

## **TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION OF WYOMING**

The Transportation Commission of Wyoming met via videoconference on July 16, 2020. Chairman Newton convened the business meeting at 8:30 a.m. The following members were present constituting a quorum:

Rick Newton, Chairman, Buffalo  
Phil Schmidt, Vice Chairman, Casper  
Mike Larson, Commissioner, Lusk  
Jim Espy, Commissioner, Savery  
Jon Dolezal, Commissioner, Evanston  
Lee Filer, Commissioner, Cheyenne  
Greg Venable, Commissioner, Worland  
K. Luke Reiner, Director  
Sandra J. Scott, Commission Secretary

Others present and participating in the meeting: Dennis Byrne, Chief Financial Officer; Mark Gillett, Chief Engineer; Keith Fulton, Assistant Chief Engineer for Engineering and Planning; Taylor Rossetti, Support Services Administrator; Brian Olsen, Aeronautics Administrator; Troy Babbitt, Chief Technology Officer; Colonel Kebin Haller, Wyoming Highway Patrol (WHP) Administrator; Mike Kahler, Senior Assistant Attorney General; Ryan Thompson, Assistant Attorney General; Rodney Freier, Budget Program Manager; and Bryan Cawley, Division Administrator, Federal Highway Administration (FHWA).

Other meeting attendees: Erica Legerski, Senior Policy Advisor to Governor Gordon; Doug McGee, Public Affairs Program Manager; John Davis, Management Services Program Manager; Doug Jensen, State Contracts & Estimates Engineer; Rhonda Holt, Controller; Tom DeHoff, District Engineer; Katie Legerski, Executive Director, and Hunter Petsch, Assistant Executive Director, Associated General Contractors (AGC) of Wyoming; Hank Rettinger, John Mulcare, Division Administrator, Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration; and Devon Brubaker, Manager, Rock Springs Airport.

1. Pledge of Allegiance: Chairman Newton led the attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance.
2. Approval of Minutes: It was recommended by Secretary Scott, moved by Vice Chairman Schmidt, seconded by Commissioner Espy, and carried to approve the minutes from the June 18, 2020, business meeting.
3. Old Business: At its June 18, 2020, meeting, the Commission asked Secretary Scott to write a letter for Chairman Newton's signature to WHP troopers and staff expressing appreciation for their tireless and extraordinary work during these trying times. Secretary Scott advised that the letter was sent to the WHP on July 10, 2020.
4. Director Reiner presented the Director's report.

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Briefing: About 20 percent of WYDOT's overall workforce is still teleworking. With the recent rise in COVID cases, Director Reiner anticipates teleworking will

continue for a while. Safety measures are in place at WYDOT facilities to reduce or prevent the spread of the virus among office workers.

The State of Wyoming is working on a new telework policy for the future. One WYDOT employee is assigned to the task force developing that policy, and a few other Department employees are assisting the WYDOT task force member.

WYDOT Budget Update: The U.S. House of Representatives passed the reauthorization of surface transportation funding. The Senate is still working their bill.

Wyoming's traffic counts seem to have stabilized with about 10 percent fewer vehicles than the last 3-year average. The reduced traffic has significantly affected WYDOT's budget.

Governor Gordon recently announced that the State of Wyoming faces a \$900 million deficit for this biennium. The Governor asked all General Fund agencies to reduce budgets by 10 percent, generating about \$273 million in savings to the state. Agencies now face another 10 percent budget cut.

Effective August 1, 2020, all state employees earning approximately \$65,000 or more per year will be furloughed one day per month through January 2021.

Governor Gordon also recently announced the consolidation of all state human resource employees under the state's Department of Administration and Information Human Resource Division. WYDOT's Human Resource employees will remain housed at Department Headquarters for the immediate future.

Director Reiner recently met with the Wyoming County Commissioners' Association (WCCA) executive board to discuss the proposed road usage charge (RUC).

Nine of the ten Wyoming rest areas remain closed due to budget cuts. The Chugwater Rest Area closure was planned, but the Town of Chugwater assumed responsibility for that facility and it remained open. Based on on-going issues at Orin Junction, signs will be posted at certain rest area locations indicating where the closest available restroom facilities are located.

Vice Chairman Schmidt asked if the recent budget cuts, furloughs, and HR consolidation has created a stir among WYDOT employees and, if so, how has he addressed those concerns. Director Reiner advised that he has received a couple of notes from concerned employees and that he personally responded to those individuals. Budget cuts caused some state employee layoffs, but WYDOT is a special fund agency, which provides a different set of rules. Although there are no guarantees, it does not appear that Department layoffs are necessary for now.

