

TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION OF WYOMING

The Transportation Commission of Wyoming met in the Commission Room of the Transportation Headquarters building in Cheyenne on December 11, 2008. The meeting was convened at 1:30 p.m. by Chairman Hawkins. The following members were present constituting a quorum:

Rip Hawkins, Chairman, Devils Tower
Susan Dziardziel, Vice Chair, Douglas
Emerson Scott III, Commissioner, Dayton
Charlie Monk, Commissioner, Lovell
Cactus Covello Jr., Commissioner, Torrington
Jim Latta, Commissioner, Pinedale
Sandi McCormick, Commissioner, Rock Springs
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; Tom Loftin, Support Services Administrator; Colonel Sam Powell, Wyoming Highway Patrol Administrator; Kevin Hibbard, Budget Officer; Doug McGee, Public Affairs Manager; Doug Moench, Senior Assistant Attorney General; and Phil Miller, Division Administrator, Federal Highway Administration; Jay Gould, District Engineer, Laramie; John Eddins, District Engineer, Rock Springs; Mark Gillett, District Engineer, Sheridan; and Shelby Carlson, District Engineer, Basin.

Those absent: Dennis Byrne, Aeronautics Administrator.

Vice Chair Dziardziel presided over the meeting.

1. It was recommended by Secretary Scott, moved by Commissioner Covello, seconded by Commissioner McCormick, and carried to approve the minutes from the November 20, 2008, regular business meeting and education session.

2. Director Cox presented the Director's report.

Joint Appropriations Committee (JAC) Meeting: Director Cox testified before the JAC on December 9, 2008, and presented the Department's 2009-2010 biennium budget request. The JAC will not make any changes to proposed agency budgets until after the release of the 2009 Consensus Revenue Estimating Group (CREG) report, which is expected to be released in January 2009.

3. Mr. Kevin Hibbard presented the Budget report.

Mr. Hibbard reported that the Department's current cash balance appears higher than anticipated because of recent federal mineral royalty receipts. Funds will be expended as the year progresses.

Program Overhead Reports: Right-of-Way, Highway Development, and Planning Program budgets reflect overruns because of recent software purchases. Program budgets are expected to equalize as the year progresses.

4. Mr. Collins presented the Engineering and Planning report beginning with the bid tabulations from the letting held December 10, 2008, in Cheyenne.

COMMISSION DISTRICT 1
Cactus Covello – Commissioner

Federal project NH-PM-I252152, involving grading, draining, placing crushed base and bituminous pavement surfacing, removal of concrete pavement, concrete slab replacement, concrete pavement spall repair, bridge concrete repair, crack sealing (concrete pavement), removal and replacement of guardrail, and miscellaneous work on I-25 for 17.88 miles at two locations, Wheatland South and at the Converse County Line in Platte County. Completion date – October 31, 2009

Engineer's Estimate	\$3,070,622.50	
Reiman Corp., Cheyenne, WY	\$2,493,628.50	-18.8%
S & S Builders LLC., Gillette, WY	\$2,541,595.94	
Edward Hawley LLC., Torrington, WY (Irregular Check Digit)	\$2,863,906.73	
Upper Plains Contracting, Inc., Aberdeen, SD	\$2,894,684.20	
Concrete Works of Colorado, Inc., Lafayette, CO	\$3,159,854.60	
Hout Fencing of Wyoming, Inc., Worland, WY	\$3,387,976.00	
Penhall Company and Subsidiaries, Rogers, MN	\$3,499,666.00	
Interstate Improvement, Inc., Faribault, MN	\$3,579,179.50	

It was recommended by Mr. Collins, moved by Commissioner Covello, seconded by Commissioner Monk, 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. The Federal Highway Administration concurred with this decision.

