

## **TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION OF WYOMING**

The Transportation Commission of Wyoming met via video conference on March 18, 2021. Vice Chairman Schmidt convened the business meeting at 8:30 a.m. The following members were present constituting a quorum:

Vice Chairman Phil Schmidt, Casper  
Commissioner Jim Espy, Savery  
Commissioner Jon Dolezal, Evanston  
Commissioner Greg Venable, Worland  
Commissioner Susan Holmes, Sheridan  
Commissioner Mark Hughes, Sundance  
Director K. Luke Reiner  
Commission Secretary Sandra J. Scott

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; Tom DeHoff, Assistant Chief Engineer for Operations; 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 Mark Gordon; Doug McGee, Public Affairs Program Manager; John Davis, Management Services Program Manager; Doug Jensen, State Contracts & Estimates Engineer; Rhonda Holt, Controller; and Katie Legerski, Executive Director, Associated General Contractors (AGC) of Wyoming.

Commissioner Lee Filer, of Cheyenne, was absent.

1. Pledge of Allegiance: Vice Chairman Schmidt led the attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance.
2. Swearing In of New Commissioners: District Court Judge Thomas Campbell administered the oaths for the newly appointed commissioners Greg Venable, Susan Holmes, and Mark Hughes.

Governor Mark Gordon appointed Commissioner Venable to the Commission on June 10, 2020, to fulfil an unexpired term, and Commissioners Holmes and Hughes on March 1, 2021. The Wyoming State Senate confirmed all three appointments March 8, 2021.

3. Retiring Commissioner Recognition: The Commission recognized retired Commissioners Rick Newton and Mike Larson for their service to Wyoming citizens throughout their terms.

Governor Mark Gordon phoned into the meeting to wish Commissioners Newton and Larson well and to thank them for their service. Former commissioners Todd Seeton and Bob Ruwart, former chief engineer Del McOmie, and WYDOT district engineers also attended the farewell event.

4. Election of Officers: It was moved by Commissioner Espy, seconded by Commissioner Hughes, and unanimously carried to elect Vice Chairman Phil Schmidt as chairman.

It was moved by Commissioner Espy, seconded by Commissioner Dolezal, and unanimously carried to elect Commissioner Greg Venable as vice chairman.

Newly elected Chairman Phil Schmidt led the rest of the meeting.

5. Approval of Minutes: It was recommended by Secretary Scott, moved by Commissioner Espy, seconded by Vice Chairman Venable, and carried to approve the minutes from the February 18, 2021, business meeting.

6. Correspondence: Secretary Scott presented a letter from the Carbon County Board of Commissioners regarding the bridge (Structure BLI) at WYO 130 Milepost 57.79 and County Road 504. The Carbon County Commission expressed concern about WYDOT's load restriction on the structure and the resulting limited access to the nearby community.

Mr. DeHoff shared photos of the damaged timber bridge. Director Reiner advised that WYDOT has issued an emergency contract for temporary repairs. Reiman Corporation will perform about \$78,000 worth of work within the next few weeks to ensure the structure is passable. WYDOT will let a contract for the structure replacement later this year.

7. Director Reiner presented the Director's report.

March 13-15 Snowstorm: Southeast Wyoming experienced a record-breaking snowstorm March 13-15, 2021, which closed all highways for several days. The storm required workers and snow removal equipment to come from every corner of Wyoming and western Nebraska to dig out from the event.

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update: WYDOT's COVID-19 infection rate remains very low. Director Reiner attributes the success to employees following strict guidelines. Employees are getting their vaccinations as opportunities allow. Masks are still required for anyone entering WYDOT facilities.

Legislative Update: Director Reiner briefed the Commission about the status of some WYDOT-related legislative bills.

WYDOT Metric Walk: WYDOT executive staff continues its future planning by setting goals, and then by quantifying and setting objectives, and then by measuring those goals in accordance with the Department's strategic plan. Director Reiner leads that effort through WYDOT's monthly metric walk meeting with executive staff members. Director Reiner advised he would continue to share the results of the metric walk with the Commission.

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

WYDOT FY2020 Financial and Compliance Audit: McGee, Hearne & Paiz (MHP) conducted an audit of WYDOT's FY 2020 financial statements. Mr. Wayne Herr, of MPH, presented the audit results to the Commission on March 17, 2021.

