

(Approved)

TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION OF WYOMING

The Transportation Commission of Wyoming met via videoconference on July 15, 2021. Chairman Schmidt convened the meeting at 8:31 a.m. The following members were present constituting a quorum:

Chairman Phil Schmidt, Casper
Vice Chairman Greg Venable, Worland, via Zoom
Commissioner Jim Espy, Savery
Commissioner Jon Dolezal, Evanston
Commissioner Susan Holmes, Sheridan
Commissioner Mark Hughes, Sundance
Director K. Luke Reiner
Acting Commission Secretary Kimberly Chapman

Others present and participating in the meeting: Dennis Byrne, Chief Financial Officer (CFO); Rodney Freier, Budget Program Manager; Mark Gillett, Chief Engineer; Keith Fulton, Assistant Chief Engineer of Engineering and Planning; Tom DeHoff, Assistant Chief Engineer of Operations; Bob Hammond, Resident Engineer, District 3; Colonel Kebin Haller, Wyoming Highway Patrol (WHP) Administrator; Brian Olsen, Aeronautics Administrator; Taylor Rossetti, Support Services Administrator; Troy Babbitt, Chief Technology Officer (CTO); Nathan Smolinski, Emergency Communications Program Manager; Mike Kahler, Senior Assistant Attorney General; Ryan Thompson, Assistant Attorney General; and Bryan Cawley, Division Administrator, Federal Highway Administration (FHWA).

Other meeting attendees: Senator John Kolb and Representative Mark Baker, legislative liaisons to the Wyoming Department of Transportation (WYDOT); Doug McGee, Public Affairs Program Manager; John Davis, Management Services Program Manager; Melissa DeFratis, Legislative Liaison; Heather Hunter, Legislative Services Office (LSO); Katie Legerski, Executive Director, Associated General Contractors (AGC) of Wyoming; Mark Ayen, District Engineer, District 2; Scott Taylor, District Engineer, District 4; Kent Ketterling, State Construction Engineer; Doug Jensen, Contracts and Estimates Program Manager; Phillip Hearn, Aeronautics Engineering & Construction Program Manager; Dennis Cease, State Parks and Cultural Resources; Jerry Glasscock, Park Ranger, Wyoming State Parks; Sara Perez, Financial Manager, FHWA; Douglas Mikowski, Financial Specialist, FHWA; Kevin Parker, Motorola Solutions; and Dave Riegert, Motorola Solutions.

Commissioner Filer, of Cheyenne, and Commissioner Hughes, of Sundance, were absent.

1. Pledge of Allegiance: Chairman Schmidt led the attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance.
2. Approval of Minutes: It was recommended by Secretary Chapman, moved by Commissioner Holmes, seconded by Commissioner Venable, and carried to approve the minutes from the June 17, 2021, business meeting and education session.
4. Director Reiner presented the Director's report.

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update: Following the trend in the rest of the state, and particularly Laramie County, WYDOT has seen an increase in cases of COVID-19. Employees returned the work July 1st, so the increase may be due to that. It remains WYDOT's policy not to track an employee's vaccination status.

The state's COVID leave policy expired, so from now on, any employee who contracts COVID will take traditional sick leave.

Telework Protocol: Employees returned to work July 1st or obtained a signed telework agreement. The Director felt that most of the employees who wanted to telework were able to do so. A majority of those are integrating telework into traditional office work—spending two to three days in the office and teleworking the remaining days.

Director Reiner shared his thanks to Troy Babbitt, CTO, and his team for managing the logistical challenge of equipping employees to telework.

Federal Legislative Issues: Reauthorization continues to progress. The House has passed its reauthorization bill, but the Senate is still working through the process. If there is not a congressional bill by the end of September, a continuing resolution will be needed.

Budget: WYDOT is currently developing its FY2022 operating budget. Director Reiner informed the Commission that it will be ready for review in September.

In regards to the state budget, Director Reiner briefed the Commission on the timeline published by the state. The Governor's budget is due to the legislature in early November, and he is currently meeting with agency heads to develop the overall budget. With the cancellation of the legislative special session, discussion on American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act funds will be moved into the standard state budgetary process. Issues will be discussed with the Governor and incorporated into the budget with his approval.

Fuel Shortages: With a record number of people traveling this year, there is a nationwide shortage of diesel, gasoline, and aviation fuel. The issue appears to be with supply rather than distribution and delivery, but WYDOT continues to monitor the situation. Director Reiner reported that WYDOT has drafted an hours-of-service waiver for the Governor to sign, should it become necessary.

Director's Visit to Jackson: Director Reiner and a few executive staff members visited Jackson earlier this week. The Director briefed the Commission on several issues from the trip.

Director Reiner reported that dialogue continues on the Teton County Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) grant. Representatives from Teton County and the town of Jackson will be in Cheyenne today to follow up on previous discussions with WYDOT. More research and discussion is needed to seek a resolution.

The future of the Wyoming Highway (WYO) 22 corridor remains a major concern for Teton County residents. WYDOT's message continues to be that no formal decisions will be made until the official National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process starts in 2024. Input from constituents and local elected officials will be gathered as part of the NEPA process. Citizens are welcome to share feedback before 2024, but that is when the official process will begin.

During these discussions with stakeholders, Director Reiner reiterated WYDOT's promise to make no permanent changes to WYO 22, except for the bridge and the intersection of WYO 22 and WYO 390, until the overall plan is developed.