COMMISSION DISTRICTS 1 and 2
Cactus Covello – Commissioner
Sandi McCormick – Commissioner

Federal project STP-PM-B091007, involving chip sealing and miscellaneous work at various locations in Transportation District 1, in Albany, Carbon, Laramie and Sweetwater counties. Completion date – August 31, 2009

Engineer's Estimate	\$2,569,075.00	
Intermountain Slurry Seal, Inc., Salt Lake City, UT	\$1,937,250.00	-24.6%
Knife River, Cheyenne, WY	\$1,943,880.00	
Simon Contractors, Cheyenne, WY	\$2,202,640.00	

It was recommended by Mr. Collins, moved by Chairman Hawkins, seconded by Commissioner McCormick, and carried that **Intermountain Slurry Seal, Inc., Salt Lake City, Utah**, having prequalified in accordance with rules and regulations adopted by the Transportation Commission of Wyoming, be awarded the contract as low bidder. The Federal Highway Administration concurred with this decision.

COMMISSION DISTRICT 2
Sandi McCormick – Commissioner

State project SCP-SL-P182028, involving placing bituminous pavement surfacing and miscellaneous work on 10.31 miles of WYO 789, beginning at reference marker 40.00 between Creston Junction and Baggs, in Carbon County. Completion date – October 31, 2009

Engineer's Estimate	\$3,023,465.00	
Western Wyoming Construction Co., Lander, WY	\$2,436,760.55	-19.4%
McGarvin-Moberly Construction Company, Worland, WY	\$2,536,232.20	
Simon Contractors, Cheyenne, WY	\$2,605,820.80	
McMurry Ready-Mix Co., Casper, WY	\$2,620,010.00	
Mountain Construction Company, Lovell, WY	\$3,125,974.44	
A & S Construction Co. and Affiliated Companies, Canon City, CO	\$2,987,551.00	
Plus 5 % for Comparison (Irregular Check Digit)	\$3,136,928.55	
Knife River, Cheyenne, WY	\$3,159,603.21	
Connell Resources, Inc., Fort Collins, CO	\$3,082,926.00	
Plus 5% for Comparison	\$3,237,072.30	
Elam Construction, Inc. and Affiliates, Grand Junction, CO	\$3,198,460.00	
Plus 5% for Comparison	\$3,358,383.00	

It was recommended by Mr. Collins, moved by Commissioner Monk, seconded by Chairman Hawkins, and carried that **Western Wyoming Construction Co., Lander, 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 SCP-SL-P171028, involving grading, milling plant mix, bituminous pavement surfacing, and miscellaneous work on 13.00 miles of U.S. Highway 191, beginning at reference marker 514.00 just south of Rock Springs, in Sweetwater County. Completion date – October 31, 2009

Engineer's Estimate	\$1,700,600.00	
Lewis & Lewis, Inc., Rock Springs, WY	\$1,524,125.41	-10.4%
Mountain Construction Company, Lovell, WY	\$1,591,262.81	
McMurry Ready-Mix Co., Casper, WY	\$1,598,826.37	
McGarvin-Moberly Construction Company, Worland, WY	\$1,605,960.40	
Western Wyoming Construction Co., Lander, WY	\$1,741,893.10	
W.W. Clyde & Co., Springville, UT	\$1,790,853.66	
Plus 5% for Comparison (Irregular Check Digit)	\$1,880,396.34	

It was recommended by Mr. Collins, moved by Commissioner Latta, seconded by Commissioner McCormick, and carried that **Lewis & Lewis, Inc., Rock Springs, 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.

State project SCP-SL-1910001, involving grading, milling plant mix, bituminous pavement surfacing, and miscellaneous work on 1.55 miles of WYO 374, beginning at reference marker 64.84, between Granger and Lyman, in Sweetwater County. Completion date – September 30, 2009

Engineer's Estimate	\$433,905.00	
McGarvin-Moberly Construction Company, Worland, WY	\$301,613.88	-30.5%
H-K Contractors, Inc. and Evans Construction Company, JV		
Idaho Falls, ID	\$297,157.50	
Plus 5% for Comparison	\$312,015.38	
Lewis & Lewis, Inc., Rock Springs, WY	\$354,141.50	

