in accordance with rules and regulations adopted by the Transportation Commission of Wyoming, be awarded the contract as low bidder.

COMMISSION DISTRICT 7
Susan Dziardziel - Vice Chair

Federal project STP-E-0505015, involving beautification including landscaping work, sprinkler system, roadway lighting system, and miscellaneous work on 0.227 mile of US 20 (Birch Street), beginning at milepost 165.78 in the town of Glenrock, in Converse County. Completion date - June 30, 2009

Engineer's Estimate	\$190,420.60
Modern Electric Co., Casper, WY	\$267,945.00 +40.7%

It was recommended by Mr. Collins, moved by Vice Chair Dziardziel, seconded by Commissioner Covello, and carried that **Modern Electric Co., 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 Federal Highway Administration concurred with this decision.

8. Sheridan County, West Brundage Lane, Project Award: Mr. Collins presented the bid tabulation from the June 26, 2008, bid opening held in Sheridan, Wyoming.

State project STP-CR 0.00 CN03031, involving storm drain system installation, grading, crushed base placement, curb and gutter, sidewalk, street pavement, and a lighting system, for the reconstruction of 0.629 mile of West Brundage Lane/Airport Road in the city of Sheridan, in Sheridan County. Completion date - June 30, 2009

Engineer's Estimate	\$2,757,526.90
S&S Builders, LLC, Gillette, WY	\$2,478,058.80 -10.0%
Intermountain Construction & Materials, Inc., Gillette, WY	\$2,646,658.10

Upper Plains Contracting, Inc.,	\$2,913,424.80
Concrete Works of Colorado, Inc.,	\$2,974,621.30
Wilson Bros. Construction, Inc., Cowley, WY	\$3,936,953.50

City of Sheridan and Sheridan County officials met separately on July 7, 2008, and approved award of the contract to **S&S Builders, LLC, Gillette, Wyoming**, in the amount of \$2,478,058.80, contingent upon the concurrence of the Wyoming Transportation Commission. It was recommended by Mr. Collins, moved by Commissioner Latta, seconded by Commissioner McCormick, and carried to concur in the award of the project to S&S Builders, LLC, Gillette, Wyoming.

9. It was recommended by Mr. Collins, moved by Commissioner Scott, seconded by Commissioner Monk, and carried to approve the following project authorizations:

COMMISSION DISTRICT 3

Rural Local

ARSCT 0.00 PEG3A02; Lincoln County; South Lincoln County Road and Bridge; purchase salt and sand mixture; fiscal year 2008; request preliminary engineering funds of \$500, and construction engineering and construction funds of \$14,500; to be reimbursed by Lincoln County

COMMISSION DISTRICT 5

Rural Principal Arterial

NH 0.28 N311091; Park County; Yellowstone Park to Cody; reference marker 0.28; emergency bridge repair; fiscal year 2008; request federal preliminary engineering funds of \$40,000, and federal construction engineering and construction funds of \$220,000

COMMISSION DISTRICT 6

Rural Major Collector

STP 31.20 0601050; Crook County; Hulett to Aladdin, Hulett East, South Dakota State Line; reference markers 31.20 to 34.00; emergency slide repair; fiscal year 2008; request federal construction engineering and construction funds of \$1,500,000

STP 24.20 0601051; Crook County; Hulett to Aladdin, Hulett East, Alva Road; reference markers 24.20 to 25.00; emergency slide repair; fiscal year 2009 construction; request federal preliminary engineering funds of \$100,000

Rural Local

ARSCT 0.00 PEG4A01; Johnson County; Johnson County Road and Bridge; purchase salt and sand mixture; fiscal year 2008; request preliminary engineering funds of \$1,556, and construction engineering and construction funds of \$34,506; to be reimbursed by Johnson County

COMMISSION DISTRICT 7

Rural Minor Collector

IRP 0.00 CN01061; Natrona County; Six-Mile Road, County Road 119; resurfacing; fiscal year 2009 construction; request preliminary engineering funds of \$300,000, construction engineering and construction funds of \$3,450,000, and IRP funds of \$1,000,000

10. Third-Quarter State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) Addendum:

It was recommended by Mr. Collins, moved by Commissioner McCormick, seconded by Commissioner Latta, and carried to approve the third-quarter addendum to the fiscal year 2008 STIP.