The truck arrestor on Teton Pass was successfully tested on July 13, 2021. While a more in-depth report on the test would be given later in the meeting, Director Reiner shared his perspective that this test represented WYDOT's unwavering commitment to road safety.

Director Reiner and staff also visited the construction zone on WYO 89. This project is the most expensive project WYDOT has ever let, at a total cost of \$70 million. The Director encouraged the commissioners to visit the site to see the extraordinary engineering involved in the project. Director Reiner shared that he was delighted to see an extra wildlife crossing included in the project as it shows WYDOT's consideration of Wyoming values and culture.

The Director also met with Teton National Park leadership, including the new superintendent, Chip Jenkins. The goal of the meeting was to build relationships and discuss shared responsibility of US 191.

Legislative Update: WYDOT continues to work through the requirements of HB0014. This act requires WYDOT to obtain a blanket easement for rights-of-way on public roads for the broadband infrastructure development. The working group has drafted a letter to the federal government as mandated by Section 2 of HB0014.

Related to broadband infrastructure, WYDOT continues to develop a "dig once" policy and is working to ensure it meets industry needs. This policy would require coordination between public and private excavators and WYDOT whenever ground will be broken in the public right-of-way.

Zero Emissions (Electric Vehicle) Working Group: WYDOT recently formed a working group on electric vehicles. The name of the working group has been changed to "Zero Emissions Working Group" to reflect a broader range of vehicles, including fuel cell electric vehicles powered by hydrogen.

Joint Transportation Committee: The next Joint Transportation Committee meeting will take place in Rawlins August 17-18. As part of the meeting, WYDOT will take the legislators on a tour of the Rawlins shop and a construction project on I-80.

Shirley Samuelson Memorial: Director Reiner invited the commissioners to attend the memorial event for Shirley Samuelson, which will take place at 2 p.m. on August 3, 2021. Her engraved name will be unveiled on the WYDOT Employee Memorial at headquarters in Cheyenne.

US 16 Truck Arrestor: Following questions from Commissioner Holmes, Director Reiner provided more information on the incident with the truck arrestor on US 16. On July 7, a five-axle semi utilized the arrestor near mile marker 85. Out of 10 nets on the arrestor: nets one through seven failed, nets eight and nine worked properly, and net 10 failed, causing the truck to descend into Mosier Gulch before coming to a complete stop. The cause of the net failure is still being investigated, but the arrestor succeeding in slowing the truck's momentum so that the driver and a passenger were unharmed in the incident.

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

FY 2021 Third Quarter Budget Revision: Following a request from Chairman Schmidt, Mr. Byrne explained that as federal funds are received or fuel tax revenues fluctuate, modifications need to be made to ensure a balanced budget. Those modifications are brought to the Commission quarterly for review and approval. Mr. Freier added that these revisions allow the Commission to be kept apprised of additional revenue received and planned expenditures as they are incorporated into the budget.

Mr. Freier briefed the Commission on significant changes in the third quarter budget revision, including the FHWA BUILD Grant for the Dry Piney Project, the HR Commission Program, additional fuel tax revenues (an overall reduction in fuel tax revenues is still anticipated), the Worland shop design, and additional WHP vehicles. 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 Venable, seconded by Commissioner Dolezal, and carried unanimously to approve the third quarter revisions to the FY 2021 Operating Budget.

Monthly Budget Report: Mr. Freier presented the monthly budget report. Overall, the budget report revealed that the Commission budget was 65 percent expended, and the legislative budget was 62 percent expended in FY 2021.

6. Procurement Bids: It was recommended by Mr. Byrne, moved by Commissioner Espy, seconded by Vice Chairman Venable, and carried to move Bid Numbers 21-124RE, 21-125RE, 21-126RE, 21-127RE, 21-150RE, and 21-151RE, to a consent list. Commissioner Espy requested more discussion on RFP 21-102NG.

It was moved by Commissioner Espy, seconded by Vice Chairman Venable, and carried unanimously to approve, by consent, the following bids:

- Bid No. 21-124RE to furnish 16 each, new current model all wheel or four wheel drive SUV for use at WYDOT locations statewide. The bid was awarded to Spradley Barr

Motors, Inc. of Cheyenne, Wyoming, for the sum of \$444,192.00.

- Bid No. 21-125RE to furnish 11 each, new current model 15 series four wheel drive crew cab short box pickups for use at WYDOT locations statewide. The bid was awarded to Fremont Chevrolet Buick GMC of Riverton, Wyoming, for the sum of \$354,761.00.
- Bid No. 21-126RE to furnish 12 each, new current model 15 series four wheel drive, four door short box pickups for use at WYDOT locations statewide. The bid was awarded to Spradley Barr Motors, Inc. of Cheyenne, Wyoming, for the sum of \$341,760.00.
- Bid No. 21-127RE to furnish 20 each, new current model 15 series two wheel drive, four door short box pickups for use at WYDOT locations statewide. The bid was awarded to Fremont Chevrolet Buick GMC of Riverton, Wyoming, for the sum of \$466,540.00.
- Bid No. 21-150RE to furnish six each, new current model 35 series crew cab four wheel drive cab and chassis for body, for use at WYDOT locations statewide. The bid was awarded to Fremont Chevrolet Buick GMC of Riverton, Wyoming, for the sum of \$205,164.00.
- Bid No. 151RE to furnish 21 each, new current model 35 series crew cab two wheel drive cab and chassis for platform bed, for use at WYDOT locations statewide. The bid was awarded to Fremont Chevrolet Buick GMC of Riverton, Wyoming, for the sum of \$677,859.00.