Chairman Schmidt congratulated the Department on receiving a clean audit opinion for FY 2020. Mr. Byrne thanked Financial Services and Internal Review Services personnel for their extraordinary and tireless work to assist with the audit.

It was recommended by Mr. Byrne, moved by Commissioner Espy, seconded by Vice Chairman Venable, and carried to accept the FY 2020 Audit Report as presented in detail by Mr. Wayne Herr, business partner at McGee, Hearne & Paiz, LLC, CPAs and Consultants.

9. Monthly Budget Report: Mr. Freier presented the monthly budget report. Overall, the budget report revealed that the Commission budget was 40 percent expended, and the Legislative budget was 37 percent expended in FY 2021.

Mr. Freier walked through some details of the monthly budget report, and he answered questions from the new commissioners.

Mr. Byrne advised that in some recent public reports, some have claimed that WYDOT has its own accounting system that is completely separate from other state agencies. Mr. Byrne explained that WYDOT uses PeopleSoft as an internal cost accounting system to record a greater level of project costing detail based on project activities. The FHWA requires tracking certain information for WYDOT to receive and/or be reimbursed with federal funds. The State of Wyoming WOLFS accounting system is unable to provide or track the necessary level of detail. WYDOT's PeopleSoft accounting system interfaces with the State of Wyoming accounting system twice weekly, and all WYDOT expenditures and receipts are merged with the WOLFS system.

Mr. Byrne also highlighted that, at the February 19, 2021, Commission meeting, he shared information about WYDOT's fuel tax revenue outpacing the forecasted FY21 fuel tax revenue. To clarify, WYDOT initially decreased its projected fuel tax revenue by \$21 million because of anticipated COVID-19 impacts. WYDOT's current fuel tax revenue remains about \$2 million to \$3 million lower than the actual five-year projections.

10. It was recommended by Mr. Byrne, moved by Commissioner Dolezal, seconded by Commissioner Espy, and carried to move Bid Numbers 21-064RE and 21-065RE to a consent list.

It was moved by Commissioner Espy, seconded by Commissioner Dolezal, and carried to approve, by consent, the following bids:

- Bid No. 21-064RE, line 1, to furnish 17 each, new, right-hand, truck-mounted extendable snow wings, for delivery in Cheyenne. The Commission awarded the bid to CMI-TECO, of Casper, Wyoming, for the sum of \$80,699.00.

- Bid No. 21-064RE, line 2, to furnish 3 each, new, left-hand, truck-mounted extendable snow wings, for delivery in Cheyenne. The Commission awarded the bid to CMI-TECO, of Casper, Wyoming, for the sum of \$14,241.00.
- Bid No. 21-064RE, line 3, to furnish 9 each, right-hand, truck-mounted patrol-type snow wings, for delivery in Cheyenne. The Commission awarded the bid to Northern Truck Equipment Corporation, of Sioux Falls, South Dakota, for the sum of \$41,859.00.
- Bid No. 21-064RE, line 4, to furnish 15 each, 12-foot, power-reverse, parallel-lift snowplows, for delivery in Cheyenne. The Commission awarded the bid to Floyd's Truck Center, of Gillette, Wyoming, for the sum of \$204,360.00.
- Bid No. 21-064RE, line 5, to furnish 13 each, 12-foot, Alaska Expressway, parallel-lift snowplows, for delivery in Cheyenne. The Commission awarded the bid to Floyd's Truck Center, of Gillette, Wyoming, for the sum of \$201,058.00.
- Bid No. 21-064RE, line 6, to furnish one each, 12-foot, 72-inch, tapered moldboard, parallel lift snowplow, for delivery in Cheyenne. The Commission awarded the bid to Floyd's Truck Center, of Gillette, Wyoming, for the sum of \$15,596.00.
- Bid No. 21-65RE, line 1, to furnish 25 each, 13-foot, self-unloading, abrasive material spreaders, for delivery in Cheyenne. The Commission awarded the bid to CMI-TECO, of Casper, Wyoming, for the sum of \$349,450.00.
- Bid No. 21-65RE, line 2, to furnish one each, 10-foot, self-unloading, abrasive materials spreaders, for delivery in Cheyenne. The Commission awarded the bid to CMI-TECO, of Casper, Wyoming, for the sum of \$12,783.00.
- Bid No. 21-065RE, line 3, to furnish 24 each, 8-cubic-yard, stainless steel dump bodies for Class 8, tandem-axle trucks, for delivery in Cheyenne. The Commission awarded the bid to Ameritech Equipment Company, of Casper, Wyoming, for the sum of \$293,280.00.
- Bid No. 21-65RE, line 4, to furnish one each, four cubic yard stainless steel dump bodies for Class 7, single-axle trucks, for delivery in Cheyenne. The Commission awarded the bid to Ameritech Equipment Company, of Casper, Wyoming, for the sum of \$10,205.00.

