

District 2 Notes:

Natrona County Meeting:

- During the IJJA slide showing the dollars allocated through 2026, representative Walters asked if we can apply the in state bidder preference.
- During the IJJA slide showing the dollars allocated through 2026, commissioner Nicolaysen asked if we need to increase state funding.
- During the unfunded needs slide, Commissioner Hendry asked where the engineering costs were on our list.
- During the unfunded needs slide, Transportation Commissioner Schmidt weighed in to explain that we are having trouble coming up with state funds to match grants that we could apply for and noted the governor had some money set aside in his budget to account for that.
- During the delayed construction project slide, Commissioner Hendry noted that the passing lane going eastbound west of Waltman by Hiland is on the wrong side of the road. He also pointed out that he appreciated the work completed, but there are still some pot holes that need addressed near Powder River.
- During the delayed construction project slide, Commissioner Nicolaysen asked how these projects don't fit our guiding principles.
- During the delayed construction project slide, Commissioner Nicolaysen asked how Washington DC delegation was doing with respect to making sure we get as much funding as possible.
- During the delayed construction project slide, Transportation Commissioner Schmidt commented about the amount of need vs the amount of money available. In many cases, we are "putting lipstick on a pig:"
- During the EV Charging slide, Commissioner Hendry noted that we should use Wyoming Coal and energy resources to power these stations.
- During the EV Charging slide, Commissioner North asked how much it costs to install one of these charging stations.
- During the Natrona County project review, Commissioner Hendry asked if we had a lack of bidders due to mask mandates.
- During the Natrona County project review Commissioner Nicolaysen asked if we were widening WY 253.

- During the Natrona County project review, Senator Landen noted that he was surprised reconstruction of WY 487 was not included due to the traffic to Laramie during school and games.
- During the Natrona County project review Tom Walters noted that WY 487 was in the STIP at one point, but was removed.
- During the Natrona County project review, Commissioner North asked if we would put in a deceleration lane on WY257
- During the Natrona County project review, Commissioner Milne asked how our Walsh Drive project was going.

Casper Meeting:

- Prior to the meeting, there was a local citizen who asked if we were buying any of her properties along Poplar Street based on letters she received from our Right of Way program noting the eminent domain laws. She was uninterested after she heard we were not buying her properties and left the meeting.
- During the EV Charging Stations slide, State Rep. Art Washut asked what happens if nobody builds a charging station? He also asked if the power companies were on board with the plan"
- During the STIP Process Overview slide, Art Washut asked if there are funding levels set (like percentage for aeronautics, etc.) before we begin soliciting input.
- During the Natrona County Projects slides, Art Washut asked if WYDOT pays for the sewer.
- After the presentation, Sabrina Kemper (Town of Mills) asked when we were going to lower the speed limit on Cole Creek Road. She also asked about widening the bridge over the N. Platte River in Mills?

Platte County Meeting:

- During the EV charging station discussion, Commissioner Ian Jolovich asked if there were plans to address fueling opportunities for other zero emissions vehicles such as hydrogen fuel cells. I noted that the focus at this time was electrical charging stations, the interstate system, followed by the NHS system. There may be funding in the future for other ZEV depending on usage, etc., but our plan at this time does not address other alternative fuels.
- There was some discussion about how unfair it was that if they wanted to open a traditional gas station, it would not be subsidized. I stressed that there were certain things that went with the federal funding such as the match, and certain items that the funding could be used for.

- There was significant discussion about bridge funding and BFP for counties. The commissioner leading the discussion about the bridges was Steve Shockley. The county would like for the bridge on Palmer Canyon Road to be their candidate rather than the one on North Road due to the lengthy detour if the bridge were to fail. After much discussion about what goes into our bridge rating, and what they felt should be in our bridge rating, they let me know they would be sending a formal request to change the bridge selected for that program. I let them know that if that was not successful there may be a possibility to submit the bridge through the BROS program. I did visit with Mike Menghini to give him a heads up about their formal request. He did let me know that even for the BROS program, the bridge has to be rated in poor condition. They have very little latitude in the categories they evaluate to rate structures. When they get the letter, then they will address it and even come up and visit with us and the county if desired.
- During the county project review, we visited about the acceleration lane we have planned at the Dwyer interchange for the odd left hand entrance in the southbound lane. Commissioner Jolovich felt we should add a longer acceleration lane at the NB entrance ramp at the WY 34 interchange.
- During the meeting we visited about the 16th Street project and the city asked if we were on track with the plans and were we waiting on anything from them. We let her know that we were on track with our schedule and that as far we knew, they were to be working on funding and water and sewer plans to incorporate with the roadway plans.