Mr. Babbitt and Mr. Smolinski shared statements in support of RFP 21-102NG. Mr. Babbitt reported that these radios may be purchased by any entity on the WyoLink system. Interoperability between different entities and multiple vendors remains a top concern. Mr. Smolinski reported that the WyoLink system is able to accept multiple vendors, and that a contract with Motorola Solutions would not prohibit any entity from using a different brand or vendor.

It was recommended by Mr. Byrne, moved by Commissioner Espy, seconded by Commissioner Dolezal, and carried to approve RFP 21-102NG.

- RFP 21-102NG to furnish replacement mobile, portable, and desktop WyoLink subscriber radios for WHP use. The contract was awarded to Motorola Solutions of Westminster, Colorado, for the sum of \$1,810,000.00.

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

Material Shortage: In response to the materials shortage for contractors, a newly formed task force met for the first time on June 24, 2021. The task force is comprised of representatives from the AGC membership, FHWA, and WYDOT. The contractors reported experiencing ongoing issues with obtaining materials in a timely manner and burdensome cost escalations. Task force members agreed that the competitive bidding process cannot be compromised and that fairness to all contractors must be attained in any cost escalation process. Mr. Gillette requested that the contractors think about strategies for accomplishing these requirements and that research be conducted concerning what other states are currently doing about these issues.

Chairman Schmidt left the meeting at 9:35 a.m.

FHWA will not participate in cost escalation measures on current projects but may consider it for projects not yet let to contract. The Wyoming FHWA office sent out a survey to FHWA offices in other states (with about half of those offices responding) to determine how those states are handling cost escalations. Currently, no other FHWA office has approved a process for cost escalation.

Mr. Gillett has requested his division to extend contract dates; make timely partial payments for material on-hand as the contractor receives them; accommodate intermediate estimates; and allow material substitutions, when appropriate, to help contractors experiencing challenges.

Rally in the Rockies Update: The planning for the C-130J exercise on US 287 north of Rawlins is ongoing. District 1 is still working on the details for a memorandum of understanding agreement.

August Redistribution: The FHWA August Redistribution of available remaining funds is fast approaching. WYDOT has submitted \$50 million that could be obligated for additional construction contracts. Mr. Gillett praised Keith Fulton and his team for having a list of additional projects prepared, and Pam Fredrick for monitoring the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) and submitting the forms to demonstrate WYDOT's need for additional funds.

Carbon County Bridge: On July 7, 2021, Mr. Gillett was given approval from Chairman Schmidt to award an emergency contract to permanently repair the bridge on WYO 130, southeast of Saratoga. Last winter, Carbon County sent a letter to the Commission expressing concern over the bridge's poor condition. An emergency contract was let to make initial repairs to the bridge with the plan to let another contract later in 2021 to make permanent repairs. The contract was awarded to the low bidder, Reiman Corp. of Cheyenne, for the sum of \$595,983.90. The Engineer's Estimate on the project was \$575,404.

During the same conversation, Mr. Gillett informed Chairman Schmidt that a WYDOT building in Medicine Bow had a leak in the roof that was very close to the electrical junction box. WYDOT let an emergency contract to repair the roof for a total cost of \$44,000.

Commission Espy thanked Mr. Gillett and Chairman Schmidt for approving the emergency contract to repair the bridge on WYO 130, as that highway receives much traffic during the summer.

Chairman Schmidt rejoined the meeting at 9:39 a.m.

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

National Update: The FHWA continues to administer the Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act, via a continuing resolution that is set to expire on September 30, 2021. Discussions, conversations, and actions continue to occur regarding the American Jobs Plan and transportation reauthorization.

The Accelerated Innovation Deployment (AID) Demonstration Program Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) is advertised on grants.gov, with a closing date of September 28, 2021. The AID Demonstration Program provides funding as an incentive for eligible entities to accelerate the implementation and adoption of innovation in highway transportation. FHWA plans to make \$10 million of Task Information Delivery Plan funds available. The funding opportunity number is 693JJ321NF-AIDDP.

The Tribal Transportation Program Safety NOFO is advertised on grants.gov as well with a closing date of September 9, 2021. On July 8th, FHWA announced the availability of up to \$10.1 million in grant funding from the Tribal Transportation Program Safety Fund. Tribal governments may apply for funding to conduct transportation safety planning, improve crash data, deploy systemic roadway departure countermeasures, and implement other infrastructure projects that reduce the risk of fatal and serious injury motor-vehicle crashes. The funding opportunity number is FHWA-TTPSF-2021.

The National Center for Excellence for Rural Road Safety (Rural Safety Center) NOFO is currently advertised on grants.gov with a closing date of August 18, 2021. The Rural Safety Center's mission is to facilitate training and educational exchange as well as provide technology transfer and deployment to rural practitioners to improve the overall understanding of roadway safety data and analysis, safety effectiveness evaluations, and investment decision-making in the areas of rural safety and surface transportation safety. This grant is to award a single cooperative agreement to an eligible entity to transition, operate, and maintain the Rural Safety Center. Estimated total program funding available is \$4.9 million. The funding opportunity number is 693JJ321NF00009

Local Update: The Wyoming State Transportation Innovation Council (STIC) is requesting applications for STIC incentive funding to accelerate the deployment of proven technologies. A maximum of \$100,000 will be available, requiring a 20 percent match. The STIC is comprised of WYDOT, FHWA MPO, AGC, and local government membership. The STIC will meet on Wednesday, July 21 to review and prioritize funding projects that accelerate the adoption of new technologies and processes.