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

Mr. Gillett explained the various aspects of WYDOT's engineering program for the new commissioners.

Hoback Junction to Jackson Change Order: A change order is being negotiated for the Hoback Junction to Jackson project in Teton County. The change order will be about \$3 million, and it involves a special provision to construct large drilled shaft foundations to support a wall along the base of the Bear River slide.

Fencepost Shortage: Contractors in northwestern Wyoming are experiencing a fencepost shortage. The shortage is due to seven Canadian lumber mills closing because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Whether those mills reopen is unknown. Local lumber mills have confirmed that the shortage will ultimately affect some WYDOT project completion dates this coming fall and beyond.

WYO 130 Bridge Repair: Mr. Gillett shared additional details about Director Reiner's explanation of the bridge repair on Structure BLI on WYO 130, Milepost 57.79, and County

Road 504 in Carbon County. With favorable weather, Reiman Corporation should be able to complete the emergency repair in about one week. WYDOT is designing a culvert to replace the bridge as a long-term solution. The project will be let this year.

WYO 22 Speed Study: Teton County and local residents recently requested a speed study on WYO 22, between Jackson and Wilson in Teton County. District 3 personnel conducted the speed study to determine if a speed reduction is warranted. The current speed limit is 55 miles per hour during the summer and 45 miles per hour during the winter. The speed study revealed that a 55-mile-per-hour speed limit is actually warranted year-round.

WYDOT district personnel notified Teton County of the study outcome, which has spurred a myriad of emails to Director Reiner and Chief Engineer Gillett pleading to decrease or leave the speed limit as is. WYDOT has not decided about changing the speed limit on that roadway segment.

March 13-15 Snowstorm: Mr. Gillett thanked the WYDOT workers, including maintenance, Highway Patrol, Transportation Management Center (TMC), and Communications Center personnel, who fought the recent record-breaking snowstorm day and night for several days.

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

Federal Funding Update: Mr. Cawley reported that departments of transportation across the nation are currently operating under a continuing resolution to the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act, which is set to expire September 30, 2021. With the recent passage of the federal COVID-19 relief package, President Biden's administration is turning its focus to infrastructure.

Local Technical Assistance Program (LTAP): WYDOT recently received an allocation of \$150,000 for the LTAP. WYDOT administers LTAP funds, which support local rural road agencies by providing training, technical assistance, and technology transfer services to help local governments manage and maintain their roadway systems. Wyoming's LTAP Center is located at the University of Wyoming in Laramie.

Federal Lands Access Program (FLAP): The FHWA recently announced the following projects for FLAP funding.

- South Fork Road, Park County – Roadway reconstruction
- Teton Pass Access Study – Safety and access improvement study on Teton Pass
- Casper Mountain Circle Drive Road – Improve access to Bureau of Land Management (BLM) lands and recreation sites
- North Fork Crazy Women Creek Bridge, Johnson County – Enhance safety and reliability of access to the national forest by replacing a bridge
- Red Grade Road, Sheridan County – Improve access to national forest and BLM lands

March 13-15 Snowstorm: On March 17, 2021, Governor Gordon issued Emergency Declaration 2021-4 to facilitate a statewide winter storm response. The scale and intensity of the storm caused severe impacts to Wyoming’s transportation system. Many county roads remain impassable. Mr. Cawley will work with WYDOT to assist in restoring transportation services statewide through the FHWA Emergency Relief Program.

13. Mr. Fulton presented the Engineering and Planning report, beginning with the bid tabulations from the letting held March 11, 2021, in Casper.

Commissioner Espy temporarily left the meeting.

