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Road Work

Provided monthly during construction season by the Wyoming Department of Transportation

Vol. 22, No. 2

Dry Piney Wildlife Crossing project breaks ground



a ceremony on May 10.

Bv Mark Horan

After over 15 years of planning and securing funds, the Dry Piney Wildlife Crossing project officially broke ground on May 10.

The ceremony celebrated the start of a project focused on increasing safety in one of the highest wildlife-vehicle collision zones in the state.

Located along US 189 between the communities of LaBarge and Big Piney, the project will separate wildlife from traffic with nearly 17 miles of fencing. In addition, a series of nine wildlife underpasses will be built to facilitate animal movement - mostly for mule deer, but also for other animals such as pronghorn and moose.

The project contractor is McMillen Jacobs Associates, and construction will cost a little over \$15 million. Funding for the project came from a federal build grant, WYDOT, Wyoming Game and Fish, wildlife conservation groups, Sublette County, and private landowners/foundations.

According to Director Reiner, when the project was originally let there were eight underpasses planned. But the project came in with a low enough bid that there was enough extra money to include an additional underpass.

"My hat's off to our various partners for really leading the charge and saying, "Hey, let's get some private money into something that we in Wyoming care about, and that's our wildlife." Reiner said.

"Wildlife is valuable to Wyoming, and this project is an investment that helps preserve the historic migration of many big game species," noted Director Nesvik in 2019 when the project was under development. "Underpasses, coupled with fencing, can reduce crashes by 80-90% and ensure animals can safely cross roads to get to seasonal ranges."

The project is scheduled to be completed in late 2023.



Nearly 40 stakeholders look on as ground was broken on the Dry Piney project which is located on US 189 in southwest Wyoming.





Officials from WYDOT, WY Game & Fish, and McMillen Jacobs Associates officially kicking off construction of the Dry Piney Wildlife Crossing project at

Wyoming Department of Transportation Director Luke Reiner, Wyoming Game & Fish Director Brian Nesvik, WYDOT Transportation Commissioner Jon Dolezal and WG&F Commission President Ken Roberts provided remarks to roughly 40 project stakeholders at the ceremony.

"WYDOT certainly prioritizes safety on our highway system, and we look to make wildlife improvements on nearly all of our construction project," Reiner told the attendees. "Wildlife crossings like these nine underpasses that are about to be built are a proven way to help reduce crashes with wildlife."

WYDOT highway maintainers will be another beneficiary of the Dry Piney project. The crossing will increase worker safety because there will be less carcass cleanup due to wildlife collisions

Northwest Wyoming - A

A1 US 287/WY0 789 Muddy Gap/Lander Twin Creek and Lyons Valley (MM 64.27-74.21, MM 74.21-81.03) Bridge rehab, guardrail upgrades, bituminous surfacing, chip seal, ADA curb/gutter. Stop-light traffic control. Delays. Expected completion: June 30.

A2 Shoshoni/Thermopolis-Badwater section. Pavement surfacing, fencing, milling, plant mix, chip seal MM 100.47-108.83. Expected delays. Expected completion: Oct. 31.

A3 US 20/WYO 789. Slide repair, grading, slide stabilization, manual rock scaling, rock fall mitigation in Wind River Canyon. MMs 116.3-120.6.

A4 District 5 bridge rehab. Grading, milling, pavement, bridge rehab, guardrail work. Locations: WYO 295 MM 12.55; US 14A MM 28.97; WYO 433 MM 11.27; WYO 172 MM 0.78; US 26 MM 126.15; and US 26 MM 69.42. Expected completion: Nov. 20.

A5 District fencing. Various locations. WYO 28, US 287.

A6 US 14/16/20 west of Cody. Yellowstone NP to Fishhawk Trailhead, MM 0.00 (Yellowstone east entrance)-MM 10.25 (Fishhawk Trailhead). Milling, paving, guardrail work. Delays expected.

A7 US 14A NE of Cody, Shoshone River Bridge MM 5.59-7.54. Milling, overlay, chip seal, guardrail repair.