WYDOT developed and implemented a Transportation Asset Management Plan (TAMP) in 2018. The plan contains strategies and goals related to pavement and bridge quality standards in Wyoming. WYDOT routinely reviews strategies and resource constraints to plan and program effective and efficient projects. FHWA has reviewed and approved the WYDOT 2021 Annual TAMP Determination.

FHWA has completed the FY21 national review in support of the Payment Integrity Improvement Act, formerly known as the Improper Payments Elimination and Recovery Act. No improper payments were identified for WYDOT.

Chairman Schmidt shared his appreciation with Mr. Cawley for the oversight that he and the FHWA office provide to WYDOT on behalf of the people of Wyoming.

On the afternoon of Monday, July 12, a high-profile vehicle traveling southbound on US 14/16 at mile marker 92.1 struck a portion of the I-90 bridge, causing damage. A large piece of concrete was dislodged from the bent cap and fell on the roadway. Severe damage to the girder was also documented. WYDOT responded immediately to assess the bridge condition and safety of the traveling public. Mr. Cawley thanked WYDOT for the quick response and dedication to keeping roads safe.

The FHWA and WYDOT have awarded 66 federal-aid construction projects through nine bid lettings this year. FHWA guidance recommends that 50 percent of the projects awarded should be within +/- 10 percent of the Engineer's Estimate. In the bids advancing for award today, every federal-aid project was within +/-10 percent of the Engineer's Estimate. During this fiscal year, 65 percent of the federal-aid projects awarded have been within +/- 10 percent of the Engineer's Estimate. This is the best correlation since the FHWA started tracking this data in 2017. Mr. Cawley congratulated the engineering team on a job well done.

Mr. Cawley reported that the Secretary of Transportation's office recently issued updated guidance on federal employee travel. Federal employees who are fully vaccinated against COVID-19 may travel for official business without restrictions in the near future.

9. Mr. Fulton presented the Engineering and Planning report, beginning with the bid tabulations from the July 8, 2021, letting in Casper.

Federal Projects NHPPI-SIB-I802208 and HIP-I802210 combined involving grading, profile milling plant mix, bituminous pavement surfacing, concrete pavement, bridge rehabilitation, and miscellaneous work on approximately 12.70 miles on the eastbound lane (EBL) on I-80 beginning at RM 107.63 between Rock Springs and Rawlins in Sweetwater County. Completion date: July 31, 2023

<i>Engineer's Estimate</i>	\$21,817,972.00	
IHC Scott, Inc., Centennial, CO	\$21,782,866.18	-0.2 %
Ames Construction, Inc., Burnsville, MN	\$25,900,730.00	

It was recommended by Mr. Fulton, moved by Commissioner Espy, seconded by Commissioner Dolezal, and carried unanimously that IHC Scott, Inc., Centennial, Colorado, having prequalified in accordance with rules and regulations adopted by the Transportation Commission of Wyoming, be awarded the contract as low bidder. The FHWA concurred with this decision.

Federal Project BUILD-P114038 involving grading, milling plant mix, placing crushed base and bituminous pavement surfacing, box culverts, cattle guards, guardrail, fencing, and miscellaneous work on approximately 19.0 miles with roadway 1.9 mile, fencing 14.9 miles and signing 2.2 miles on US 189 beginning at RM 86.00 between LaBarge and Big Piney Road in Sublette County. Completion date: October 31, 2023

<i>Engineer's Estimate</i>	\$14,961,401.00	
McMillen, LLC, Boise, ID	\$13,686,929.29	-8.5 %

Oftedal Construction, Inc., Casper, WY	\$13,985,569.80
Sundt Construction, Inc., Salt Lake City, UT	\$14,486,272.30
Ralph L. Wadsworth Const. Co., LLC, Draper, UT	\$14,840,064.20
Avail Valley Construction-WY, LLC, Afton, WY	\$14,918,666.00
Reiman Corp., Cheyenne, WY	\$15,087,881.80
Knife River Corporation - Mountain West, Boise, ID	\$16,235,501.00
Sunroc Corporation, Orem, UT	\$19,173,768.60

It was recommended by Mr. Fulton, moved by Commissioner Dolezal, seconded by Vice Chairman Venable, and carried unanimously that McMillen, LLC, Boise, Idaho, having prequalified in accordance with rules and regulations adopted by the Transportation Commission of Wyoming, be awarded the contract as low bidder. The FHWA concurred with this decision.

Federal Project NHPP-GM-N343046 involving slide repair, grading, slide stabilization rock (SSR), scaling (manual), rock fall mitigation, and miscellaneous work on US 20 beginning at RM 115.19 between Shoshoni and Thermopolis in Fremont and Hot Springs counties. Completion date: November 30, 2022

<i>Engineer's Estimate</i>	\$8,903,861.00	
Oftedal Construction, Inc., Casper, WY	\$8,787,478.00	-1.3 %
Wilson Bros. Construction, Inc., Cowley, WY	\$9,457,379.00	

It was recommended by Mr. Fulton, moved by Vice Chairman Venable, seconded by Commissioner Espy, and carried unanimously that Oftedal Construction, Inc., 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 FHWA concurred with this decision.

