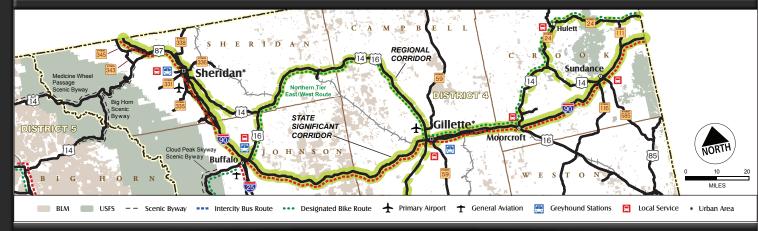




CORRIDOR 13

Sheridan to Sundance







GOALS

CORRIDOR CHARACTERISTICS

Safety

Trucks

Interstate connection to Montana and South Dakota

Diverse geography ranges from mountains and canyons to grasslands

Connectivity

Medium to high traffic volumes with significant and increasing truck traffic

Sheridan, an arts, culture, and tourism city and Gillette, an energy development center

System Preservation

PRIMARY INVESTMENT TYPE: MOBILITY

Intergovernmental Coordination

Aviation

Public Transportation

Needs on this corridor include all types – mobility, safety, and system preservation. Safety conditions, roadway geometries, shoulders, sight distances, auxiliary lanes, and pavement conditions should be further analyzed to determine where and what investments are appropriate. Other mobility improvements, including ITS applications and public transportation or TDM strategies could help improve the corridor Plans should include the rehabilitation and replacement of deficient bridges.

CORRIDOR CHARACTERISTICS

Corridor Description

State Significant Corridor (SSC) 13 includes Interstate 90 (I-90) from the eastern South Dakota/Wyoming border east of Sundance to the Montana/Wyoming border, north of Sheridan. It is 207 miles long and used for both inter- and intrastate travel. It passes through two major urban areas, Sheridan and Gillette, and three smaller towns, Buffalo, Moorcroft, and Sundance. It is a high speed, multilane transportation facility and part of the interstate system critical to the delivery of goods and services. Near the urbanized areas, it is also critical to the regional and local transportation system.

SSC 13 passes through Campbell County, which is considered the energy capital of the world and contains mining operations for coal, oil, natural gas, and methane. Further, it has wind turbine fields and several coal power plants. Northeastern Wyoming is within the Powder River Basin, an area rich with energy resources that supplies a significant percent of the nation's coal. East of Gillette and I-90 is the WYODAC coal power plant. I-90 is a critical transportation route for ever increasing energy companies that rely on Campbell County for supplies. Overweight and overheight loads associated with the coalbed methane compressors (sometime double or more standard limits) stress the pavement. Further stress is created by the movement of heavy wind turbines throughout the corridor, impacting mobility, safety, and system condition.

The city of Sheridan has a population of approximately 17,000 and attracts thousands of tourists, particularly in the summer. Sheridan and surrounding communities are growing at significant rates. The other major city along SSC 13 is Gillette. Its nearby mines, power stations, and other activities associated with energy contribute to traffic on I-90 and connecting regional and local routes. These roadways are critical to the energy business, one of the most important economic generators in the state. Buffalo is a small town along SSC 13 in Johnson County. SSC 13 intersects five other state significant corridors including SSC 6, SSC 9, SSC 12, SSC 14 and SSC 15. The segment from Gillette to Moorcroft is designated as part of the Northern Tier East-West Bicycle Route.



Environmental Context

Located on the historic Bozeman Trail, Sheridan was a center of western expansion history. Visitors can relive those days at the forts, battle sites, museums and interpretive walking trails. Ten places in and around Sheridan are on the National Register of Historic Places.

According to the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Green Book, as of January 6, 2010, the City of Sheridan in Sheridan County is listed as "moderate" for PM₁₀ (particulate matter with a diameter of 10 micrometers or less). The Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality (WDEQ) in Sheridan continues to monitor their PM₁₀ levels on a daily basis and has seen a decrease in violations over the past few years.

The Powder River Basin, as a region, has also exceeded the national PM₁₀ standard. Under EPA guidance, this area has not been designated as nonattainment. The WDEQ also monitors this area closely and classifies these PM₁₀ contraventions as "high-wind events," (wind event

over 20 mph) and therefore does not count as a violation of national air quality standards.

Southeast of Sheridan is Lake DeSmet, which was the largest natural body of water in northern Wyoming. Today the lake's capacity has been enlarged as a reservoir; however, the shores of the lake remain virtually undeveloped.

Johnson County is a major recreation destination, especially in the summer, with access to the Big Horn Mountains and many recreational venues.