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

COMMISSION DISTRICTS 2 and 3
Sandi McCormick – Commissioner
Jim Latta – Commissioner

Federal project STP-B083004, involving chip sealing and miscellaneous work on various roads in Transportation District 3 in Lincoln and Sweetwater counties. Completion date – August 31, 2009

Engineer's Estimate	\$1,218,150.00	
H-K Contractors, Inc. and Evans Construction Company, JV		
Idaho Falls, ID	\$ 976,500.00	-19.8%
Intermountain Slurry Seal, Inc., Salt Lake City, UT	\$1,063,000.00	
McGarvin-Moberly Construction Company, Worland, WY	\$1,225,807.00	

It was recommended by Mr. Collins, moved by Commissioner Latta, seconded by Commissioner Covello, and carried that **H-K Contractors, Inc. and Evans Construction Company, Idaho Falls, Idaho, a joint venture**, 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.

**COMMISSION DISTRICT 3
Jim Latta – Commissioner**

Federal project STP-PO-1201006, involving milling plant mix, grading, placing bituminous pavement surfacing and miscellaneous work on 5.65 miles of WYO 232 (Smith Fork Road), beginning at reference marker 0.10 just outside of Kemmerer, in Lincoln County. Completion date – October 31, 2009

Engineer's Estimate	\$1,129,533.00
Western Wyoming Construction Co., Lander, WY	\$ 979,047.50 -13.3%
H-K Contractors, Inc. and Evans Construction Company, JV Idaho Falls, ID	\$1,066,313.00
McGarvin-Moberly Construction Company, Worland, WY	\$1,101,455.95
Mountain Construction Company, Lovell, WY	\$1,565,385.20

It was recommended by Mr. Collins, moved by Commissioner Latta, seconded by Commissioner Covello, and carried that **Western Wyoming Construction Co., Lander, 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.

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

State project SCP-SL-W334001, involving grading, draining, milling plant mix, placing crushed base and bituminous pavement surfacing, wearing course, bridge rehabilitation, removal and replacement of sidewalk, curb and gutter, concrete pavement, and miscellaneous work on 0.65 mile of WYO 334, beginning at reference marker 0.07 in the city of Sheridan, in Sheridan County. Completion date – September 30, 2009

Engineer's Estimate	\$1,771,714.00
Intermountain Construction and Materials, Inc., Gillette, WY	\$1,742,420.00 -1.7%

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

Federal project NH-I901113, involving removal and replacement of right-of-way fence and miscellaneous work on 9.87 miles of I-90, beginning at reference marker 0.00 between the Montana state line and Ranchester, in Sheridan County. Completion date – July 31, 2009

Engineer's Estimate	\$446,752.50	
Hout Fencing of Wyoming, Inc., Worland, WY	\$322,522.00	-27.8%
Crooked Fork Fencing, Inc., Lolo, MT	\$405,946.50	
Wishbone Fencing Company, Aladdin, WY	\$424,976.00	
4-D Fencing Company, Riverton, WY	\$436,945.00	

It was recommended by Mr. Collins, moved by Commissioner Scott, seconded by Commissioner Latta, and carried that **Hout Fencing of Wyoming, Inc., Worland, 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.

COMMISSION DISTRICT 7
Susan Dziardziel – Vice Chair

State project SCP-SL-0502018, involving grading, draining, placing bituminous pavement leveling and surfacing, fencing, and miscellaneous work on 7.92 miles of WYO 93 (Orpha Road), beginning at reference marker 18.22 north of Orpha, in Converse County. Completion date – October 31, 2009

Engineer's Estimate	\$3,642,889.00	
Simon Contractors, Cheyenne, WY	\$3,496,128.80	-4.0%
McMurry Ready-Mix Co., Casper, WY	\$3,538,414.50	
Knife River, Cheyenne, WY	\$3,631,794.00	
McGarvin-Moberly Construction Company, Worland, WY	\$3,662,452.74	
Hout Fencing of Wyoming, Inc., Worland, WY	\$3,728,397.00	
Roberts Construction Company, Sheridan, WY	\$3,746,859.00	
Oftedal Construction, Inc., Casper, WY	\$3,935,957.81	