Federal Project NHPPI-I901125 involving grading, milling plant mix, placing crushed base and bituminous pavement surfacing, plant mix wearing course, special item SY-A, and miscellaneous work on approximately 11.50 miles on I-90 on both EBL and westbound lanes (WBL) beginning at RM 15.30 between Ranchester and Sheridan at the Acme I-90 Interchange South in Sheridan County. Completion date: September 30, 2022

<i>Engineer's Estimate</i>	\$7,153,983.00	
Simon Contractors, Cheyenne, WY	\$6,924,382.29	-3.2 %
Riverside Contracting, Inc., Missoula, MT	\$7,344,828.50	
JTL Group, Inc. DBA Knife River, Cheyenne, WY	\$7,687,638.14	
McGarvin-Moberly Construction Co., Worland, WY	\$7,694,373.39	
Northern Improvement Company, Fargo, ND	\$8,015,278.40	
Mountain Construction Company, Lovell, WY	\$8,074,102.49	

It was recommended by Mr. Fulton, moved by Commissioner Espy, seconded by Vice Chairman Venable, and carried unanimously 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 FHWA concurred with this decision.

Federal Project NHPP-N103113 involving milling, bituminous pavement surfacing, plant mix wearing course, and miscellaneous work on approximately 5.00 miles on US 26/89 beginning at RM 127.03 between Alpine Junction and Hoback Junction in Lincoln County. Completion date: September 30, 2022

<i>Engineer's Estimate</i>	\$3,191,971.00	
Avail Valley Construction-WY, LLC, Afton, WY	\$3,132,666.00	-1.9 %
H-K Contractors, Inc., Idaho Falls, ID	\$3,297,769.00	
Sunroc Corporation, Orem, UT	\$3,819,650.00	
Knife River Corporation - Mountain West, Boise, ID	\$3,872,216.00	

It was recommended by Mr. Fulton, moved by Commissioner Espy, seconded by Commissioner Dolezal, and carried unanimously that Avail Valley Construction-WY, LLC, Afton, Wyoming, having prequalified in accordance with rules and regulations adopted by the Transportation Commission of Wyoming, be awarded the contract as low bidder. The FHWA concurred with this decision.

Federal Project STP-PM-B201004 involving grading, concrete pavement, curb and gutter, pavement markings, and miscellaneous work at various locations in Cheyenne in Transportation District 1 in Laramie County. Completion date: June 30, 2022

<i>Engineer's Estimate</i>	\$1,853,655.00	
S & S Builders, LLC, Gillette, WY	\$1,833,448.50	-1.1 %
Reiman Corp., Cheyenne, WY	\$1,876,689.00	
Ralph L. Wadsworth Const. Co., LLC, Draper, UT	\$2,055,125.00	

It was recommended by Mr. Fulton, moved by Vice Chairman Venable, seconded by Commissioner Dolezal, and carried unanimously that S&S Builders, LLC, Gillette, Wyoming, having prequalified in accordance with rules and regulations adopted by the Transportation Commission of Wyoming, be awarded the contract as low bidder. The FHWA concurred with this decision.

Federal Project COVID-B214003 involving grading, placing crushed base and bituminous pavement surfacing, bridge rehabilitation, guardrail, and miscellaneous work at various locations in Transportation District 4 in Campbell and Crook counties. Completion date: October 31, 2022

<i>Engineer's Estimate</i>	\$1,844,077.00	
S & S Builders, LLC, Gillette, WY	\$1,899,899.00	3.0 %
Reiman Corp., Cheyenne, WY	\$1,937,448.20	
Riverside Contracting, Inc., Missoula, MT	\$2,494,648.00	

It was recommended by Mr. Fulton, moved by Commissioner Dolezal, seconded by Vice Chairman Venable, and carried unanimously that S&S Builders, LLC, Gillette, Wyoming, having prequalified in accordance with rules and regulations adopted by the Transportation Commission of Wyoming, be awarded the contract as low bidder. The FHWA concurred with this decision.

State Project DR16989 involving bridge railing modification and miscellaneous work at RM 402.13 on the I-80 EBL in Pine Bluffs, bridge over Beech Street in Laramie County. Completion date: October 31, 2021

<i>Engineer's Estimate</i>	\$51,200.00	
S & L Industrial, Cowley, WY	\$43,654.00	-14.7%
Reiman Corp., Cheyenne, WY	\$97,685.00	

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

10. Mr. Fulton presented the July 2021 addendum to the FY2021 STIP. An amendment to the addendum was also included in the packet.

It was recommended by Mr. Fulton, moved by Commissioner Dolezal, seconded by Vice Chairman Venable, and carried unanimously to approve the July 2021 STIP addendum and amendment.

11. Mr. DeHoff presented the Operations report.

Arrestor Test: Bob Hammond, a WYDOT resident engineer based in Jackson, briefed the Commission on the truck arrestor test on Teton Pass, which took place on Tuesday, July 13, 2021. Mr. Hammond reported that the arrestor has been used about eight times since it was installed in 2015. The system on Teton Pass has eight nets total, arranged in two groups of four nets to catch vehicles of different sizes.