Director Reiner will continue to use WYDOT's Employee Advisory Teams to communicate early and often with employees about trending topics, such as the budget.

Chairman Newton asked if WYDOT has an internal policy in place that addresses workforce reductions, if in fact, the Governor is required to take such action. Director Reiner deferred to Mr. Rossetti to address the question under the Support Services report later in the meeting.

Legislative Interim Committee Meetings: The Joint Transportation, Highways & Military Affairs Committee (JTC) met July 10, 2020. Driver's license vision screening was one discussion topic. Wyoming statutes are very descriptive about conducting driver vision screenings, and WYDOT recommended adjusting the law to allow an emergency rule change, as deemed necessary by the Governor. The JTC passed a bill to allow this action, and the bill will be introduced in the 2021 legislative session or during a potential fall special session.

The JTC also heard detailed WYDOT testimony about the proposed road usage charge (RUC). The committee voted in favor of drafting a bill for the next legislative session. Director Reiner believes the RUC plan is complex, and a lot of education is necessary so the idea can move forward.

Commissioner Venable asked if the proposed RUC will be applied to all vehicles. Director Reiner advised that WYDOT's current recommendation is to charge for all vehicles that use Wyoming roads, including apportioned, non-apportioned, in-state passenger vehicles, and out-of-state passenger vehicles. The RUC program would initially raise Wyoming's fuel tax as a temporary mechanism to recuperate RUC fees from out-of-state users, since there is no RUC collection system in place today. If approved, the increased fuel tax would be credited back to in-state users when they are billed for their RUC fees. A mechanism for billing out-of-state users will be developed as soon as possible.

Vice Chairman Schmidt expressed his concern that the decision to proceed with exploring the RUC passed on a mere 5-4 vote, and that some JTC members felt the plan is too complex or complicated. Director Reiner agreed that the RUC plan is complex, but the Department is being proactive and setting conditions for long-term success and he believes WYDOT should continue to press on to obtain a valuable alternate revenue source.

Personnel Update: On behalf of WYDOT, Director Reiner congratulated and wished Mr. John Mulcare, Division Administrator for the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA), well in his impending retirement.

Director Reiner met with WYDOT's employee advisory teams this week about various employee-related topics. Employee advisory teams were established to enhance communication and to build an effective relationship between the director, executive staff, and employees statewide.

With the onset of budget constraints, WYDOT is constricting its hiring practices by significantly slowing the hiring process and strategically considering filling positions.

5. Mr. Byrne presented the Chief Financial Officer's report.

Third Quarter Budget Revision: Mr. Freier explained the significant changes in the third quarter budget revision, including the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) and the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Airport Improvement Program funding allocation from the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act.

Mr. Freier also explained some other minor changes included in the third quarter budget revision.

It was recommended by Mr. Freier, moved by Vice Chairman Schmidt, seconded by Commissioner Espy, and carried to approve the third quarter revision to the FY 2020 Operating Budget.

6. Monthly Budget Report: Mr. Freier presented the monthly budget report. The June 2020 budget report revealed that the Commission budget is 72 percent expended, and the Legislative budget is 70 percent expended, both of which are within budget tolerances.

7. Mr. Byrne presented the following procurement bid for Commission consideration.

It was recommended by Mr. Byrne, moved by Commissioner Espy, seconded by Commissioner Larson, and carried to approve purchase for Bid No. 20-137CS to furnish 9,000 tons of aggregate, ½-inch, Type A maintenance gravel, for use at the Walcott Junction hot plant site. The bid was awarded to McMurry Ready Mix Co., of Casper, Wyoming, for the sum of \$224,550.00.

8. WYDOT Snow Fence Contract: In 2019, WYDOT hired Centennial Woods, of Laramie, Wyoming, for the removal and replacement of 16,588 snow fence panels in Districts 1 and 3 along I-80. Only about 25 percent of the original contract, which is due to expire August 20, 2020, is complete.

WYDOT new contract with Centennial Woods to remove and replace snow fence in Districts 1 and 3 outside the I-80 corridor. Centennial Woods was the only bidder for this contract. WYDOT will receive \$9.37 per panel under this contract, compared to \$11.55 per panel under last year's contract.