Thunder Basin National Grassland is north and south of Gillette along WYO 59 in Campbell County. Located in the Powder River Basin between the Big Horn Mountains and the Black Hills, the Grassland provides opportunities for recreation, including hiking, sightseeing, hunting, and fishing. This land consists of intermingled federal, state, and private lands.

Crook County attracts tourists and recreational users, particularly in

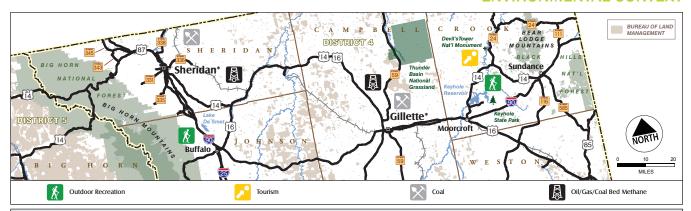
Corridor Interests:

- Cultural and Historic Resources
- Visual
- Recreation Management
- Travel Management
- Wildlife Connectivity, Habitat Fragmentation, & Fish Passage
- Wetlands, Fens
- Invasive Species

Source: U.S. Forest Service

the summer. US 14 enters the Bear Lodge Mountains and Keyhole State Park and Reservoir, which are located in the Black Hills National Forest. North of Sundance is the famed Devils Tower National Monument, an iconic symbol of Wyoming. Devils Tower rises 1,267 feet above the Belle Fourche River. President Theodore Roosevelt proclaimed Devils Tower the first national monument in 1906. Access to this area is via US 14.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONTEXT



The above map identifies issues and environmental constraints that form the basis for environmental review. Future projects in the corridor will take these and other issues under consideration prior to final design.

Key Issues and Emerging Trends

Major Traffic Generators

- Energy industry Gillette
- Power plants; gas/oil/coal fields – Powder River Basin
- Tourism destinations Sheridan, Buffalo
- Dispersed recreational traffic – Big Horn Mountains, Thunder Basin National Grassland, Bear Lodge
- Mountains, Keyhole State Park and Reservoir

- The safety issues along I-90 are indicative of roadway conditions that need to be improved, especially between the Montana border and Gillette, and west of Sundance.
- To support the function of I-90 as both an intra- and interstate facility, the needs of increasing truck traffic must be addressed to ensure the efficient operation of the route.
- The poor roadway surface and deteriorating bridge conditions need to be addressed in order to preserve the transportation function of I-90.
- 3— The resources available to reconstruct, preserve, and improve I-90 are insufficient.
- There is increased passenger air service demand to Sheridan and Gillette. To meet this increasing demand, airport facilities will require significant upgrades.
- Adding public transportation options between and within the larger cities could help meet increasing travel demand.
- ⁸ Wygen II, a new coal plant under construction, is an example of continued energy sector growth in this area.



Goals & Strategies

Goals for the corridor represent issues communicated by participants in the planning process. These goals lay groundwork for the development of a financially feasible multimodal transportation plan designed to support the planning, engineering, construction, operation, and maintenance of the State's transportation system.

The goals and strategies for SSC 13 range from specific needs of the transportation facility to responding to the differing needs of the two urban areas on the route. Improving safety is critical as is improving and preserving the roadway conditions.

The increasing demands of both the tourism business, focused in and around Sheridan, and the energy business, focused in and around Gillette, must be addressed. Both of these industries are important economically to the state in terms of sales tax revenue, employment, and quality of life.

GOALS	STRATEGIES		
Reduce fatalities, injuries, and property damage crash rates	Safety - general improvements		
Maintain statewide transportation connections	Interchange - new		
Manitani statewide transportation connections	ITS/VMS		
Accommodate growth in truck freight transport	Intermodal freight connections		
	Bridge rehabilitation/replacement		
Preserve the existing transportation system	Interchange - reconstruct		
	Reconstruction		
Decrete international and dispersion	Transportation and land use coordination		
Promote intergovernmental coordination	WYDOT/community partners		
Ensure airport facilities meets existing and future demands	Passenger airport service		
	Intercity bus		
Improve public transportation opportunities	Local transit services and operations		
	TDM strategies in major traffic generators		

Primary Investment Type

MOBILITY – Needs on this corridor include all types – mobility, safety, and system preservation. Safety conditions, roadway geometries, shoulders, sight distances, auxiliary lanes, and pavement conditions should be further analyzed to determine where and what investments are appropriate. Other mobility improvements, including ITS applications and public transportation or TDM strategies could help improve the corridor Plans should include the rehabilitation and replacement of deficient bridges.

Roadway Characteristics

The following maps identify conditions on the corridor with respect to surface condition, total traffic, truck traffic, safety, and bridges. The data represent the most recent available and are subject to change over time as projects are completed or other factors affect existing conditions. The system data play a big part in determining current operating characteristics, the type of need, and the extent of improvements necessary to achieve corridor goals.