In October 2018 and September 2019, two different vehicles used the arrestor and made it through all eight nets. Testing of the cables and nets by the Texas A&M Transportation Institute (TTI) determined two possible causes for cable failure. The first finding was that vehicle shape caused the nets to move up or down, but as the cable housing could not move vertically, the cables were sheared. The second finding was that drivers were hitting the wall and overloading one side of the net, thereby shearing the cables. Working with the manufacturer and the testing agency, forced upgrades were developed for the arrestor. These upgrades included: new structures that allow the cable housing/canisters to move up and down by 20 degrees; the installation of tapered, concrete walls that force vehicles toward the center of the arrestor; the use of six canisters instead of four on all nets except the lead net; and the implementation of tabs onto the nets that allow the cables to load incrementally instead of immediately.

While all of these upgrades were successfully tested at TTI, WYDOT wanted to ensure these upgrades worked in the field. The costs of the test were shared between the manufacturer, Impact Technologies, and WYDOT. Impact Technologies paid for all of the modifications and testing at TTI as well as hiring the stunt driver for the test on Teton Pass. WYDOT supplied an old plow truck carrying a load of sand and weighing 58,000 pounds.

The truck entered the arrestor at 60 mph, which is well within the limits of the system. The vehicle was stopped by the first net grouping, so the system worked as expected. Mr. Hammond then showed some videos of the test.

Construction Update: There are currently 58 active projects across the state, a decrease of four projects from last month. District 1 has 12 active projects, District 2 has 11 active projects, District 3 has six active projects, District 4 has six active projects, and District 5 has 23 active projects.

Director Reiner attended the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the Cody streets project on June 18, 2021. Mr. DeHoff passed along his congratulations and thanks to the contractor and team for their work on the project.

Maintenance Update: Normal summer operations continue with activities such as asphalt patching, chip sealing, fencing, mowing, cleaning ditches, repairing delineation and guardrails, and removing trash.

The state hot plant has moved to District 1, so patching will begin in locations around District 1. The other districts are paving and patching using commercial mix.

The state has experienced no significant flooding this year, and forest fires have not impacted roadways since the last report at the June meeting.

Mr. DeHoff reported that traffic is moving safely across the I-90 bridge following the incident on July 12, 2021. Mr. DeHoff said that he is working with Mr. Fulton and his team to determine what repairs are needed to return the bridge to full, unrestricted traffic.

As reported earlier, the truck arrestor on US 16 was used on July 8, 2021. Only two of the 10 nets worked so that truck did go through the arrestor and down the hill. Mr. DeHoff said he was happy to report that both vehicle occupants were able to walk away from the incident. WYDOT is working with the manufacturer to determine the exact cause of the net failure. As approved earlier, Mr. DeHoff will begin work with Mr. Fulton to modify the design of the catch-net system, similar to the arrestor on Teton Pass.

WYDOT continues to experience a loss of maintenance workers. Employees are leaving for opportunities with better compensation.

Commissioner Holmes left the meeting at 10:22 a.m.

Traffic Update: WYDOT continues to experience traffic paint supply issues, causing the department to follow its emergency striping plan. There is a 10+ week lead time for paint delivery, and the supplier thinks the problem will continue through July. While WYDOT continues to follow the emergency striping plan, Mr. DeHoff reported that two to three months remain to complete striping.

The Traffic Program orders, on average, 190,000 gallons of water-based and acrylic paint and 2.3 million pounds of glass beads. WYDOT lets these contracts in the fall, which offers a price advantage for using the companies during a slower production time. Combining the orders of all five districts, and including municipalities on the order, provides economies of scale.

Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) recently installed a live-view camera at the junction of WYO 110 and US 24 to monitor the congestion issues at Devils Tower National Monument. This is a collaboration with the Monument, as park leadership had approached WYDOT with concerns about traffic flow around the Monument. The camera provides a real-time solution to traffic issues, as Monument employees can work to clear congestion at the entrance as soon as it becomes a problem.

Equipment Update: Mechanics are busy repairing and maintaining surfacing and mowing equipment. Mr. DeHoff was also delighted to report that all 26 tandem-axle plow trucks have been built and delivered to the districts. The first batch of the 2021 truck chassis are scheduled for delivery this month, so the WYDOT shops are readying the spreaders and dump-boxes to be installed on the chassis. The request for proposal (RFP) for rotaries will be advertised soon.

Facilities Update: The Fort Steele Rest Area is currently closed but will reopen before winter. All other rest areas remain open.

WYDOT is partnering with the Wyoming Department of Health to redistribute extra vaccinations to communities where there is need before the vaccines expire.

In response to questions from Chairman Schmidt, Mr. DeHoff reported that the WHP is investigating the I-90 bridge incident, but it remains unknown who hit the bridge. Due to supply chain disruptions, Mr. DeHoff reported that contractors from three bridge rehabilitation projects are having difficulties obtaining epoxy for deck overlays. WYDOT is working with the contractor to extend the contract into next year. Other shortages in PVC pipe and cement have either not affected WYDOT projects or have been successfully mitigated. Mr. DeHoff praised the hard work of the AGC and the contractors to find the necessary materials.

12. Colonel Haller presented the Highway Patrol report.

The Fatal Crash Summary through June 30, 2021, includes 41 fatal crashes involving 45 deaths. The fatalities include 2 rollover crashes, 2 multi-car crashes, and 2 motorcycles. Of the 41 fatal crashes that have occurred in 2021, 6 involved commercial vehicles.