9. Mr. Gillett presented the Chief Engineer's report.

FY 2019 WYDOT Projects Contractor Summary: Mr. Gillett provided the Commission with a handout titled, "WYDOT Projects Contractor Summary FY 2019." The spreadsheet depicted awarded projects, project value, in state and out-of-state contractors awarded projects, and the number of prime and subcontractor awards last year. WYDOT awarded 68, or 80 percent, of its 91 contracts to in-state contractors in 2019, totaling \$249,207,708.40.

A list of contractors and subcontractor names and the number of projects they were awarded was also shared with the Commission.

Vice Chairman Schmidt asked Mr. Gillett to prepare information about the economic impact WYDOT highway construction contracts have on Wyoming.

Snake River Slide Repair: Work has begun on the Jackson to Hoback Junction project, Snake River South Section, on US 26/189/191 in Teton County. A large cut was made to accommodate the expansion to five lanes, and a large scarp was discovered, and another scarp developed on the same slope a few days later. To remedy the issue, the slope will need to be cut back further, a three-foot layer of rock will be added for drainage, and a dirt toe-berm will need to be installed at the bottom of the slide. The additional work will cost approximately \$3 million.

Snake River Bridge Weight Restrictions: Weight restrictions remain on the Snake River Bridge on WYO 22, between Jackson and Wilson. Following a recent routine inspection, WYDOT crews discovered deteriorated crossbeams underneath the bridge deck, necessitating the weight restrictions. WYDOT installed a temporary traffic signal to allow single-lane traffic on the bridge at nighttime, allowing trucks to continue servicing the area while there is less traffic. The structure will undergo temporary repairs for about \$400,000. The repairs will begin by September 1, 2020. Bridge replacement and highway expansion to five lanes will occur in a few years.

Teton Pass Truck Arrestor System Update: WYDOT closed the Teton Pass truck arrestor in fall 2019 due to a catch-net failure. Sand barrels were placed in the runaway path to relax some of the winter restrictions placed on Teton Pass.

Design delays prohibited reopening the catch net system this spring and summer, so WYDOT placed sand barrels in the runaway path to act on behalf of the catch nets. The runaway path was used twice this summer. The first incident stopped a small vehicle by the second row of sand barrels, and the driver was able to back out of the path and drive away. The second incident involved a pickup truck towing a fifth-wheel camper, and that vehicle penetrated a few rows into the sand barrels, stopping the vehicle with only minor damage. There were no reported injuries in either incident.

The consultant testing the newly designed catch net system advised that the new system has successfully stopped vehicles without shearing the canister tapes, which was the problem with the old system. WYDOT's Bridge Program is almost finished designing the concrete side barriers that function as guides to funnel vehicles into the center of the catch nets. Mr. Gillett hopes an emergency contract can be executed by this fall.

10. Mr. Cawley presented an update on FHWA topics.

President Trump's March 13, 2020, national emergency declaration under the Stafford Act expired July 11, 2020. The declaration pertained to commercial truck size and weight exceptions during the COVID pandemic. The FMCSA extended their emergency declaration for Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Sections 390 and 399 through August 14, 2020, to include time of services associated with the emergency.

Future HTF funding remains uncertain and cash management measures may have to be applied soon.

The Fixing America’s Surface Transportation (FAST) Act is set to expire September 30, 2020, and the FHWA has no other federal funding resource in place after that date.

Mr. Cawley reported on the recent fracture critical inspection of the Snake River Bridge in Teton County. On May 19, 2020, WYDOT bridge inspectors discovered a structural or safety-related structural deficiency, caused by deterioration, damage, or scour, that seriously affects or threatens the primary structural component. The finding requires immediate action. WYDOT posted bridge load restrictions in early June 2019. As noted by Mr. Gillett, WYDOT is working to perform emergency repairs to restore the bridge’s load carrying capacity. Emergency repairs are anticipated beginning after September 1, 2020. The bridge is in poor condition and is programmed for replacement in FY2023. Mr. Cawley offered kudos to WYDOT for ensuring a safe transportation system in Wyoming.

WYDOT recently received a Surface Transportation System Funding Alternatives grant for \$250,000 to pilot alternative funding sources for transportation purposes. Seven projects in five different states received funding. Federal Highway Administrator Nicole Nason says, “[t]hese seven pilot projects will help provide valuable insight into potential new sources of revenue to support highway and bridge improvements nationwide.”

On July 14, 2020, WYDOT and FHWA signed the FY 2019 Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Grant agreement for the Dry Piney Creek Wildlife Habitat Connectivity project. The project will construct a series of crossings, fencing, and related improvements on approximately 19 miles of US 189, between La Barge and Big Piney. The project will enhance wildlife migratory crossings and improve safety on the highway facility. Construction will begin in 2021, and the project completion date is in 2023. The project will cost approximately \$18.1 million, of which \$14.5 million is federal funding.