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

Federal project NH-PO-N302047, involving grading, milling plant mix, placing crushed base and bituminous pavement surfacing, chip seal, bridge repair and miscellaneous work on 4.99 miles of U.S. Highway 26, beginning at reference marker 45.66 between Moran Junction and Dubois, in Fremont County. Completion date – August 31, 2009

Engineer's Estimate	\$2,556,948.00	
H-K Contractors, Inc. and Evans Construction Company, JV		
Idaho Falls, ID	\$2,289,957.00	-10.4%
McMurry Ready-Mix Co., Casper, WY	\$2,333,453.50	
Western Wyoming Construction Co., Lander, WY	\$2,336,434.25	
Mountain Construction Company, Lovell, WY	\$2,435,976.73	
McGarvin-Moberly Construction Company, Worland, WY	\$3,245,364.70	

It was recommended by Mr. Collins, moved by Commissioner Latta, seconded by Commissioner Monk, and carried that **H-K Contractors, Inc. and Evans Construction Company, Idaho Falls, ID, a joint venture**, 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.

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

COMMISSION DISTRICT 2

Rural Minor Arterial

SCP-SL09 4.00 P141018; Sweetwater County; Farson to Lander, Eden Canal; reference markers 4.00 to 14.10; widen, overlay, isolated reconstruction, ITS; move construction from fiscal year 2010 to fiscal year 2009; request state construction engineering and construction funds of \$8,929,730

SCP-SL09 272.19 P231022; Carbon County; Medicine Bow to Bosler, Medicine Bow East; reference markers 272.19 t 283.69; widen and overlay; move construction from fiscal year 2010 to fiscal year 2009; request state construction engineering and construction funds of \$16,846,135

COMMISSION DISTRICT 4

Urban Principal Arterial

STPU-SH 0.00 4442002; Sheridan County; Sheridan Streets, Scott Street; new construction; fiscal year 2012 construction; request federal preliminary engineering of \$20,000

COMMISSION DISTRICT 5

Rural Major Collector

CMP-RF 14.05 1506001; Park County; Powell North; reference markers 14.05 to 19.50; right-of-way fence; fiscal year 2009; request state preliminary engineering funds of \$10,000

COMMISSION DISTRICT 7

Rural Principal Arterial

NH 107.11 N203062; Fremont County; Riverton to Shoshoni; reference marker 107.11; lighting; fiscal year 2010 construction; request federal preliminary engineering of \$15,000

6. It was recommended by Mr. Collins, moved by Commissioner Monk, 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 0N44-02(063) and (066), Upton Main Street (west center line to east center line), in the town of Upton, Weston County, and that the property shown on the right-of-way plans for this project is required for highway purposes; and

WHEREAS, the Wyoming Department of Transportation 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 Tracts 1, 6 and 7, Reynolds Addition to Upton; Lot K, L, Y, First Addition to Upton; Lots 4, 5 and 7, Block 1, Third Addition to Upton; Lot 1, Block 3, Third Addition to Upton; Lots 6, 7 and 8, Block 4, Third Addition to Upton; Lots 10 and 11, Block 5, Third Addition to Upton; Lot 1, Block 9, East Addition to Upton; Block 39, Sawmill Subdivision; Lot 9, Block 46, Sawmill Subdivision; Lot 1, Block 47, Sawmill Subdivision; Lots 1, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, Block 14, Neimans Addition; Lots 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10, Block 15, Neimans Addition to Upton; N $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$; SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$; NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 35, T48N, R65W, of the 6th P.M., Weston County, Wyoming, and constitute approximately 5,567 square feet of property for right-of-way and approximately 2.76 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.

7. Petitions for At-Grade Public Rail Crossings, Sugar Factory Road: Mr. Collins introduced Mr. Dan Kline, WYDOT Railroads Section Supervisor. Mr. Kline briefed the Commission about the proposed closure of two public rail crossings and the establishment of one new public at-grade crossing on Sugar Factory Road in the city of Torrington, in Goshen County.

