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Last but not least, the project included 12 miles of 8-ft. tall wildlife fencing, 6.75 miles of pavement overlay at Halleck Ridge and a new WYDOT winter maintenance salt/sand storage building at Quealy Dome.

"Hopefully, this project will not only create that safety for the truckers and the traveling public, but it will also provide an opportunity for our staff to know that we have a place for those trucks to park, so they can get out and do their jobs in a safe manner while I-80 is closed," Westby said. "I really appreciate that."

After speeches from Bhatt and Westby, Wyoming Trucking Association CEO and President Sheila Foertsch spoke about the project's impacts on freight through the state. She noted that "lack of adequate truck parking affects almost every aspect of a commercial driver's profession."

"WYDOT identified and began addressing – several years ago – the issue of truck parking, long before it became kind of the buzzword nationwide," she said during her speech. "They've been proactive in pursuing funding and putting those funds to good work for several years now, and the improvements we see today are just a fine example of that work that they've done."

John Waggener, archivist and historian with the University of Wyoming's Ameri-

can Heritage Center, also spoke to the crowd. Waggener's book, *Snow Chi Minh Trail: The History of Interstate 80 between Laramie and Walcott Junction*, details how that stretch of I-80 earned its nickname during the Vietnam War, as well as WYDOT's necessary winter maintenance innovations through the decades to fight the harsh weather.

"I-80 will continue to pose problems for hauling freight during the winter, but highway officials will continue to seek ways to make travel on this highway safer and more reliable," Waggener said to close his speech.



FHWA Administrator Shailen Bhatt speaks to the crowd gathered for the I-80 Winter Freight project ribbon cutting ceremony at the Quealy Dome parking area on I-80 near Laramie. It was the first time in about 40 years that an FHWA Administrator attended a WYDOT event.

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WYDOT hosts ribbon cutting for I-80 Winter Freight project



FHWA Administrator Shailen Bhatt (center) stands with other dignitaries and stakeholders as he cuts the ribbon to celebrate the completion of the I-80 Winter Freight project, which was funded largely by a Federal BUILD grant.

Federal Highway Administration visits Wyoming to celebrate local project with national impacts

By Jordan Young

The Wyoming Department of Transportation recently hosted a ribbon cutting ceremony to celebrate the completion of the Interstate 80 Winter Freight project that's been underway for nearly three years.

Keynote speaker for the ribbon cutting was Federal Highway Administrator Shailen Bhatt. It was the first time an FHWA administrator had been to a WYDOT event in about 40 years.

The \$34 million project was funded in part by a \$20 million Federal Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development grant the FHWA awarded WYDOT in 2018.

"Manufacturing in America relies on arteries like I-80, and that's why this location is so important," Bhatt said during the ceremony. "Making sure that those goods get safely to market is important for every American; making sure that trucking costs are kept low so that those savings get passed on to [consumers] helps reduce inflation."

Cheyenne-based Simon Contractors was awarded the project, which involved building almost 200 new semi truck parking spaces in two locations: Quealy Dome, located at exit 290, and the Fort Steele Rest Area, located at exit 228.

The project also included about 4 miles of truck climbing lanes split between an eastbound section of incline at Halleck Ridge and a westbound section of incline at Cooper Cove. The climbing lanes help traffic flow despite steep grades; the trucks can slow down without feeling the pressure from cars trying to pass.

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

Not every project is listed

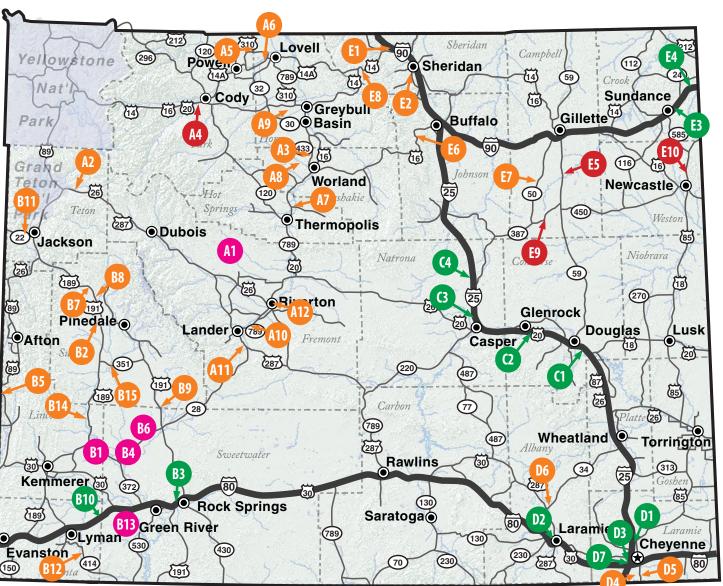
Due to the unpredictable nature of the construction process, not all projects are active all the time. In addition, some short-term projects and smaller projects which disrupt traffic to a lesser degree are not listed. Completion dates are approx