11. Mr. Fulton presented the Engineering and Planning report, beginning with the bid tabulations from the letting held in Casper, July 9, 2020.

Federal projects NHPPI-0255095 and SCP-1310002 combined, involving grading, draining, placing bases, bituminous pavement surfacing, structure repair and rehabilitation, and miscellaneous work on approximately 9.10 miles of I-25, beginning at reference marker (RM) 244.00, between Casper and Kaycee, in Johnson County. Completion date: June 30, 2022

Engineer’s Estimate	\$10,495,214.50	
Croell, Inc., Sundance, WY	\$10,532,527.85	+0.4%
JTL Group, Inc. DBA Knife River, Cheyenne, WY	\$10,633,954.56	
Simon Contractors, Cheyenne, WY	\$10,840,724.67	
Oftedal Construction, Inc., Casper, WY	\$11,065,845.63	
Mountain Construction Company, Lovell, WY	\$11,384,451.95	
Riverside Contracting, Inc., Missoula, MT	\$11,596,350.80	
High Country Construction, Inc., Lander, WY	\$11,748,397.15	

It was recommended by Mr. Fulton, moved by Vice Chairman Schmidt, seconded by Commissioner Dolezal, and carried that Croell, Inc., Sundance, 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.

Federal projects STPU-B152040 and ARSCT-B152A01 combined, involving grading; placing crushed base and bituminous pavement surfacing; removal and replacement of sidewalk, curb, and gutter; sanitary sewer system; detention basin; and miscellaneous work on approximately 0.90 miles on County Roads 61 and 66 in the town of Douglas, in Converse County. Completion date: October 31, 2021

Engineer's Estimate	\$2,991,128.00	
Croell, Inc., Sundance, WY	\$2,668,726.33	-10.8%
Oftedal Construction, Inc., Casper, WY	\$2,868,850.93	
71 Construction, Casper, WY	\$3,265,313.40	
JTL Group, Inc. DBA Knife River, Cheyenne, WY	\$3,271,999.28	

It was recommended by Mr. Fulton, moved by Commissioner Larson, seconded by Commissioner Venable, and carried that Croell, Inc., Sundance, Wyoming, having prequalified in accordance with rules and regulations adopted by the Transportation Commission of Wyoming, be awarded the contract as low bidder. The Converse County Commission and the City of Douglas will participate in funding this project, and they both concur in the award. The Federal Highway Administration concurred with this decision.

Federal project STP-N302053, involving milling concrete, bituminous pavement surfacing, and miscellaneous work on approximately 0.50 miles of US 26, beginning at RM 133.19, in the town of Riverton, in Fremont County. Completion date: October 31, 2021

Engineer's Estimate	\$1,051,251.00	
71 Construction, Casper, WY	\$1,443,542.00	+37.3%
S & S Builders, LLC, Gillette, WY	\$1,624,246.00	

It was recommended by Mr. Fulton, moved by Commissioner Venable, seconded by Commissioner Dolezal, and carried that 71 Construction, 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.

Federal project HSIP-GM-B214020, involving sign installations and miscellaneous work at various locations in Transportation District 4, including Campbell, Crook, Johnson, Sheridan, and Weston counties. Completion date: June 30, 2021

Engineer's Estimate	\$147,730.00	
Keyhole Technologies, LLC, Casper, WY	\$148,220.00	+0.3%
S & L Industrial, Cowley, WY	\$193,520.00	
Delta Wye, Inc., Gillette, WY	\$287,270.00	

It was recommended by Mr. Fulton, moved by Commissioner Larson, seconded by Commissioner Dolezal, and carried that Keyhole Technologies, LLC, 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.

Federal project NHPP-N853097, involving removal and replacement of sidewalk, curb, and gutter; electrical work; pavement markings; and miscellaneous work on US 85, at RM 93.20, in the city of Torrington, in Goshen County. Completion date: June 30, 2021

Engineer's Estimate	\$125,125.00
Reiman Corp., Cheyenne, WY	\$178,699.00 +42.8%
S & L Industrial, Cowley, WY	\$179,865.00

It was recommended by Mr. Fulton, moved by Commissioner Dolezal, seconded by Commissioner Filer, 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.

12. Mr. Fulton presented the July 2020 addendum to the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP).

It was recommended by Mr. Fulton, moved by Commissioner Filer, seconded by Commissioner Espy, and carried to approve the July 2020 STIP addendum.