Federal projects NHPPI-I904140 and NHPPI-I904141 combined, involving grading, milling plant mix, bituminous pavement surfacing, bridge rehabilitation, fencing, and miscellaneous work on approximately 7.50 miles on both eastbound and westbound lanes of I-90, beginning at reference marker (RM) 160.31, between Moorcroft and Sundance, in Crook County. Completion date: July 31, 2022

Engineer's Estimate	\$7,099,516.00	
Simon Contractors, Cheyenne, WY	\$7,189,469.00	+1.3%
Croell, Inc., Sundance, WY	\$7,292,367.07	
Mountain Construction Company, Lovell, WY	\$7,825,368.56	
Riverside Contracting, Inc., Missoula, MT	\$8,719,804.00	

It was recommended by Mr. Fulton, moved by Vice Chairman Venable, seconded by Commissioner Dolezal, 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. The Federal Highway Administration concurred with this decision.

Federal project NHPP-N131056, involving grading, milling plant mix, bituminous pavement surfacing, chip seal, and miscellaneous work on approximately 11.80 miles of US 191, beginning at RM 21.0, between Rock Springs and Farson, in Sweetwater County. Completion date: October 31, 2021

Engineer's Estimate	\$5,091,454.00	
Mountain Construction Company, Lovell, WY	\$4,830,149.69	-5.1%
McGarvin-Moberly Construction Co., Worland, WY	\$4,980,295.75	
Kilgore Companies, LLC dba Lewis & Lewis, Inc., Rock Springs, WY	\$5,296,324.25	
Riverside Contracting, Inc., Missoula, MT	\$5,499,006.00	
Avail Valley Construction-WY, LLC, Afton, WY	\$5,618,407.00	

It was recommended by Mr. Fulton, moved by Commissioner Hughes, seconded by Commissioner Dolezal, and carried that Mountain Construction Company, Lovell, 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 STP-PM-B213018 involving milling plant mix, bituminous pavement surfacing, and miscellaneous work at various locations in Transportation District 3 in Lincoln, Sublette and Uinta counties. Completion date: October 31, 2021

Engineer's Estimate	\$2,661,555.00	
Kilgore Companies, LLC dba Lewis & Lewis, Inc., Rock Springs, WY	\$2,404,751.47	-9.6%
Avail Valley Construction-WY, LLC, Afton, WY	\$2,753,250.00	

It was recommended by Mr. Fulton, moved by Vice Chairman Venable, seconded by Commissioner Hughes, and carried that Kilgore Companies, LLC dba 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.

Commissioner Espy returned to the meeting.

Federal project STP-BR-B215004, involving grading, bituminous pavement surfacing, bridge rehabilitation, MGS guardrail, and miscellaneous work at various locations in Transportation District 5, including Big Horn, Fremont, and Washakie counties. Completion date: November 30, 2021

Engineer's Estimate	\$2,203,556.00	
Reiman Corp., Cheyenne, WY	\$1,948,318.91	-11.6%
Coldwater Group, Inc., Pleasant View, UT	\$2,149,450.80	
S & S Builders, LLC, Gillette, WY	\$2,195,755.85	

It was recommended by Mr. Fulton, moved by Commissioner Espy, seconded by Vice Chairman Venable, 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.

Federal project HSIP-B219023, involving signs and miscellaneous work at various locations in Transportation Districts 1 and 2, including Laramie and Platte counties. Completion date: November 30, 2021

Engineer's Estimate	\$1,125,236.00	
S & L Industrial, Cowley, WY	\$ 889,684.00	-20.9%
CC Enterprises – Traffic Control Specialists, Inc., Grand Junction, CO	\$1,444,148.00	

It was recommended by Mr. Fulton, moved by Commissioner Dolezal, seconded by Commissioner Hughes, and carried that S & L Industrial, Cowley, 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 STP-RF-B215034, involving removal and replacement of fence and miscellaneous work at various locations in Transportation District 5, including Big Horn County. Completion date: November 30, 2021

Engineer's Estimate	\$776,005.00	
Highline Fencing, LLC, Powell, WY	\$616,560.00	-20.5%
WYO Services LLC, Upton, WY	\$912,593.00	
S & L Industrial, Cowley, WY	\$998,883.00	

It was recommended by Mr. Fulton, moved by Vice Chairman Venable, seconded by Commissioner Hughes, and carried that Highline Fencing, LLC, Powell, 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-B214022, involving signs and miscellaneous work at various locations in Transportation District 4, including Campbell, Crook, Johnson, Sheridan, and Weston counties. Completion date: October 31, 2021