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.

Northwest Wyoming - A

- A1 District 5 bridge rehab. Grading, milling, pavement, bridge rehab, quardrail work. Locations: WYO 120 MM 100.53. Delays expected.
- (A2) US 26/287 Moran Junction-Dubois. Buffalo Fork Section, Asphalt milling, overlay, chip seal, bridge rehab over Buffalo Fork of the Snake River, MM 2.2-7.53. Portable traffic signal. Delays expected.
- MYO 433 Worland-Manderson. Bridge replacements, reconstruction of roadway north of Worland. Demolition/reconstruction of 3 bridges, grading, asphalt pavement surfacing, fencing, chip sealing. MM 4.14-5.50. Delays expected.
- A4 US 14/16/20 Cody-Yellowstone tunnel light replacement project. Removal/replacement of tunnel lighting system, installation of tunnel warning system. MM 45 to 1 mile east. Project work at night. Delays
- A5 US 310/WYO 789 Deaver-Montana State Line, Frannie Section, Pavement milling, overlay and chip seal. MM 249.49- 257.03. Delays expected.
- A6 US 14A Garland-Byron. Sidon Canal Section. Pavement milling, overlay and chip sealing. MM 33.76-38. Delays expected.

- Thermopolis-Worland slope flattening project, US 20/WYO 789. Grading, drainage, asphalt pavement surfacing and other work, MM 141,78-145,51, Delays
- A8 Cottonwood Creek BROS bridge replacement project, Washakie CR 86, Removal, placement of bridge structure, asphalt paving, grading.
- A9 Big Horn County Rd. 16 1/2, Georgia-Pacific Rd.. Asphalt paving and milling, grading, lining of existing
- A10 Lander-Hudson, State School Section, WYO 789, MM 80.97-82.40. Asphalt paving, sidewalk, curb/gutter, milling, wearing course.
- Muddy Gap-Lander, Lyons Valley Section, US 287/ WYO 789. MM 80.16-81.03. MM 73.97-79.10. Asphalt milling/paving, bridge rehab, chip sealing, sidewalk curb/gutter.
- A12 Riverton Streets, Little Wind River Pedestrian Bridge, WYO 789, MM 102.93, installing river barbs upstream of pedestrian bridge.



Northeast Wyoming - E

- 1 US 14 Ranchester bridge. Lane closure with oneway traffic over the bridge. Traffic signal at each end of bridge with flagging.
- US 87/Downtown Sheridan Main Street. Resurfacing and utility upgrade. Closed from Grinnell Street to Loucks Street.
- 1-90 Sundance marginal. MM 187-192. Open both directions. Intermittent passing lane closures to remove crossovers.
- E4 I-90 South Dakota State Line. MM 201-207. Crack and Seat with bridge repair. Westbound lane Closed. Head to head traffic in the eastbound lane.
- E5 WYO 59 South. MM 89/Wild Prairie Road. Adding Turning lane. Occasional lane closures, pilot car and

- E6 US 16 Truck Arrestor/CatchNET system. MM 85.40, CLOSED for reconstruction.
- WYO 50 Gillette south to Pine Tree Junction. MM 36-52, Mill/overlay, Reduced speed, traffic control.
- E8 US 14 west MM 69.80 near Steamboat Point. Slide repair. One lane of traffic, 24 hour traffic signal. Expected wait up to five minutes.
- WYO 387 Cosner Road. MM 138.85. Adding turning lane, Occasional lane closures, pilot car and delays.
- E10 US 85 Newcastle North (Red Buttes) Section. MM 238-248. Mill and Overlay. Pilot car with delays.