Mr. Fulton advised that, in an effort to improve public participation, WYDOT recently developed an online STIP presentation. The virtual meeting content is similar to the in-person STIP meetings, and the virtual meeting has an interactive map that allows the public to see all projects or filters can be applied to the map to reduce the number of projects shown. The virtual meeting also indicates public meeting dates and locations.

13. Mr. Gillett presented the Operations report.

Construction Update: WYDOT has about 85 construction projects underway statewide, compared to 73 last month.

Litigation recently wrapped up, clearing the way to obtain the necessary right-of-way to construct the Etna North project on US 89 in Lincoln County.

WYDOT will host a ribbon cutting ceremony August 4, 2020, for the two Garner Lake Road projects northeast of Gillette, in Campbell County. Both projects were funded by Campbell County, two coal mines companies nearby, and WYDOT.

The contactor has started work on the reconstruction of the 1.75-mile segment of WYO 212 (the Beartooth Highway) near milepost 25, in Park County. The project design and contract

administration is under the direction of the FHWA - CFL Division. It has been a Commission discussion topic, and the Department acquired a \$16.6 million grant for its reconstruction. The contract includes construction of a new 420-foot, 3-span, curved steel-girder bridge, and 1,400 feet of approximately 30-foot-high, mechanically stabilized earth retaining walls founded on a talus slope.

As mentioned by Mr. Fulton, Mr. Gillett noted that district STIP presentations are underway. Legislators, county commissioners, and the public were invited and encouraged to participate.

Maintenance Update: District maintenance crews are performing plant mix patching and chip sealing, guardrail repair, culvert cleaning, mowing, and delineation. WYDOT's hot plant machine was moved from District 2 to Walcott Junction in District 1, and crews are placing hot plant mix on various Rawlins area roads. Other districts are purchasing and placing commercial mix and hot patching in their areas.

WYDOT closed WYO 34, between Laramie and Wheatland, July 8 and 9, 2020, due to a wildfire encroaching onto the highway. The right-of-way fence will require replacement, but the fire did not damage the road surface.

Another wildfire recently encroached US 20, west of Cody, necessitating that road closure. WYDOT property was spared from that fire.

A slide is slowly developing on WYO 220, south of Casper, in District 2. District staff is monitoring the slide to ensure it does not affect the highway.

Traffic Operations Update: District 3 recently completed a nighttime speed reduction study on US 191, east of Pinedale, in Sublette County. The study revealed that a nighttime 65-mile-per-hour speed limit did not reduce wildlife crashes, so the nighttime speed reduction signs will be removed.

District crews continue striping operations. Sign crews are installing new signs, attending training, and placing signage for the nine rest area closures. Electrical crews are repairing traffic signals, highway lighting, and various roadside electronic devices.

Mechanics Update: Mechanics are repairing summer equipment and beginning to inspect snow control equipment for use this fall. Some districts are searching for parts for WYDOT's older rotary plows to make them operational for winter.

The District 1 striper truck is out of service due to emission issues.

WYDOT Facilities Update: The Meriden Rest Area on US 85 northeast of Cheyenne remains closed. The contractor is drilling a new water well at the site. The rest area should reopen in about a month.

The Wagonhound Rest Area on I-80 is also closed. A contractor is working on its water system.

The Independence Rock Rest Area is closed due to a water line break a few days ago. Repairs will be underway soon to reopen that facility.

COVID-19 Update: WYDOT field personnel continue to transport COVID-19-related supplies and materials to and from various health facilities statewide.

Some employees continue to struggle to find adequate childcare services due to childcare facility closures caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The “Street Outlaw” television production is filming scenes on WYO 258, which is the outer belt around the south edge of Casper. WYDOT closes the highway at night while filming is underway. The Department will do everything possible to keep the road open during the busy daylight hours, and it will limit the length of the closures.

14. Colonel Haller presented the Highway Patrol report.

Colonel Haller congratulated Mr. Mulcare and wished him well in his upcoming retirement.

The Fatal Crash Summary through June 30, 2020, includes 37<sup>1</sup> fatal crashes involving 43<sup>1</sup> deaths. The fatalities include 16 rollover crashes, 17 multi-car crashes, 4 fixed objects, 4 motorcycles, and 2 pedestrians. Of the 37 fatal crashes that have occurred in 2020, 11<sup>2</sup> involved commercial vehicles.