Engineer's Estimate	\$762,210.00	
S & L Industrial, Cowley, WY	\$724,183.50	-5.0%
Signs Up LTD, Webster City, IA	\$765,805.00	
Keyhole Technologies, LLC, Casper, WY	\$768,985.00	
WyoDak Energy Services, LLC, Buffalo, WY	\$833,429.23	
Traffic Safety Services, Inc., Bismarck, ND	\$891,315.00	

It was recommended by Mr. Fulton, moved by Commissioner Holmes, seconded by Vice Chairman Venable, and carried that S & L Industrial, Cowley, 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-B215035, involving flexible delineators and miscellaneous work at various locations in Transportation District 5, including Big Horn, Fremont, Park, and Washakie counties. Completion date: November 30, 2021

Engineer's Estimate	\$735,215.00	
S & L Industrial, Cowley, WY	\$748,900.00	+1.9%
K's Construction, Inc., AFTON, WY	\$749,725.00	
Apex Energy Services, Douglas, WY	\$795,309.00	
Signs Up LTD, Webster City, IA	\$799,845.00	
Traffic Safety Services, Inc., Bismarck, ND	\$932,750.00	
CC Enterprises – Traffic Control Specialists, Inc., Grand Junction, CO	\$1,330,173.05	
Straight Stripe Painting, Inc., St. George, UT	\$2,078,200.00	

It was recommended by Mr. Fulton, moved by Commissioner Hughes, seconded by Commissioner Dolezal, and carried that S & L Industrial, Cowley, 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.

14. Mr. Fulton presented the March 2021 addendum to the FY 2021 STIP.

It was recommended by Mr. Fulton, moved by Commissioner Espy, seconded by Commissioner Venable, and carried to approve the March 2021 STIP addendum.

15. Mr. DeHoff presented the Operations report.

**COVID-19 Update:** Mr. DeHoff reported that COVID-19 cases throughout the field offices have dropped significantly with currently only one or two reported active cases.

**Construction Update:** There are currently 10 active construction projects statewide. Contractors are preparing crushed roadbed material for summer projects and other off-road work. Numerous construction projects will begin in the next few weeks.

WYDOT has held several public meetings for upcoming projects to answer questions and provide information to the public.

**Traffic Update:** Striping crews are assembling their equipment and striping operations will begin soon.

**Mechanic Shop Update:** Mechanics are busy repairing and keeping equipment in good working order for snow control operations.

**Facilities Update:** The Meriden Rest Area in Laramie County was temporarily closed for snow removal operations in the parking lot, but it will reopen March 18, 2021.

**Maintenance Update:** On March 9, 2021, WYDOT maintenance crews worked to clear a rock-fall issue on US 20/WYO 789 in the Wind River Canyon. WYDOT crews were able to move small rocks and debris off the roadway between Shoshoni and Thermopolis, and a private contractor assisted with breaking up larger boulders for removal from the canyon.

**Winter Storm Xylia:** On March 13-15, 2021, maintenance crews battled winter storm Xylia that dumped several feet of snow in central and southeast Wyoming. The storm required more extensive snow removal activity than usual for crews. WYDOT mobilized additional motor graders, rotary plows, loader-mounted snow blowers, and 8-yard plow trucks, with additional operators, from Districts 3, 4, and 5 before the storm to prepare for the event. WYDOT also hired a few private contractors with motor graders to assist with snow control operations.

Winter storm Xylia closed virtually all interstate and secondary highways in central and southeast Wyoming for several days. Several feet of snow and 5- to 10-foot drifts covered the highways.

WYDOT mechanics worked around the clock to keep equipment running throughout the storm.

On March 16, 2021, the Nebraska Department of Transportation (NDOT) contacted WYDOT to offer assistance to reopen I-80 along the Nebraska-Wyoming border. NDOT sent a crew with a motor grader, snowplow, and a rotary plow, and the crew worked March 16 and 17, 2021, to reopen the far eastern section of I-80.

WYDOT was able to reopen all routes by Wednesday evening, March 17, 2021, due to the assistance provided by NDOT and private contractors and the advance preparations WYDOT crews made before the storm.

Mr. DeHoff shared a video that demonstrated the depth of the snow on I-80 and the various equipment used to clear the tremendous amount of snow from the roadway.

Mr. DeHoff offered kudos to all district, Facility Maintenance, Maintenance Office, Transportation Management Center, Communications Center, Telecommunications, and Highway Patrol members for their extraordinary effort, their teamwork, and their dedication to the state of Wyoming to manage the storm and its effects. On behalf of the Commission, Chairman Schmidt also offered sincere appreciation for the crews involved in battling the storm.