(A8) WYO 296 Chief Joseph Highway Two Dot Slide, MM
41.35. Slide Repair. One-way traffic during work. Delays of up to 20 minutes.

A9 WYO 120 Meeteetse-Cody Meeteetse North, MM 51.75-57.93. Pavement leveling, overlay, chip seal. Delays of up to 20 minutes.

A10 US 14A-Byron Streets. Asphalt pavement, electrical work, traffic control, sidewalk, curb/gutter, grading, surfacing, milling on 1.4 miles. Short delays expected.

A11 US 26-Riverton. Diversion Dam, Kinnear Section. Asphalt pavement milling, overlay, chip seal. MM 112.98-125.11. Delays expected.

A12 WYO 135-Riverton. Sand Draw, Beaver Rim section. MM 24.15-34.59. Asphalt pavement milling, overlay, chip seal, chip seal of Sweetwater Station rest area. Delays expected.

A13 US 14A/Lovell-Burgess Jct., Medicine Wheel Project. Grading, milling plant mix, bituminous surfacing, misc. work; 9.70 miles (MM 70.72) Delays. Expected completion: Oct. 31.

Southwest Wyoming - B

B1 I-80/Rock Springs-Bitter Creek Section (MM 138-143). Pavement overlay, bridge rehab. Reduced speeds. Expected completion: Aug. 31.

B2 I-80 Rock Springs East (MM 105-120). Bridge replacement, concrete paving in EB lane. Two-way traffic in WB lane. 16 ft width restriction. Expected completion: July 31, 2023.

B3 Rock Springs/I-80 Interchange Road. Replace/ reconstruct interchange – 0.81 miles. Expected completion: June 30, 2023.

B4 WYO 530 bridge rehab (MM 0-1). Bridge rehab on NB structure. Traffic rerouted on SB structure. 14 ft width restriction. Expected completion: Oct. 31.

B5 WY0 89/ldaho border (MM 45-55). Box culvert install, guardrail, cold in-place recycling, paving, chip seal. One-lane traffic, portable signals/multiple sites 24/7. 12 ft width restriction. Expected completion: Aug. 31.

B6 Sweetwater/Uinta Counties. Various locations on I-80. Epoxy pavement lines, misc. work. Expected completion: Sept. 30.

B7 US 89 (MM 108.13)/Etna North: grading, draining, crushed base, bituminous surfacing, full-depth reclamation – 9.30 miles.

B8 Lincoln, Sublette, Sweetwater, Teton & Uinta Counties. Striping, misc. work. Expected completion: Oct. 31.

B9 Sheridan, Sweetwater, Teton, Uinta Counties. Signal upgrade. Electrical, misc. work. Expected completion: Oct. 31

B10 Sweetwater County. Bridge rehab. Grading, slab replacement, bridge rehab. I-80 MM 86.38; College Dr. interchange MM .13; and WYO 530 MM 14.66. Expected completion: Oct. 31.

B11 Lincoln, Sublette, Sweetwater, Teton Counties. Milling plant mix, bituminous surfacing, misc. work. Expected completion: Oct. 31. B12 Sweetwater, Uinta Counties. Bridge rehab. Grading, bituminous surfacing, lane rental, misc. work. WYO 374 MM 83.67; WB I-80 MM 5.26; WB I-80 MM 6.26; WB I-80 MM 10.68; WB I-80 MM 15.64; WB I-80 MM 61.59; EB I-80 MM 13.86; and EB I-80 MM 97.05. Expected completion: July 31.

B13 Sweetwater County. Bridge rehab. Grading, bituminous surfacing, misc. work. Locations: Uinta Drive MM 0.54; WYO 374 MM 78.13; WB I-80 MM 97.05; EB & WB I-80 MM 136.96; and US 30 ramp MM 100.03. Expected completion: Oct. 31.

B14 Sublette, Sweetwater Counties. Grading, bituminous surfacing, concrete overlay, bridge rehab, guardrail, misc. work. Expected completion: Nov. 30.