PAVEMENT SURFACE CONDITION



The pavement surface conditions, along SSC 13 from the Montana state line to the South Dakota state line, are rated good/excellent for 70 percent of the corridor. There are intermittent areas where the surface conditions are rated as Fair or Poor, mostly in areas that have higher truck volumes or that have not been recently overlayed. Some pavement conditions for segments of regional corridors are rated poor and include WYO 50 north of WYO 387 and entering Gillette, US 14/16 northwest of Gillette, and WYO 24 north of US 14.

AVERAGE ANNUAL DAILY TRAFFIC (AADT)



The AADT for the majority of SSC 13 along I-90 averages 2,500 to 5,000 vehicles per day (vpd). The AADT for the sections between Gillette and Moorcroft, between Buffalo and Ranchette, and the section between Sundance and the South Dakota state line averages 5,000 to 10,000 vpd.

AVERAGE ANNUAL DAILY TRUCK TRAFFIC (AADTT)



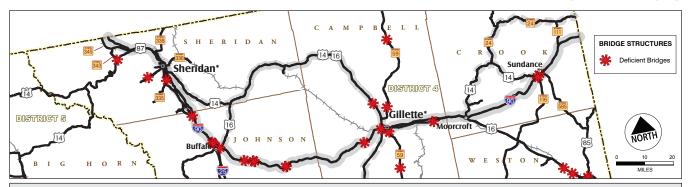
The truck traffic along most of SSC 13 averages 500 to 1,000 trucks per day. There are three sections along this corridor, from the state line to Buffalo, just east of Gillette, and just east of Sundance, where the truck traffic averages 1,000 to 2,500 trucks per day.

SAFETY INDEX



Sixty-six percent of the corridor has a below average Safety Index grade of D or F.

DEFICIENT BRIDGES



There are 22 deficient bridges within the corridor. Thirteen of the 22 bridges are along I-90. Two bridges are located on regional corridors and seven are located on local state highways. All deficient bridges visible in the map window are displayed, regardless of designation as SSC, Regional, or Local Routes.

REGIONAL REFERENCE INFORMATION

REGIONAL ROUTES

US 14/US 16 serves as an alternative northerly route from Sheridan to Gillette and connects the towns of Clearmont, Leiter, and Spotted Horse. Twenty-six miles east of Gillette at Moorcroft, US 14 makes a loop that connects north to Devils Tower on WYO 24. The highway is designated as part of the Northern Tier East-West Bicycle Route, which continues northeast from Moorcroft. At the western end of the corridor, WYO 336 serves the city of Sheridan and WYO 338 connects to the small towns of Acme, Wyoming, and Decker, four miles north into Montana.

URBAN AREAS

There are two urban areas along SSC 13, Sheridan on the western end and Gillette toward the eastern end. Urban areas are discussed in detail in the Urban Corridors section later in the document.

LOCAL ROUTES

LOCAL ROUTE	COUNTY	FROM	то	
WYO 59	Douglas/ Wright/Gillette	US 14/US 16/WYO 59	Montana State Line	
WYO 110	Crook	WYO 24	Devils Tower National Monument	
WYO 111	Crook	I-90/US 14	WYO 24	
WYO 112	Platte	WYO 24	Montana State Line	
WYO 113	Crook	US 14	CR 210	
WYO 116	Crook/Weston	US 14	WYO 450	
WYO 193/US 87	Sheridan	I-90/US 14	WYO 342	
US 212	Park/Crook	Western Terminus at Montana/Wyoming state line	Passes through Crook County to East	
WYO 330	Sheridan	Soldier Creek Rd	US 14 Bus./US 87 Bus./I-90 Bus.	
WYO 331	Sheridan	CR 89	US14/US 87 Bus./ I-90 Bus.	
WYO 332	Sheridan	WYO 335	E. College Ave.	
WYO 334	Sheridan	WYO 332	US 14/US 87 Bus./ I-90 Bus.	
WYO 335	Sheridan	Lower Hideaway Ln	US 87	
WYO 336	Sheridan	US 14/US 87 Bus./I-90 Bus.	CR 161	
WYO 337	Sheridan	US 14/US 87 Bus./I-90 Bus.	Veterans Affairs Medical Center	
WYO 338	Sheridan	US 14/US 87 Bus./I-90 Bus.	Montana State Line	
WYO 341	Sheridan	Arvada	US 16/US 14	
WYO 342	Sheridan	US 87	I-90	
WYO 585	Weston/Crook	US 85	US 14/US 14 Bus./ I-90 Bus.	