There were 2 fatal crashes deemed drug or alcohol related, resulting in 2 deaths, of which 2 were attributed to not using occupant restraints. One of those deaths one was a rollover crash, and one was a multi-car crash. Of the 2 drug- or alcohol-related fatalities, none involved commercial vehicles.

Of the 45 deaths this year, 21 were attributed to not using occupant restraints, with 11 involving rollover crashes, 7 involving multi-car collisions, and 3 involving fixed objects. Eighteen of those who died from the non-use of occupant restraints were Wyoming residents. Four of those who perished were under 21 years old, and 1 of those fatalities was attributed to the failure to use proper occupant restraints.

Of the 41 fatal crashes so far this year, 12 of those drivers had no distractions. In 21 of those crashes, it was unknown whether a distraction caused the incident.

Of the 41 fatal crashes that have occurred this year, 20 occurred on primary/secondary highways, 11 occurred on interstate highways, and 10 occurred on city/county roads.

Of the multiple-fatality crashes in 2021, 2 were rollovers, none involved multiple vehicles, one involved a fixed object, one involved motorcycle/ATV, none involved commercial vehicles, and 4 were drug and/or alcohol related.

In locations where rumble strips/stripes were present, there were 19 crashes. There were 12 crashes where rumble strips/stripes were not present.

Inclement weather or road conditions contributed to 4 vehicle crashes in 2021, which resulted in 4 deaths. Speed was considered a factor in 11 of the vehicle crashes, causing 14 deaths.

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

Sunday	6 crashes
Monday	1 crash
Tuesday	4 crashes
Wednesday	6 crashes
Thursday	7 crashes
Friday	10 crashes
Saturday	7 crashes

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

12:00 a.m. to 6:00 a.m.	4 crashes
6:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.	10 crashes
12:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.	18 crashes
6:00 p.m. to 12:00 a.m.	9 crashes

The Commission also heard the following statistics:

- 61 percent of those who died in rollover crashes were unbelted.
- 64 percent of those who died in multi-vehicle crashes were unbelted.
- 60 percent of those who died in fixed-object crashes were unbelted.
- 73 percent of the fatalities in 2021 were drivers.
- 18 percent of the fatalities in 2021 have been passengers.
- 86 percent of the resident fatalities were unrestrained.
- 23 percent of non-resident fatalities were unrestrained.
- 40 percent of fatalities involved alcohol and/or drug impairment.

Patrol-Investigated Crash Summary: The Patrol-Investigated Crash Summary depicts 2,749 crashes statewide, of which 757 involved commercial vehicles.

Commissioner Holmes rejoined the meeting at 10:35 a.m.

WHP Employment Updates: The WHP currently has the following vacancies: 15 in port of entry, 9 in dispatch, and 26 trooper vacancies. Recruitment efforts are ongoing, and testing continuously occurs for port of entry officers and dispatchers. The next testing to fill trooper vacancies will occur in September.

Vacancies resulting from the retirement or resignation of three lieutenants, two captains, and one major over the last nine months created promotion opportunities within the WHP. Colonel Haller announced two promotions: Karl Germain was recently promoted from captain to major, and Ben Schlosser was promoted from lieutenant to captain. Two captaincies remain open, although an announcement will be made later in the week regarding Major Germain's former captaincy in Equipment, Technology, Evidence, and Records. While these promotions provide welcome opportunities for career advancement, backfilling trooper positions remains a top concern.

Upcoming Events: The WHP is preparing for several major events happening soon around the state and region, including Cheyenne Frontier Days, Hulett Ham and Jam, and the Sturgis Motorcycle Rally.

Trooper Shooting: On June 25, 2021, WHP Division I experienced an incident with deadly use of force near Lander. A trooper exchanged gunfire with a suspect during a traffic stop, and unfortunately, the suspect succumbed to his injuries. The trooper sustained injuries that required surgery, but he is expected to make a full recovery.

Chairman Schmidt, on behalf of the whole Commission, expressed a desire to recognize the trooper for his performance during the incident and acknowledge the injuries he received. Colonel Haller informed the Commission that the WHP plans to award the trooper with a Purple Heart, but he felt some form of Commission commendation would be appropriate and appreciated. Director Reiner and Colonel Haller will work together to arrange the details of the commendation for the August meeting.

13. Mr. Olsen presented the Aeronautics report beginning with the June 2021 Aeronautics Flight Operations Passenger Summary Report.

Federal Legislation – Aviation Issues: As reported at previous meetings, the American Rescue Plan provides about \$8 billion for airports nationwide to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. On June 22, 2021, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) established Airport Rescue Grants as a means to distribute the funds. While WYDOT is still working to determine how much airports will receive, the Wyoming Aeronautics Commission will approve the funds at their business meeting on July 20, 2021.

The bipartisan infrastructure package currently includes around \$20 billion for airports and additional funding for the FAA to update the airspace navigation system. WYDOT will continue to monitor the package and provide information to Wyoming's congressional delegation as needed.

Director Reiner left the meeting at 10:52 a.m.

Air Service Trends: Domestic air traffic in the US is still down 20 percent, and international traffic is down 40 percent. The airline industry had previously predicted that passenger traffic would not fully recover until 2023 or 2024, but numbers indicate that it is recovering more quickly than anticipated.