16. Colonel Haller presented the Highway Patrol report.

The Fatal Crash Summary through February 28, 2021, includes 14<sup>1</sup> fatal crashes involving 17<sup>1</sup> deaths. The fatalities include 8 rollover crashes, 3 multi-car crashes, 3 fixed objects, and 3 pedestrians. Of the 14 fatal crashes that have occurred in 2021, 3<sup>2</sup> involved commercial vehicles.

There were five<sup>3</sup> fatal crashes deemed drug or alcohol related, resulting in eight<sup>3</sup> deaths, of which seven<sup>3</sup> were attributed to not using occupant restraints. Four of those deaths were rollover crashes, one was a multi-car crash, and one involved a fixed object. None of the drug- or alcohol-related fatalities involved commercial vehicles.

Of the 17 deaths this year, 9 were attributed to not using occupant restraints, with 5 involving rollover crashes, 1 involving multiple vehicles, and 3 involving fixed objects. Seven of those who died from the non-use of occupant restraints were Wyoming residents. Two of those who perished were under 21 years old, and one of those fatalities was due to the failure to use proper occupant restraints.

---

<sup>1</sup> Numbers at the time of reporting; 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.

Of the 14 fatal crashes so far this year, one of those drivers had no distractions, and it is unknown whether a distraction caused three of those crashes.

Of the 14 fatal crashes that have occurred this year, 5 occurred on primary/secondary highways, 5 occurred on interstate highways, and 4 occurred on city/county roads.

Of the multiple-fatality crashes in 2021, two were rollovers, one involved a fixed object, and three were drug and/or alcohol related.

In locations where rumble strips/strips were present, there were three<sup>4</sup> crashes. There were two<sup>4</sup> crashes where rumble strips/strips were not present.

Inclement weather or road conditions contributed to three vehicle crashes in 2021, resulting in three deaths. Speed was considered a factor in five of the vehicle crashes, causing three deaths.

The days of the week for fatal crashes in 2021 were as follows:

Sunday	2 crashes
Monday	0 crashes
Tuesday	1 crash
Wednesday	2 crashes
Thursday	3 crashes
Friday	6 crashes
Saturday	0 crashes

The times of day for fatal crashes in 2021 were as follows:

12:00 a.m. to 6:00 a.m.	3 crashes
6:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.	4 crashes
12:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.	4 crashes
6:00 p.m. to 12:00 a.m.	3 crashes

The Commission also heard the following statistics:

- 63 percent of those who died in rollover crashes were unbelted.
- 33 percent of those who died in multi-vehicle crashes were unbelted.
- 100 percent of those who died in fixed-object crashes were unbelted.
- 41 percent of the fatalities in 2021 were drivers.
- 29 percent of the fatalities in 2021 have been passengers.
- 70 percent of the resident fatalities were unrestrained.
- 50 percent of non-resident fatalities were unrestrained.
- 47 percent of fatalities involved alcohol and/or drug impairment.

---

<sup>4</sup> Numbers at the time of reporting from submitted crash reports.

Patrol-Investigated Crash Summary: The Patrol-Investigated Crash Summary depicts 960<sup>5</sup> crashes statewide, of which 309<sup>(5)(6)</sup> involved commercial vehicles.

WHP Recruiting Efforts: There are currently 17 trooper vacancies.

Other WHP Topics: Colonel Haller shared some information about the various divisions and the duties carried out by the Highway Patrol for the new commissioners.

Chairman Schmidt asked Colonel Haller to share with the Commission the report on the social costs associated with legalizing marijuana. Colonel Haller indicated that, according to a Rocky Mountain High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area report titled, “The Legalization of Marijuana in Colorado: The Impact,” the residual expense of Colorado’s 2013 recreational marijuana legalization is four times the amount of revenue it has generated.

17. Mr. Olsen presented the Aeronautics report.

Mr. Olsen shared information about Wyoming’s airports and about the Aeronautics Division for the new commissioners.

Mr. Olsen presented the February 2021 Aeronautics Flight Operations Passenger Summary Report.

President Biden signed into law the American Rescue Plan (ARP) on March 11, 2021. The ARP provides about \$8 billion for airports nationwide in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. It is unknown how much Wyoming airports will receive from that appropriation. The ARP also includes about \$14 billion for the Payroll Support Program for commercial airlines through September 30, 2021.