Chairman Hawkins requested that the public be made aware of delayed local STIP projects because of funding shortfalls. Mr. Collins advised that the annual STIP meetings are utilized in that manner. Mr. McOmie advised that 20 to 40 percent annual inflation has delayed a number of projects so far this year. District Engineers have met individually with local government officials, as they did not attend the STIP meetings scheduled in their areas.

11. It was recommended by Mr. Collins, moved by Commissioner Covello, seconded by Commissioner Scott, and carried to approve the following resolution where property for public use cannot be acquired through good faith negotiation by purchase or gift:

RESOLUTION FOR EXERCISE OF EMINENT DOMAIN

WHEREAS, pursuant to W.S. 1-26-512, 1-26-801 and 24-2-102, the Transportation Commission of Wyoming is authorized to institute condemnation proceedings where property for public use cannot be acquired through good faith negotiation by purchase or gift; and

WHEREAS, the public interest and necessity require the construction of Project OP56-1(028), Cheyenne West Lincolnway Road, in Laramie County, and that the property shown on the right-of-way plans for this project is required for highway purposes; and

WHEREAS, the Transportation Commission of Wyoming has determined that the aforementioned project is planned or located to be most compatible with the greatest public good and the least private injury; and

WHEREAS, the right-of-way and/or temporary construction easements to be acquired are identified as being located in NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ and NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 11; S $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 2; Lots 1 and 2, Block 1, Tak Subdivision; Lots 1, 2A and 2B, Dan Subdivision; W $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ and NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 1; Lot 1, Block 1, Fleischli Business Park 4th Filing; Block 1, Husky

Industrial 1st Filing; Block 1, Tyrrell Addition; Tract 1, Amended and Corrected Plat of Ringsby Addition Tracts 1 and 2; vacated Ringsby Road; Lots 4, 5, 5A, 6 and 7, Block 3, replat of Westland Subdivision; all of T13N, R67W of the 6th P.M., Laramie County, Wyoming, and constitutes approximately 2.66 acres of property for right-of-way and approximately 2.08 acres of property for temporary construction easements.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the property sought to be acquired is necessary and appropriate for the proposed project and in the event successful negotiations cannot be effectuated with any owner or owners thereof, condemnation proceedings are authorized to be commenced and prosecuted to acquire the necessary right-of-way and/or temporary construction easements.

12. It was recommended by Mr. Collins, moved by Vice Chair Dziardziel, seconded by Commissioner Latta, and carried to approve the following resolution where property for public use cannot be acquired through good faith negotiation by purchase or gift:

RESOLUTION FOR EXERCISE OF EMINENT DOMAIN

WHEREAS, pursuant to W.S. 1-26-512, 1-26-801 and 24-2-102, the Transportation Commission of Wyoming is authorized to institute condemnation proceedings where property for public use cannot be acquired through good faith negotiation by purchase or gift; and

WHEREAS, the public interest and necessity require the construction of Project NH 102.96 N212086, Muddy Gap to Casper, Casper South Section, in Natrona County, and that the property shown on the right-of-way plans for this project is required for highway purposes; and

WHEREAS, the Transportation Commission of Wyoming has determined that the aforementioned project is planned or located to be most compatible with the greatest public good and the least private injury; and

WHEREAS, the right-of-way and/or temporary construction easements to be acquired are identified as being located in the

NW¹/₄SE¹/₄, SW¹/₄NE¹/₄ and NE¹/₄NE¹/₄ of Section 15; SE¹/₄SE¹/₄ of Section 10; W¹/₂SW¹/₄, NE¹/₄SW¹/₄, E¹/₂NW¹/₄, W¹/₂NE¹/₄ and NW¹/₄NE¹/₄ of Section 11; Lots 15 and 16 of the El Rio Ranchos No. 2 Subdivision; Lot 19 of the Goose Egg Ranches Subdivision; SE¹/₄SE¹/₄ of Section 2; S¹/₂S¹/₂ of Section 1, all of T32N, R81W; Lots 10 and 13; S¹/₂NE¹/₄ and Lot 1 of Section 6; Lot 4 of Section 5, Lots 4 and 5 of Grandview Acres Land Division and SE¹/₄SE¹/₄ of Section 32; Lots 6 and 7 of the Gothberg Subdivision and SW¹/₄NW¹/₄ of Section 33, all of T33N, R80W, located in Natrona County, Wyoming;

and constitutes approximately 14.18 acres of property for right-of-way and approximately 35.84 acres of property for temporary construction easements.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the property sought to be acquired is necessary and appropriate for the proposed project and in the event successful negotiations cannot be effectuated with any owner or owners thereof, condemnation proceedings are authorized to be commenced and prosecuted to acquire the necessary right-of-way and/or temporary construction easements.