Source: Official State Highway Map of Wyoming

INTERMODAL FACILITIES

Intercity Bus Routes

Jefferson Bus Lines and Black Hills Stage lines operate intercity bus lines along the route. Intercity bus tickets are available at stations in Sheridan, Gillette, and Moorcroft.

Class 1 Railroads

13-8

The BNSF Railway Company railroad crosses the corridor near Gillette, then connects north to Montana.

Public Transportation Agencies

PROVIDER AGENCY NAME	LOCATION	TYPE OF SERVICE	SIZE OF FLEET	ANNUAL PASSENGER TRIPS FY08
RENEW	Sheridan, Gillette and Newcastle	Non-Profit - Demand Response	15 Vehicles	57,364
Sheridan Mini Bus	Sheridan	Non-Profit - Demand Response	12 Vehicles	58,028
Buffalo Senior Citizens Center	Buffalo	Non-Profit - Demand Response	3 Vehicles	18,564
Campbell County Senior Citizens Association	Gillette	Non-Profit - Demand Response	11 Vehicles	25,877
Crook County Senior Services	Sundance, Hulett and Moorcroft	Non-Profit - Demand Response	7 Vehicles	4,015
Jefferson Bus Lines	Rapid City, SD to Billings, MT through Buffalo	For Profit; Fixed Route Intercity Bus	N/A	N/A
Black Hills Stage Lines	I-25 Corridor through Buffalo	Private; Fixed Route Intercity Bus	N/A	N/A

Sheridan to Sundance | I-90 Source: WYDOT



DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS

SSC 13 passes through four counties located along Wyoming's northern border with Montana: Campbell, Crook, Johnson, and Sheridan. The highest employment sector in Campbell County, including Gillette, is Mining (22 percent) indicating a high dependence of the population on the Mining industry. Education & Health is second (17 percent). Ten percent of the county's employment is in Construction, while only two percent is in Agriculture. Campbell County experienced an impressive 23 percent growth from 2000 to 2008.

Crook County in the northeast corner of Wyoming contains two towns along SSC 13: Moorcroft and Sundance, with 2008 populations of 892 and 1,253 respectively. Education & Health (18 percent) as well as Agriculture (15 percent) account for most employment in Crook County.

Johnson County contains the town of Buffalo, 2008 population of 4,832, the only town in this county along I-90. Education & Health industries along with Agriculture account for 18 percent and 15 percent of the employment respectively.

Sheridan, 2008 population of approximately 17,000, is at the north western end of SSC 13. Education & Health industries account for

24 percent of employment, Retail 12 percent, Construction 10 percent, Art & Recreation 9 percent, and Professional Services 7 percent. This broad base of employment indicates a wide base with no dependence on one particular industry, a strong economic diversity. See Appendix B for more details about employment by county.

POPULATION: 2000-2008					
COUNTY	CITY	2000	2008	% GROWTH	% STATE TOTAL (2008)
Campbell County		33,698	41,473	23.1	7.8
	Gillette	19,646	26,871	32.4	
	Wright	1,347	1,462	8.5	
Crook County		5,887	6,457	9.7	1.2
	Hulett	408	471	15.4	
	Moorcroft	807	892	8.1	
	Pine Haven	222	380	71.2	
	Sundance	1,161	1,253	7.9	
Johnson	County	7,075	8,464	19.6	1.6
	Buffalo	3,900	4,832	23.5	
	Kaycee	249	290	16.5	
Sheridan County		26,560	28,662	7.9	5.4
	Clearmont	115	114	-0.9	
	Dayton	678	757	11.7	
	Ranchester	701	798	13.8	
	Sheridan	15,804	17,197	8.3	

Source: Population Division, US Census Bureau, July 1, 2009

Airport Information

AIRPORT NAME (Associated City)	NPIAS ROLE & HUB TYPE¹	NPIAS	WYDOT CLASSIFICATION (2008)	WYDOT CLASSIFICATION (FUTURE)	TOTAL AIRPORT OPERATIONS	BASED AIRCRAFT	TOTAL PASSENGERS (2006)
Campbell County Airport (Gillette)	P - N	NPIAS	Commercial	Commercial	19,105	53	55,167
Sheridan County Airport (Sheridan)	P-N	NPIAS	Commercial	Commercial	37,230	88	35,557
Johnson County Airport (Buffalo)	GA	NPIAS	Intermediate	Intermediate	7,320	20	
Hulett Municipal (Hulett)	GA	NPIAS	Local	Intermediate	1,400	5	

Notes: P - Primary Commercial Service, N - Non-hub Facility, GA - General Aviation

¹NPIAS (National Plan of Integrated Airport Systems) Role and Hub Type are same for both existing (2007) and 5-year federal forecast

Source: WYDOT and FAA