The proposed closure of two crossings and establishment of one new crossing was made apparent during the preliminary engineering design for the reconstruction of the Sugar Factory Road. Safety

concerns prompted the action, and the involved parties concluded that this was in the public's best interest to form one crossing.

It was recommended by Mr. Collins, moved by Commissioner Covello, seconded by Commissioner Scott, and carried to approve the closure of two public at-grade crossings on Sugar Factory Road.

8. Petition for Establishment of Public Crossing on Sugar Factory Road: Mr. Kline described the location of the proposed new at-grade public rail crossing.

It was recommended by Mr. Collins, moved by Commissioner Covello, seconded by Commissioner McCormick, and carried to approve the petition to establish a new public at-grade rail crossing on Sugar Factory Road in the city of Torrington.

9. Colonel Powell presented the Highway Patrol report.

The Fatal Crash Summary through November 30, 2008, includes 126 fatal crashes involving 144 deaths. The fatalities include 60 involving rollover crashes, 52 involving multi-car crashes, 24 involving commercial vehicles, 22 involving motorcycles and all-terrain vehicles, 5 involving pedestrians, and 5 involving fixed objects.

There have been 42 crashes to date deemed alcohol related, resulting in 54 deaths. Of those deaths, 42 were attributed to not using restraints.

Of the 144 deaths that have occurred to date in 2008, 77 can be attributed to the non-use of occupant restraints, with 52 involving rollover crashes, 22 involving multi-car collisions, and 3 involving fixed objects. Of the 77 deaths that occurred from non-use of occupant restraints, 57 were Wyoming residents and 20 were non-residents.

Colonel Powell reported that 2008 fatalities are about the same as last year's statistics. Director Cox indicated that a primary seat belt law is expected to be brought before the legislature this year, which would undoubtedly reduce fatalities.

Patrol-Investigated Crash Summary: The Patrol-Investigated Crash Summary reflects activity through October 31, 2008. The summary depicts 6,013 crashes statewide, of which 5,020 involved non-commercial vehicles and 993 involved commercial vehicles.

Patrol Field Arrest Activity: Field arrest activity indicates that the majority of arrests made as of November 30, 2008, have been DUI related. Field arrests total 2,091 to date, including the following:

- DUI arrests from crashes – 176
- DUI arrests from traffic stops – 963
- DUI arrests from the REDDI Program – 182
- DUI arrests from ports-of-entry – 9
- NCIC hits (person) – 52
- Wyoming warrant hits – 170
- Drug arrests – 144
- Other arrests – 395

Trooper Staffing: As of November 30, 2008, there were three trooper vacancies statewide. There are currently 14 troopers attending Wyoming Highway Patrol Basic Academy at Camp Guernsey.

WYOLINK Update: The new WYOLINK system is functioning in District 1 with a few technical issues yet to be resolved. Colonel Powell is optimistic that all I-80 WYOLINK sites will be operational by the end of the 2008-09 winter season. Radio signal quality has greatly improved with the new system.

10. Mr. Dennis Byrne was unable to attend the meeting. Director Cox presented the November 2008 Flight Operations Passenger Summary and the Wyoming Aircraft Accident Report.

11. Mr. Loftin presented the Support Services report.

Proposed Rules for Motor Vehicles and Licensing: Mr. Loftin expressed his desire to postpone his presentation of the proposed rule for motor vehicles and licensing until further information could be obtained. The topic will be presented at the January 15, 2009, Commission meeting.

12. 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 bid number 09-026 to furnish 900,000 each, 2009 Wyoming highway maps. The bid was awarded to Signature Printing Inc., of Mississauga, Ontario, Canada, for the sum of \$108,000.

It was recommended by Mr. Hibbard, moved by Commissioner Monk, seconded by Commissioner McCormick, and carried to approve Requisition No. 1203 for the purchase of tires for use on WYDOT equipment statewide. The requisition was awarded to Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company, of Akron, Ohio; Michelin North America, Inc., of Greenville, South Carolina; and Bridgestone/Firestone, Inc., of Nashville, Tennessee, for the sum of \$708,231.62.