There were 10<sup>3</sup> fatal crashes deemed drug or alcohol related, resulting in 11<sup>3</sup> deaths. Of those deaths, 7<sup>3</sup> were attributed to not using occupant restraints. Eight were rollover crashes, one was a multi-car crash, one involved a motorcycle, and one involved a pedestrian. None<sup>2</sup> of the 11 drug- or alcohol-related fatalities involved commercial vehicles.

Of the 43 deaths this year, 18 can be attributed to the non-use of occupant restraints, with 11 involving rollover crashes, 5 involving multi-car collisions, and 2 involving fixed objects. Fourteen of those who died from the non-use of occupant restraints were Wyoming residents. Three of those who perished were under 21 years old, and 2 of those fatalities were attributed to the failure to use proper occupant restraints.

Of the 37 fatal crashes so far this year, it was deemed that 9<sup>4</sup> of those drivers had no distractions, none had distraction from outside the vehicle, but 3<sup>4</sup> drivers were distracted by an object from inside the vehicle. In 27<sup>4</sup> of the 37 fatal crashes, it was unknown whether a distraction caused the incident.

Of the 37 fatal crashes this year, 20 occurred on primary/secondary highways, 9 were on interstate highways, and 8 occurred on city/county roads.

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<sup>1</sup> Numbers at the time of reporting; the final numbers may change.

<sup>2</sup> Number not included in total deaths (sub-crash data).

<sup>3</sup> Not all chemical tests were available at the time of reporting.

<sup>4</sup> Data only available from submitted crash reports.

Of the multiple-fatality crashes that have occurred on Wyoming highways in 2020, one was a rollover, four involved multiple vehicles, two involved commercial vehicles, and one was alcohol related.

In locations where rumble strips/stripes were present, there were 14<sup>5</sup> crashes. There were 21<sup>4</sup> crashes where rumble strips/stripes were not present.

Inclement weather or road conditions contributed to seven vehicle crashes in 2020, resulting in seven deaths. Speed was considered a factor in nine of the vehicle crashes, causing nine deaths.

The days of the week for fatal crashes in 2020 were as follows:

Sunday	6 crashes
Monday	4 crashes
Tuesday	4 crashes
Wednesday	4 crashes
Thursday	5 crashes
Friday	8 crashes
Saturday	6 crashes

The times of day for fatal crashes in 2020 were as follows:

12:00 a.m. to 6:00 a.m.	3 crashes
6:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.	10 crashes
12:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.	13 crashes
6:00 p.m. to 12:00 a.m.	11 crashes

The Commission also heard the following statistics:

- 69 percent of those who died in rollover crashes were unbelted.
- 29 percent of those who died in multi-vehicle crashes were unbelted.
- 50 percent of those who died in fixed-object crashes were not wearing seat belts.
- 79 percent of the fatalities in 2020 were drivers.
- 23 percent of the fatalities in 2020 were passengers.
- 61 percent of the resident fatalities were unrestrained.
- 27 percent of the non-resident fatalities were unbuckled.
- Alcohol and/or drug impairment was a factor in 28 percent of the fatalities.

Patrol-Investigated Crash Summary: The Patrol-Investigated Crash Summary depicts 2,626<sup>(6)(7)</sup> crashes statewide, of which 850<sup>(6)(7)</sup> involved commercial vehicles.

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<sup>5</sup> Numbers at the time of reporting from submitted crash reports.

<sup>6</sup> Number does not contain all crashes worked; some reports are still pending.

<sup>7</sup> Total number of commercial vehicles involved; some crashes may involve multiple commercial vehicles.

Commission Letter to the Highway Patrol: Colonel Haller thanked the Commission for its recent letter to WHP members acknowledging and thanking them for their tireless work during these difficult times of law enforcement criticism and significant budget cuts.

Amber Alert Advocate and Training: Colonel Haller shared a quarterly issue of the *Amber Alert Advocate* publication featuring an article titled, “Amber Alert in Indian Country.” The article mentions the Wyoming State Legislature enacting legislation to formalize that the WHP will activate Amber Alerts when requested by the Bureau of Indian Affairs. The WHP has done this for years, but the legislation codifies those actions should the need arise in the future.

On March 11, 2020, WHP members participated in formal Amber Alert training with the Department of Justice at Fort Washakie, Wyoming, to solidify procedures for issuing alerts.

The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC), the nationwide Amber Alert hub, recently contacted the WHP regarding its issuance of an April 10, 2020, Amber Alert involving four children who were recovered successfully. The NCMEC advised that the recovery of those children likely pushed Amber Alerts past 1,000 successful rescues nationwide.