Central Wyoming - C

- 1-25 Bridge, surface rehabilitation between MM 138-142. NB and SB lanes.
- [22] I-25: Surface, bridge rehabilitation. Fencing and other work in NB lanes between MM 160-175.
- (3) 1-25: Five bridge replacements. Surfacing and other work between MM 189-190. Affects both NB and
- I-25: Surfacing and bridge rehabilitation between MM 219-227 in the Midwest area.

Southeast Wyoming - D

- D1 I-25 & US 85 Interchange north of Cheyenne. Lengthen southbound acceleration lane; grading, paying and pipe extension work.
- D2 Curtis Street bridge replacement Laramie.
- D3 Cheyenne Marginal I-80 Roundtop Rd. bridges under construction.
- D4 Terry Ranch Rd./US 85. Milling, paying on US 85. between College Drive (US 85) and Terry Ranch Rd.,
- D5 Chalk Bluffs Rd. safety project. Install of a SB (US 85) left turn lane to EB Chalk Bluffs Rd. Grading to widen US 85, milling and hot plant mix overlay, striping.
- D6 US 30/WYO 34 Junction east. MM 0-9.7. Asphalt overlay, seal coating. Begins in June.
- D7 I-25 at Lincolnway, Cheyenne. Bridge rehabilitation project; both NB and SB. Reduced speed, traffic control, one lane of traffic each direction.

Southwest Wyoming - B

- B1 Crack seal in various locations: Lincoln, Sublette, Sweetwater Counties. Bituminous surfacing, traffic control and other work.
- B2 Daniel Jct. Dynamic Messaging Sign project.
- B3 Rock Springs/I-80 Interchange Rd. Replace/reconstruct interchange
- B4 Contract patch in various locations: Lincoln, Uinta, Sweetwater Counties. Bituminous surfacing, milling, traffic control and other work.
- B5 WYO 89/Idaho 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.
- B6 Epoxy striping in various locations: Sweetwater, Sublette, Teton Counties. Striping, traffic control and other work.
- B7 Daniel Jct..-Bondurant Rd. (US 189/191) Fencing, grading, traffic control on 5.10 miles of US 189/191 at MM 131.28 between Daniel Jct. and Bondurant Rd..
- B8 Daniel Jct.-Hoback Jct. (40 Rod Flats Section) Bituminous surfacing (recycle), traffic control, fencing, milling, chip seal, bridge deck repair on 8.80 miles of US 189/191 at MM 111.27 between Daniel Jct, and Hoback

- B9 Farson-Pinedale (County Line North) Bituminous surfacing (recycle), traffic control, milling, chip seal on 10.00 miles of US 191 at MM 51.62 between Farson and Pinedale.
- B10 Lyman-Green River (Little America/I-80) Bituminous surfacing, milling, plant mix wearing course, traffic control on 11.90 miles in the EBL and WBL of I-80 at MM 65.44 between Lyman and Green River.
- B11 Jackson-Wilson Rd. (Snake River Bridge) Bridge replacement, grading, traffic control, surfacing, bituminous and concrete surfacing, fencing on 1.80 miles on WYO 22, WYO 390 between Jackson and Wilson Rd.
- B12 Mountain View-Lonetree (WYO 414) Bituminous surfacing, traffic control, quardrail, grading, milling on 9.40 miles on WYO 414 at MM 110.63 between Mountain View and Lonetree.
- B13 WYO 150 (MM 2.46), WYO 372 (MM 17)/ WYO 28 Jct. south. Sweetwater, Uinta Counties. Hot in-place recycling, resurfacing, bridge rehab, traffic control, chip seal, guardrail on 19.90 miles.
- B14 US 189-LaBarge/Big Piney Rd.. Grading, milling, crushed base, resurfacing, box culverts, cattle quards, quardrail, fencing, on 19.0 miles. Rd.-1.9 miles, fencing-14.9 miles, signing-2.2 miles (MM 86).
- B15 Big Piney Cutoff Erosion Repair.



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