13. It was recommended by Mr. Collins, moved by Commissioner Latta, seconded by Commissioner McCormick, and carried to approve the following resolution where property for public use cannot be acquired through good faith negotiation by purchase or gift:

RESOLUTION FOR EXERCISE OF EMINENT DOMAIN

WHEREAS, pursuant to W.S. 1-26-512, 1-26-801 and 24-2-102, the Transportation Commission of Wyoming is authorized to institute condemnation proceedings where property for public use cannot be acquired through good faith negotiation by purchase or gift; and

WHEREAS, the public interest and necessity require the construction of Project HSIP 0.13 P611003, Sheridan Streets, in Sheridan County, and that the property shown on the right-of-way plans for this project is required for highway purposes; and

WHEREAS, the Transportation Commission of Wyoming has determined that the aforementioned project is planned or located to be most compatible with the greatest public good and the least private injury; and

WHEREAS, the right-of-way and/or temporary construction easements to be acquired are identified as being located in the

Tract 6 of the Second Brundage Place Subdivision, Lot 1 of the Southside Business Park II Subdivision, and Lots 4 and 5 of the Brundage Place Subdivision; all of Sheridan County, Wyoming, and constitutes approximately 0.07 acre of property for right-of-way and approximately 0.10 acre of property for temporary construction easements.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the property sought to be acquired is necessary and appropriate for the proposed project and in the event successful negotiations cannot be effectuated with any owner or owners thereof, condemnation proceedings are authorized to be commenced and prosecuted to acquire the necessary right-of-way and/or temporary construction easements.

Messrs. Spear, Hermreck, and Erik Miller left the meeting.

14. Director Cox presented the Highway Patrol report in Colonel Powell's absence.

The Fatal Crash Summary through June 30, 2008, includes 60 fatal crashes involving 46 deaths. The fatalities include 22 involving rollover crashes, 26 involving multi-car crashes, 8 involving commercial vehicles, 7 involving motorcycles and all-terrain vehicles, 3 involving pedestrians, and 2 involving fixed objects. Fatalities this year are about the same as in 2007. Alcohol and non-restraint use are significant contributors to the fatality rate.

There have been 19 crashes to date deemed alcohol related, resulting in 28 deaths. Of those deaths, 21 were attributed to not using restraints.

Of the 60 deaths that have occurred to date in 2008, 35 can be attributed to the non-use of occupant restraints, with 20 involving rollover crashes, 14 involving multi-car collisions, and 1 involving a fixed object. Of the 35 deaths that occurred from non-use of occupant restraints, 30 were Wyoming residents and 5 were non-residents.

Patrol-Investigated Crash Summary: The Patrol-Investigated Crash Summary reflects activity through May 31, 2008. The summary depicts 3,504 crashes statewide, of which 2,842 involved non-commercial vehicles and 662 involved commercial vehicles.

Patrol Field Arrest Activity: Field arrest activity indicates that the majority of arrests made as of June 30, 2008, have been DUI related. Field arrests total 1,019 to date, including:

- DUI arrests from crashes – 94
- DUI arrests from traffic stops – 443
- DUI arrests from the REDDI Program – 86
- DUI arrests from ports-of-entry – 4
- NCIC hits (person) – 31
- Wyoming warrants hits – 90
- Drug arrests – 84
- Other arrests – 187

Special Services Squad (SSS) Deployment, Western Governors' Conference: The Wyoming Highway Patrol (WHP) assigned 25 SSS members and some non-squad members to the Western Governors' Conference in Jackson, Wyoming, June 26 through July 1, 2008. The Highway Patrol provided on-site security and drivers for the attending governors and Canadian delegation. Event-related expenditures will be provided to the Commission in the future, as time allows.

SSS Deployment, Rainbow Family World Gathering: Fourteen SSS members, including WHP narcotics canines, were deployed to the Pinedale area July 1-7, 2008, to police the Rainbow Family World Gathering. Numerous felony and misdemeanor drug arrests were made during the event. Statistics and event-related expenses for this event will also be provided to the Commission in the future.