Trooper Vacancies Update: The WHP currently has 23 trooper vacancies statewide. The WHP hosted trooper testing in June, from which 21 candidates were chosen to begin WHP academy training on August 3, 2020.

Nineteen percent of WHP troopers are currently or will be retirement eligible within one year. Additionally, the WHP’s attrition rate is about 12 troopers annually. The WHP plans to begin backfilling trooper positions to compensate for potential future retirements and vacancies, since it takes a full year to hire and train new troopers.

Review of WHP’s Policies and Procedures: The WHP continues to meet and work with the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) during these times of civil unrest and sensitivity toward law enforcement officers. Recent meetings involved discussion about WHP policy and its culture, custody control and de-escalation procedures, and other law enforcement practices. Colonel Haller advised that the WHP is pursuing ways to improve its policies and procedures for everyone’s safety. The WHP is conducting online training for its workforce covering various high profile topics to raise awareness and improve standard procedures and protocol used in their day-to-day work. Troopers receive post-certification credits for the required training.

15. Mr. Olsen presented the Aeronautics report beginning with the June 2020 Aeronautics Flight Operations Passenger Summary Report.

Wyoming Air Service Update: Air traffic demand hit an all-time low in April 2020. Demand steadily increased through June, with the recovery flattening in July, presumably because of a resurgence of COVID-19 cases nationwide.

In Wyoming, June enplanements were down 79 percent compared to last year. July enplanements are about 65 percent fewer than July 2019.

Airline ticket prices are down about 15 percent nationwide, indicating fewer business travelers are flying, particularly with the larger airlines. Airlines have begun workforce reduction planning, with a goal of cutting about one-third of their workforce. Considering these circumstances, recovery for the airlines could take several years.

Wyoming's Capacity Purchase Agreement (CPA) remains in place. WYDOT Aeronautics continues to work with the airport communities and SkyWest Airlines to match flight demand with anticipated forward bookings. Daily, untagged flights to Denver continue in Gillette, Riverton, Rock Springs, and Sheridan in August. In September, SkyWest will add one more round-trip to Denver flight on peak weekdays from Gillette, Rock Springs, and Sheridan. Mr. Olsen noted that Wyoming's August forward bookings are better than the national average.

Wyoming has seen increased CPA costs in recent months due to COVID-19. WYDOT submitted a request for CARES Act funding through the Governor's office to cover those costs.

Airport Construction Update: The Wheatland Airport runway project is complete. WYDOT performed the substantial completion inspection this week, and only a few punch list items remain before the airport can be reopened early next week.

Thirteen other airports have projects underway statewide. A sealcoat and mark project in one quadrant of the state provides preventative maintenance and extends pavement life to get the best value possible. Other projects include crack sealing at northeastern Wyoming airports, and that work is now complete.

The Aeronautics Construction & Engineering Section safety inspector is performing safety inspections at Wyoming general aviation airports.

Other Aeronautics Division Activities: The Airport Economic Impact Study is in full swing. Aeronautics is currently performing data analysis, and Mr. Olsen hopes to have some preliminary results by this fall.

Aeronautics is also participating in collecting information for WYDOT's needs analysis study. The study will reveal the value of Wyoming's aviation infrastructure.

The Aeronautics Division is also working on its annual Wyoming Aviation Capital Improvement Plan (WACIP) update. The WACIP is expected to be complete in December 2020.

16. Mr. Rossetti presented the Support Services report.

Mr. Rossetti also congratulated Mr. Mulcare on his impending retirement, and he thanked him for the work he has done for the commercial carrier industry over the years.

Driver Services Update: WYDOT Driver Services and Motor Vehicle Services offices are fully functioning during the COVID-19 emergency. Operations are running smoothly, including

driving tests, and employees are conducting business using masks, face shields, gloves, and barriers, as well as additional disinfection within the offices.

Transactions have increased in the last month following a significant slowing in March and April with WYDOT's suspension of certain driver license expirations through June 15. Commercial driver license customer visits are fewer than normal. Mr. Rossetti offered kudos to all Driver Services and Motor Vehicle Services employees for their tireless work while navigating difficult working conditions.

Employment Summary: WYDOT employed 1,949 personnel as of July 7, 2020, 40 of whom are temporary employees. This compares to 1,957 a month ago and 1,944 one year ago.

Mr. Rossetti addressed Chairman Newton's question during the Director's report about WYDOT's reduction in force (RIF) policy. The state's RIF policy is addressed in State of Wyoming Personnel Rules, Chapter 11, Section 4.