B15 Lincoln, Sublette, Sweetwater, Uinta Counties. Bituminous surfacing, chip seal, misc. work. Expected completion: Aug. 15.

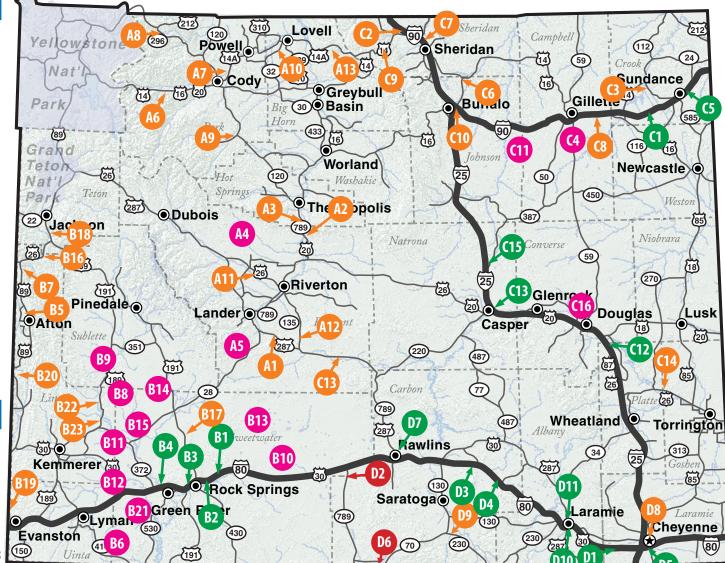
B16 US 26/89 (MM 127.03). Milling, bituminous surfacing, plant mix, wearing course, misc. work on 5 miles of Expected completion: Sept. 30.

B17 US 191 (MM 21.00). Grading, milling plant mix, bituminous surfacing, chip seal, misc. work on 11.80 miles. Expected completion: Oct. 31, 2021.

B18 US 26/89/191. Reconstruction. Grading, draining, placing bases, and bituminous surfacing. 3.46 miles at MM 141.59.

B19 WY0 89 (MM 9.88). Grading, milling plant mix, bituminous surfacing, misc. work on 11.50 miles of Expected completion: Sept. 30.

B20 WY0 89 (MM 45.43). Grading, bituminous surfacing, cold in-place recycling, chip seal, box culvert, guardrail, misc. work on 10.30 miles. Expected completion: Oct. 31, 2022.



Legend

Interstate highway work zones: Generally, there are no delays or detours. Travel may be narrowed to one lane (on pavement) each way and involve a reduced speed limit.

P Two-lane road projects: Motorists may be required to stop and wait to follow pilot cars. Usually, any delays are limited to 20 minutes or less and travel is on pavement.

Two-lane road projects: At times, motorists may have to drive on gravel or another temporary surface, typically for two miles or less. Delays are limited, there are no detours unless specifically noted but there may be a pilot car.

D District-wide projects: Various locations, may involve reduced speeds.

Not every project is listed

Due to the unpredictable nature of the construction process, not all projects are active all the time. In addition, some short-term projects and smaller projects which disrupt traffic to a lesser degree are not listed. Completion dates are approximate.

Commercial vehicle operators: In work zones, size and weight restrictions may apply. Ask for details at any Wyoming port of entry or call (307) 777-4376. Current restrictions are also available on the Internet at <u>www.wyoroad.info/highway/restrictions.html</u>.

B21 WY0 150 (MM 2.46), WY0 372 (MM 17)/ WY0 28 Jct south. Sweetwater, Uinta Counties. Hot inplace recycling, resurfacing, bridge rehab, traffic control, chip seal, guardrail on 19.90 miles. Expected completion: July 31, 2023.

B22 US 189-LaBarge/Big Piney Road. Grading, milling, crushed base, resurfacing, box culverts, cattle guards, guardrail, fencing, on 19.0 miles. Road-1.9 miles, fencing-14.9 miles, signing-2.2 miles (MM 86). Expected completion: Oct. 31, 2023.



B24 US 189-(MM 53.50). Bituminous surfacing, cold in-place recycling, traffic control, grading, misc. work on 7.70 miles. Expected completion: July 31, 2023.