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

Mr. McOmie asked the district engineers to brief the Commission about their 2008 activities.

District 1 Report: District Engineer Jay Gould advised that District 1 had a severe winter last year. The Arlington to Elk Mountain section of I-80 was particularly problematic. In recent years, District 1 has experienced a maintenance staffing shortage, which necessitated bringing maintenance forces from other districts to assist with snow removal.

WYOLINK is functioning well in parts of District 1 and has replaced the need for the Laramie radio room. The new Transportation Management Center (TMC) in Cheyenne is now successfully handling radio calls and dynamic message signs district-wide.

I-25 northbound construction south of Cheyenne is complete as well as I-80 east. Secondary roads, including the Sage Creek near Rawlins, was also finished in Summer 2008. The Rawlins urban project slated as a two-year project was substantially complete in one year with only some smaller areas of sidewalk and clean up to complete. The district is now upgrading road closure signs and Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) and implementing a variable speed limit project and will soon implement a safety project involving speed radar trailers along sections of I-80.

Mr. Tim Hibbard explained that the variable speed limit sign production and installation has been delayed until January 2009. The vendor was recently advised of the importance of receiving the signs as soon as possible.

A consultant has prepared a preliminary planning study for the I-80/ I-25 interchange. The estimated cost of the project is about \$220 million. The Cheyenne Metropolitan Planning Organization is involved in the planning process.

The U.S. Forest Service and a legislator have expressed concern about the destruction caused by the Barton Beetle in the Snowy Range area. The affected areas are being inventoried and prioritized for dead timber mitigation to prevent highway hazards.

District 2 Report: Mr. McOmie reported on District 2 activities, as District Engineer Jack Bell was unable to attend the meeting.

The I-25 Casper East project is about 50 percent complete, and a 2009 completion is anticipated on the Douglas Main Street project. Work is also underway on the Lusk north passing lanes project, with a scheduled June 2010 completion date.

District 2 currently has a 15.5 percent maintenance force vacancy rate. There are currently five vacancies in Casper, two in Muddy Gap, and two in Midwest. Surface maintenance budget cuts have affected work, and motor grader patches in lieu of lay-down machine patches are being used to conserve material.

Additional ITS devices will soon be installed as part of upcoming construction projects. A need still exists for more ITS technicians.

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Two more windmill projects are expected just east of Casper in 2009. Heavy loads associated with windmill installation may damage area roadways. The public has expressed opposition to allowing road use for the windmill projects because of added traffic and possible road damage.

District 3 Report: District Engineer John Eddins stated that the Nugget Canyon, U.S. Highway 30, and the deer underpass and fence projects were completed in 2008. All three projects were finished on time and within budget. The six new deer underpasses will save about 300 deer and vehicles crashes each year. The project has received much publicity, and the American Wildland Safe Passages gave it an "A" for utilizing the 10 best management practices for developing and implementing wildlife crossings. The U.S. Highway 191, Rock Springs to Pinedale, passing lane project were also completed on time and within budget. Positive feedback has been received from highway users.

Traffic is back to normal on the Rock Springs Marginal, and Dewar drive is almost complete. The contractor has worked overtime since the end of November and is being charged liquidated damages for delays.

District staffing is considerably better than last year at this time. Construction forces are down 10 employees, maintenance is down 4 people, traffic is fully staffed, and there are two mechanic positions open.

The district continues to use the Evanston salt brine plant, as the Rock Springs site is not complete. Salt use has increased this year, and Ice Slicer is used for "hot" loads.

The six-year Lower Valley Electric gas line installation on U.S. Highway 191 through the Hoback Canyon was completed this year.

The Hoback Junction projects are progressing, and the environmental assessment for the bridge over the Hoback River and intersection is finished. The steel arch girder bridge and roundabout design are being detailed, and the environmental impact statement for the junction has been reviewed by legal staff and will be published for public comment and hearing in early 2009.