17. Service Award Presentations: Director Reiner led the service award presentations for 9 WYDOT employees with 25, 30, 35, and 40 years of service.

18. Mr. Babbitt presented the Chief Technology Officer's report.

COVID-19 Update: Mr. Babbitt thanked WYDOT's Information Technology (IT), Graphical Information Systems/Intelligent Transportation Systems (GIS/ITS), Emergency Communications Programs, and the Enterprise Technology Services Division for their extraordinary work throughout the COVID-19 emergency. They have worked tirelessly to overcome issues, challenges, and security risks to enable WYDOT employees to telework and to keep their functions operating smoothly.

IT appears to be working well in this COVID-19 environment. The Department is moving forward with some computer replacements, as needed, using the Department's five-year replacement cycle protocol. Some hardware is also being replaced to provide better remote Cloud access and to replace certain radios and cell phones.

WYDOT Telework: About 20 percent of WYDOT's workforce is still teleworking. The State of Wyoming is revising its telework policy. One WYDOT employee sits on the committee developing the new policy. WYDOT is researching how permanent telework will affect its IT support team, equipment, connectivity, and software licensing, and also how WYDOT employees can become more mobile if the need arises.

Zoom and Google Hangouts are used more than ever for WYDOT meetings. WYDOT's is also considering its Transportation Management Center (TMC) and Highway Patrol Dispatch Center for future virtualization advancement.

CARES Act Funding Update: CARES Act funding requests were submitted for WyoLink equipment and parts, the Revenue Information System (RIS), and laptop purchases. Mr. Babbitt will keep the Commission apprised of whether those items are approved by Governor Gordon.

Another CARES Act funding request was for an additional 17 WyoLink tower sites, which was included with a request to expand broadband statewide. Part of that request also includes installing fiber optic cable to 55 existing WyoLink tower sites. Doing so would be create redundancy between the towers, which would make the towers less reliant on the microwave resources. If the towers are linked to broadband, each tower site will have to be reviewed individually to determine whether the towers can be shared with internet service providers.

WyoLink Update: The Orin Junction WyoLink tower became operational last week. Construction is underway on the remaining 13 towers planned, and they are making good progress.

WYDOT is working to better understand the inter-subsystem interface (ISSI) technology that is capable of bridging high-tech systems like WyoLink with other land-mobile radio and cell phone technology into the future. ISSI would enable WyoLink to connect with other entities' communications systems, with fewer capabilities overall, but it may help address interoperability with other entities that have switched to other vendors for their emergency communications.

Revenue Information System (RIS) Update: MathTech, Inc., the consultant hired for the future RIS upgrade, is working with Wyoming counties, WYDOT Driver Services and Motor Vehicle Services, and the State of Wyoming Enterprise Technology Services (ETS) to map the mainframe dependencies, reports, and databases that RIS depends upon. The draft RFP will be ready by November 1, 2020.

IT Work Zone Safety Grant: The GIS/ITS Program is applying for an IT Work Zone Safety grant. If approved, the grant will allow WYDOT to provide travelers with real-time information regarding its ongoing construction work zones on Wyoming highways.

The TMC is beginning the process of hiring seasonal TMC workers.

WYDOT is involved in the newly developed Autonomous Vehicle Working Group (AVWG), and Mr. Babbitt is co-chairing the technology committee within the group. The AVWG will establish a plan for upgrading Wyoming roads to accommodate AVs.

Next Generation 9-1-1 (NG9-1-1) Update: Mr. Babbitt continues to work with local public safety officials to finalize a NG9-1-1 plan, which will make Wyoming eligible to apply and compete for federal NG9-1-1 Plan grants. WYDOT must submit the plan to the Federal Communications Commission by July 31, 2020.

WYDOT recently added 9-1-1 coordinator responsibilities to a vacant supervisory position in the Emergency Communications Program to address efficiencies in its emergency operations and to improve the overall NG9-1-1 plan. Recruitment is underway to fill the position.

Wyoming Blockchain Development: Mr. Babbitt is also involved in gathering information for the Select Committee on Blockchain, Financial Technology and Digital Innovation Technology Committee meetings. Blockchain is a decentralized form of ledger system used for storing

transactions and technological information sharing. The state's ETS Division and WYDOT are performing case studies to see how other states have managed and developed Blockchain technology for future use in Wyoming.

19. It was moved by Commissioner Dolezal, seconded by Commissioner Larson, and carried to adjourn the meeting. Chairman Newton adjourned the meeting at 11:50 a.m., on Thursday, July 16, 2020.