Although the federal government did provide funds to the airlines in response to COVID-19, there are still staffing shortages that will cause delays and cancellations. Fuel price increases continue to disrupt the recovery from the pandemic as well. Jet A-1 and Avgas prices have increased significantly, which affects airline profitability. Airlines are also affected by decreased corporate bookings, which are a major source of revenue. Corporate bookings are down by over 50 percent compared to similar months in 2019.

Wyoming was the only state in the nation to increase the number of air passengers travelling into the state, compared to June 2019.

Aviation Fuel Shortage: WYDOT surveyed airports across the state and found that there were multiple airports that were either experiencing, or very near to, a fuel shortage. The shortage appears to be due to a supply and delivery issue. The supply issue should ease soon as Sinclair is once again producing Jet A-1 fuel; however, there is still an issue with delivery. The suppliers are coordinating deliveries to ensure each airport has an adequate fuel supply. WYDOT is assisting with these efforts wherever possible.

14. Mr. Rossetti presented the Support Services report.

Commission Secretary: The position was advertised, candidates have been shortlisted from the pool of applications received, and interviews will be scheduled next week. Mr. Rossetti hopes the successful candidate, if one is found, will be introduced to the Commission at the August meeting.

Employment Summary: WYDOT employed 1,871 personnel as of July 6, 2021, compared to 1,875 a month ago and 1,948 one year ago. Excluding temporary positions, WYDOT's overall vacancy rate is 12 percent. As of June 30, 2021, just under 17 percent of WYDOT's workforce is eligible to retire.

Recruitment and Retention of Employees: WYDOT currently has 92 positions posted on the State of Wyoming Human Resources website, with 69 of those positions located in the districts. With so many vacancies in the field, operations will be affected. The workforce in Cheyenne is a bit more stable, but there have been impacts to the workforce in engineering and design.

In-person recruiting events, especially at universities, have resumed. WYDOT is scheduled to participate in the South Dakota and Colorado School(s) of Mines recruitment events in September. Mr. Rossetti reported that he is pleased to see in-person events recommence as the results from virtual events held during the pandemic were disappointing.

WYDOT is participating in a few statewide projects to address recruitment and retention. Mr. Rossetti will report any significant developments or resulting initiatives to the Commission as they transpire.

Following a question from Chairman Schmidt, Mr. Rossetti reported that the inability to offer a competitive wage hampers WYDOT's utilization of Workforce Services and temporary employment agencies.

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

Information Technology (IT) Update: As telework agreements are put into effect, Mr. Babbitt reported that he and his team have continued to work with Enterprise Technology Services (ETS) to address connectivity issues. Security remains a top concern, so teleworkers may use either the Portal2 application or a Meraki Z3 device to connect to the state network.

Arrestor: The design of the arrestor systems on Teton Pass and US 16 include a technological component. When a vehicle enters the system and hits the first net/tape, an alert should be sent to the local WYDOT shop, law enforcement, or both. There is also potential to record video when the system is engaged, but this would require either broadband connectivity or a radio connection. Mr. Babbitt reported that future discussions on the arrestor systems would address the technological aspects: testing the system alerts, integrating video into the existing systems, ensuring the necessary connectivity, and balancing the costs of technological upgrades.

Revenue Information System (RIS) Replacement Update: Messrs. Babbitt and Rossetti continue to work with ETS, University of Wyoming, and the Mathtech consultant to develop a RFP for the system. Mr. Babbitt estimates that an RFP will be ready for distribution in two to three months.

WyoLink Update: The project to upgrade the GTR 8000 and QUANTAR™ Base Station radios and replace the DC power plants is in progress at 18 WyoLink sites. Orders have been submitted

for new equipment, but supply chain disruptions are expected to delay shipments until as late as November 2021.

On the 16-tower buildout project, eight towers are operational and on the network. The next two sites projected to come online are in the vicinity of Rock Springs: 14 Mile Hill and Blairtown. Buildings and towers have been installed at both sites, but the utility companies will need to provide connectivity. The remaining six sites are all at different stages of development but are progressing well.

Next Gen 911 Update: Mr. Babbitt and Ms. Aimee Binning continue to work with the public safety answering points to determine the equipment and connectivity needs of Wyoming cities and counties should grant opportunities become available.

The Leading Infrastructure for Tomorrow's America Act, which was introduced in the US Congress in March 2021, would provide \$15 billion to rebuild and modernize the nation's infrastructure, including Next Generation 911. The bill is still in committee and awaiting congressional action. If the bill passes, it is unknown how much federal funding will be allocated to Wyoming.

16. The next Transportation Commission meeting will take place in Cheyenne on August 19, 2021.

17. General Matters: State Senator John Kolb and State Representative Mark Baker shared remarks on various topics including truck arrestor system testing; various concerns about the eight-mile section of I-80 between Rock Springs and Green River (lack of alternative routes, construction, and the Green River tunnels); the STIP process; wildlife crossings and signage; and salary increases for WYDOT and WHP employees.

Commission members have been invited to participate in a tour of the Beartooth Highway/US 212 construction project on July 27, 2021. Chairman Schmidt will work with Director Reiner and Mr. Kahler to ensure the tour meets the requirements of the Public Meetings Act if a majority of the Commission chooses to attend.

18. It was moved by Commissioner Espy and carried to adjourn the meeting. Chairman Schmidt adjourned the meeting at 11:40 a.m., on Thursday, July 15, 2021.