District 4 Report: District Engineer Mark Gillett reported that about 19 construction projects totaling \$59 million were let in District 4 in 2008. The largest and most complex project was the one-mile segment of Highway 59 in Gillette. The contractor completed the work early and received a \$1 million bonus payment. Virtually no complaints were received throughout the life of the \$20 million project.

U.S. Highway 24 slide repairs between Hulett and Aladdin were the most challenging district projects during 2008. Three more slides occurred this year, and they will be repaired in Spring 2009.

The most dramatic event for district maintenance crews in 2008 was the collapse of the WYO 450 bridge and related activities. The structure was struck by a coal mine haul truck, requiring the erection of a two-lane portable temporary bridge. Traffic was detoured for about 2½ weeks.

Snow events were greater than usual in District 4 this year. Maintenance forces were drawn from other districts to assist with snow removal.

Maintenance chip seal projects were cut for the third year in a row, and a significant amount of surfacing work planned for last summer was also cut because of funding shortfalls. District maintenance forces placed only 23,000 tons of hot plant mix patching material in Summer 2008, compared to 55,000 the previous year. The reduction in material quantity is linked to construction materials inflation and budget cuts.

The district traffic sign crew accomplished its workload with a two-man crew during the summer. The WYO 59 reconstruction project burdened the Gillette electrical technician with an inordinate amount of utility locates and signal inspections on short notice from the contractor. Consequently, routine signal maintenance was sacrificed. Increased highway access requests also taxed district traffic crews.

District shop crews worked diligently on numerous major repairs to the rotary snow blowers. The Buffalo and Sundance shops continue to be impacted by insufficient space. Both shops are in the 10-year building plan but have been postponed for lack of funding.

The district currently has 16 vacancies and continues to experience employee retention problems because of competition from the area energy industry. Hot spot pay incentives have helped balance crew staffing. The district plans to host job fairs to recruit employees in the near future.

District 5 Report: District Engineer Shelby Carlson stated that 11 projects were awarded in District 5 in 2008, totaling some \$83.9 million. The Togwotee Pass, Four Mile Section, was the largest project let for \$65.3 million. State legislative and high priority federal funds were used for the project. The Brooks Lake and Buffalo Fork sections along with three miles of Togwotee Pass/Four Mile Meadow Section (17.7 miles) of the 38-mile project are now complete.

Other projects in progress are the Hudson to St. Stephens, 17-Mile Road East, the Sawdust Slide reconstruction on South Pass, the Clark's Fork Section of U.S. Highway 120, and a few bridge replacement off-system (BROS) and overlay projects.

The Meeteetse Shop is now open.

Fatal and serious right angle crashes continue to be a concern at the Honor Farm Road intersection. Political pressure is increasing following a fatal accident about three or four weeks ago. Flashing lights on stop signs were installed about 1½ years ago, and no fatal accidents have occurred during that period until this most recent accident. Ms. Carlson plans to meet with the City of Riverton and

Fremont County officials to discuss potential methods of reducing crashes at the intersection. The district and state traffic are proceeding with the design of a progressive roadway lighting project and an overhead warning beacon project. The Wyoming Highway Patrol has increased law enforcement presence at the intersection, as the majority of drivers do not make a proper stop at the stop sign. Most crashes have been caused by drivers failing to yield off of Honor Farm Road.

There are currently 15 job openings in District 5, primarily in the maintenance and engineering fields. Job fairs were recently held in Riverton, Lander, Cody, and Worland through Wyoming Workforce Development. A very positive response was received for one engineer opening in Cody. Worland continues to be a difficult recruiting location because of its diverse economy.

14. The Commission scheduled its annual planning retreat for Wednesday, February 18, 2009.

15. It was moved by Commissioner Covello, seconded by Commissioner Scott, and carried to adjourn the meeting. Vice Chair Dziardziel adjourned the meeting at 3:45 p.m., on Thursday, December 11, 2008.