15. Mr. Byrne presented the Aeronautics report.

Mr. Byrne presented the Flight Operations Passenger Summary Report.

Cessna 206 Update: The State's Cessna 206 has been sold to a Colorado aerial surveying company. The plane was sold to the sole bidder for \$150,000 and has been delivered to the buyer. Proceeds from the sale will go to the Department's aircraft operations account.

Mr. Byrne advised that private airplane crashes had risen in June, with no identifiable cause. Overall, recent aircraft usage has dropped, primarily because of high fuel prices.

16. Mr. Tim Hibbard presented the Operations report.

It was recommended by Mr. Hibbard, moved by Commissioner Latta, seconded by Commissioner Covello, and carried to approve purchase for RFP No. 08-0192 to furnish annual auditing services for one year, with the option of extending the contract on a year-to-year basis for a period not to exceed three years. The contract was awarded to Porter, Muirhead, Cornia & Howard, of Casper, Wyoming, for the sum of \$128,600.

It was recommended by Mr. Hibbard, moved by Commissioner Latta, seconded by Commissioner McCormick, and carried to approve purchase for Bid No. 08-0202 to furnish an above-ground fuel system at the WYDOT facility in Kaycee, Wyoming. The contract was awarded to Greenleaf Environmental, of Buford, Georgia, for the sum of \$224,485.50.

17. WYOLINK Update: Mr. Hibbard advised that Wyoming's Congressional delegation assisted in pursuing Federal Communications Commission licenses for the additional needed WYOLINK towers. Most of the frequencies have been acquired and the project is moving forward.

18. Mr. McOmie presented the Chief Engineer's report.

WYDOT Maintenance Light-Duty Trucks: Pursuant to Chairman Hawkins' inquiry at the June Commission meeting, Mr. McOmie reported on the make-up of the Department's maintenance pickup truck fleet. The fleet currently consists of 134 light-duty trucks. Over the past two years, 26 additional one-ton flatbed trucks have been added to the fleet. The districts have indicated they could use another 28 trucks for work not requiring the larger four-yard and eight-yard vehicles.

The commissioners discussed the size and use of the light-duty trucks. Chairman Hawkins expressed concern about fuel costs and associated wear and maintenance on larger trucks when used to transport personnel for tasks that could be accomplished using light-duty trucks.

Mr. McOmie indicated that the Department's Equipment Office has investigated fuel mileage, maintenance, and vehicle purchase costs. They determined that although light-duty trucks would save the Department in fuel and maintenance costs, there is a substantial expense in purchasing new light-duty trucks. Mr. McOmie proposed phasing out the larger trucks and replacing them with light-duty trucks whenever possible. The fiscal year 2009 budget process is currently underway, and Mr. McOmie anticipates sharp cuts in new equipment purchases. Mr. McOmie will keep the Commission apprised of further developments.

Structural Reinforcing Steel: CC&G, Inc., of Lander, Wyoming, has filed a claim for steel escalation on the Douglas Streets project. There is no escalation provision in the contract, the district has denied the claim, and it has moved to the Chief Engineer's level for consideration. The issue is very similar to fuel and asphalt escalations that came before the Commission in the past. Mr. McOmie recommended that Wyoming Contractors' Association and CC&G representatives attend the August Commission meeting to discuss retroactive payment for steel price increases. The Department is investigating potential escalation provisions to address future rising steel costs but cannot make retroactive payment without Commission approval.

The contractor has provided Mr. McOmie with information about steel prices for the Douglas Streets project, which have increased from \$383,000 to \$500,000 from January to May 2008.

Joint Transportation, Highways & Military Affairs Interim Committee (JTC) Meeting: The JTC will meet July 23-24, 2008, at the Douglas Fairgrounds. WYDOT discussion topics will be addressed on July 24 and will include rental vehicle registration, future multi-lane funding, revised vehicle title and registration statutes, draft legislation for increased Industrial Road Program (IRP) limits, oversize/overweight fee legislation, the commuter rail report, and the I-80 tolling study.

19. It was moved by Commissioner Latta, seconded by Commissioner McCormick, and carried to adjourn the meeting. Chairman Hawkins adjourned the meeting at 10:55 a.m., Thursday, July 17, 2008.