Central & Northeast Wyoming - C

(1) I-90/Moorcroft-Sundance. EB and WB lanes MM 160.31-168.50. Mill, overlay, wearing course.

US 14 Ranchester bridge. Remove, replace structure over railroad tracks.

US 14 Sundance west to Devils Tower Jct. Mill, overlay. MM 186.10-196.96. Completion date: Oct. 2022.

(4) I-90 Bridge rehab. Lane closures, reduced speeds. (MM 102.52, MM 130.25, MM 178.19).

C5 I-90 Crack, seat with bridge repairs. Head to head traffic in EB lane. WB lane closed. (MM 187-192).

US 14/16 Ucross to Clearmont. Bridge repair, guardrail MM 27.87, MM 28.32. Mill, overlay, lane closure, one-way traffic/traffic signal. Completion date: Oct. 31.

I-90 West of Sheridan to Acme Interchange. MM 15.3-19.46. Mill, overlay with wearing course. EB lane, reduced speeds, lane closures, detour. Completion date Oct. 2022.

C3 I-90 Gillette to Rozet MM 135-145. Mill, overlay EB and WB lanes.

Southeast Wyoming - D

D1 I-80 between Laramie, Cheyenne (MM 324-331) Milling, paving and bridge rehabilitation in EB/WB lanes. Expected completion: summer 2023.

WYO 789 at Creston Jct. – (MM 0-10) milling, paving, structure work. Lane closures with pilot car, alternating traffic in single lane. Expected completion: summer 2022.

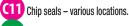
D3 I-80/Halleck Ridge (MM 245-252). Milling, paving, bridge and guardrail work in EB/WB lanes. Lane closures, reduced speeds. Expected completion: fall 2022

1-80/Arlington. Milling, paving and bridge work. Lane closures, reduced speeds. Expected completion: fall 2023.

D5 I-80/Parsley Blvd. Bridge replacement. Lane closures on I-80; full closure of Parsley Blvd. with detours for duration of work. Expected completion: winter 2022.

WY0 70/Savery (MM 11-17) Milling, paving and bridge work. Lane closures with pilot car and alternating one-way traffic. Expected completion: summer 2023. US 14 West Burgess Junction to Sibley Lake MM 57-65. Mill, overlay.

(10) I-90/US 16 Buffalo Bridge Repair. Lane closures with traffic control.



C12 Resurfacing of NBL on I-25 between Glendo, Douglas (MM 109.11-114.78). Mill, overlay, resurface, median work.

(13)-25/Walsh Drive. Bridge replacement (MM 185.35-186.24).

US 26 (MM 15.51-20.01) Overlay Guernsey-Fort Laramie.

L-25, Casper/Kaycee-Horse Ranch Creek south (MM 200-210.41). Mill, overlay.

C16 1-25 Bridge rehab/guardrail upgrade along Douglas marginal (MM 138-142), WYO 450, US 85. Lane closures, traffic signals, flaggers, open at night. Bridge rehab only at MM 137 NB/SBL; MM 139.76 NBL; 160.87 SBL; and 172.12 SBL.

D7 I-80 through Rawlins. Concrete slab replacement. Lane closures, reduced speeds. Expected completion: fall 2022.

D8 I-180/Warren Ave (Lincolnway-24th St) Milling, paving, traffic signal upgrades, curb/gutter, ADA corner upgrades. Lane closures; sidewalks remain open. Expected completion: fall 2022.

D9 WYO 230 east of Riverside (MM 100-111). Milling, paving and bridge rehab. Lane closures, alternating one-way traffic, reduced speeds. Expected completion: fall 2022.

010 I-80/Grand Ave. in Laramie. Emergency bridge damage repair. Expect I-80 lane closures. Estimated completion: May 31.

011 I-80/West Laramie (MM 313-310). Pavement, bridge work EB/WB lanes. Lane closures, reduced speeds, some delays. Expected completion: fall 2022.

Check the construction report online at: www.wyoroad.info: Construction – Statewide

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