WYDOT Aeronautics is tracking numerous bills in the state legislature. Mr. Olsen shared some details about each bill that, if passed, will affect the Aeronautics Division and/or Wyoming airports.

In 2020, commercial passenger enplanements nationwide dropped 61 percent from 2019. In Wyoming, passenger enplanements dropped 42 percent, much better than the national average and the least amount of decline in the nation.

In 2021, the nation’s passenger traffic is expected to be about 30 to 40 percent from 2019. Wyoming’s commercial air traffic is expected to be about 10 to 15 percent lower than 2019.

Wyoming’s flight bookings for March, April, May, and June 2021 are improving, with leisure market, such as Jackson Hole, Bozeman, and Palm Springs, bookings heavily favored in this summer.

---

<sup>5</sup> Does not include all crashes worked to date; some reports are still pending.

<sup>6</sup> Total number of commercial vehicles involved; some crashes may include multiple commercial vehicles.

On March 22, 2021, the Laramie Regional Airport will host a soft opening of its new airport terminal.

18. Mr. Rossetti presented the Support Services report.

Mr. Rossetti shared information about his work history and the programs he oversees as the Support Services Administrator.

COVID-19 Update: Governor Gordon lifted the statewide mask mandate on March 16, 2021. WYDOT is one of five state agencies that have the authority to govern whether masks should still be required in its facilities. WYDOT's executive staff decided it is in the best interest of its employees and the public who enter its facilities to keep the mask requirement when six feet of distance is not attainable. WYDOT will continue to monitor and re-evaluate the situation and make adjustments as needed.

Employment Summary: WYDOT employed 1,924 personnel as of March 1, 2021, compared to 1,920 a month ago and 1,978 one year ago.

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

Mr. Babbitt shared information about his career and the programs he oversees as Chief Technology Officer.

Winter Storm Xylia: The Geographical Information Systems (GIS)/Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) Program and the Transportation Management Center (TMC) worked tirelessly throughout the recent record-breaking winter storm. On March 17, 2021, WYDOT's webservers received over 1,700 hits per second. From March 15-17, 2021, there were 68 million hits on the WyoRoad Info site. GIS/ITS coordinated with Casper Event Center officials to communicate weather and travel conditions throughout the state basketball tournament to ensure safe travel for attendees afterwards.

Some TMC staff worked 24-hour or longer shifts to ensure coverage throughout the storm. Mr. Babbitt offered his sincere appreciation and respect for all WYDOT workers who went beyond the call of duty to manage every situation during that extraordinary winter event.

Customer Satisfaction Survey (CSS) Results for Information Technology (IT): The 2020 CSS results for WYDOT's IT communications were considerably lower than the last two years. Mr. Babbitt attributes the results to significantly less travel during the COVID-19 pandemic.

IT Update: The State of Wyoming received federal COVID-19 relief funds, which will allow the State of Wyoming Enterprise Technology Services to purchase about 560 new laptops. The laptops will replace desktop computers for employees to telework, when necessary.

Revenue Information System (RIS) Update: HB0254 is currently moving through the legislature and, if it passes, it will fund the RIS replacement. WYDOT is collaborating with the state Enterprise Technology Services for this modernization effort.

Emergency Communications and WyoLink: Mr. Babbitt briefed the new commissioners about WYDOT's emergency communications system and WyoLink, its history, and its future.

20. It was moved by Commissioner Espy, seconded by Vice Chairman Venable, and carried to recess the business meeting and move into an executive session to receive information about a personnel matter, in accordance with Wyoming Statute 16-4-405(a)(ii).

Chairman Schmidt, Vice Chairman Venable, Commissioners Espy, Dolezal, Holmes, and Hughes, Messrs. Gillett, DeHoff, Kahler, and Thompson, and Secretary Scott left the open meeting for the executive session. The Commission went into executive session at 12:15 p.m., on Thursday, March 18, 2021.

21. It was moved by Commissioner Espy, seconded by Commissioner Hughes, and carried to come out of executive session. The Commission took no action during the executive session. The Commission came out of executive session at 12:32 p.m.

22. It was moved by Commissioner Espy, seconded by Commissioner Hughes, and carried to adjourn the meeting. Chairman Schmidt adjourned the meeting at 12:34 p.m., on Thursday, March 18, 2021.