

# 2024 District 1 STIP notes – Albany County

District 1 held one STIP meeting in Albany County on August 13. The meeting was in person..

## Joint work session with the Albany County Commissioners and the Laramie City Council

### Advertising the meetings:

This meeting was included in the release from Exhibit A. Since this is a government meeting, most advertising was left to the government agency.

### Who attended:

Non-WYDOT:City Council Present: Pat Gabriel, Brandon Newman, Erin O’Doherty, Jayne Pearce, Micah Richardson, Joe Shumway, Andi Summerville, Sharon Cumbie, and Brian Harrington. Absent: None.

Staff present: Todd Feezer, Assistant City Manager; and Nancy Bartholomew, City Clerk.

Albany County Commissioners: Terri Jones, Sue Ibarra, and Pete Gosar.

Albany County Staff: Kayla White, Albany County Clerk.

Public: Nancy Sindelar, Lynn Montoya, Paul Montoya, Sarah Brown Matthews, Leah Burgess, and Megan Hayes.

Our broadcast crew also watches as they broadcast: Chris Stratton and Barbara (not sure on her last name).

WYDOT: Ralph Tarango, Ryan Shields, Andrea Staley, Tim Morton

See Exhibit C for the full sign-in sheet.

### Comments received during meeting:

- Slide 32
  - RRichardson - timing wise when the turn lane on 287 will be?
  - Ryan - summer months compilation date next fall
  - Jordan - Disabilities, will there be better cross walks for those with limited vision
  - Ryan - Audible systems, we will look into it. All the signals will be replaced, new poles, new indications will be brighter and visible.
  - Guy behind Gosar -North side of 3rd street by dairy queen, what are the plans to improve that?

- Ryan - we have isolated construction plans, we have some soft spots, looked into cost of other solutions.
- 287 - plans to extend south?
- Ryan - we are extending the 5 lane down about 2.5 miles. We don't have the funds to be widening the whole highway, but we got the funding to do the 2.5 miles.
- Slide - 40
  - Joe - I25/i80 large project, will that pull away resources from scheduled projects?
  - Ralph - in excess of \$500 million. We would have to get a megagrant from the federal highway. We have gotten a \$30 million to finish the design
  - Darin - Revenue deficit with transportation and infrastructure. Megagrants are 50/50% grant match. We are trying to get the legislature to jump on board that this is coming, help set aside money. This will not be a 1 year project. Will be an 8 year project, can divvy up the money with the state. Have the legislature understand that infrastructure is vitally important, can truly impact on a day to day basis and the revenue stream. Importance of investing, maintaining level of service we are used to .
  - Jones - Could you describe the surfacing in these areas where there are so many wrecks?
  - Ralph - we have never tried this before. When we have the epoxy overlay on bridges, it's a very coarse material, it is the kind of the same thing. Ryan - the aggregate is very small, it does not polish it will maintain that grit over a long period of time. Other states have used it and we have reached out to them.
  - Richardson - 287 and that 5 lane road, would like to see that happen sooner. And what it hasn't, could you explain more.
  - Ryan - sometimes it is design, we did recognize there was a need for it, we have moved up the most recent project.
  - Odorody - WYOROAD app can check road conditions, saving a lot of lives there, report road kills, smart signs
  - Ibarra - employee pool is quite stretched, what do you attribute that to?
  - Ralph - tough question, our pay is getting more competitive, people aren't staying in jobs longer. Get stretched a little thin in the wintertime, they are on call then, and try to get their work/life balance. Working towards recognizing employees for what they do and reward them in ways that we can. We've been looking at 10% vacancies every year.
  - Ryan - we are struggling to hire engineers, a lot fewer engineers coming out and a lot more competition. They have the construction school at the university, our career path is for PE
  - Ibarra - issue in other states?
  - Ryan - within the state there have been issues
  - Newman - Are you having problems hiring technicians from the maintenance side.
  - Ralph - More of a revolving door. Once they get the CDL, they follow the money. We do have sign on bonuses and

- Newman - safety projects, biggest complaints is the striping, hav w looked at reflective paint
- Ralph - we hav used looneline striping, epoxy stiping last about 3 years. Part of that could be attributed to the chip seal out there, that doesn't last much longer. Chip seal or oil on th road will pick up the paint. We haven't looked at that action yet for the epoxy. E can have our crews go look.
- Gosar - EV available
- Ralph - w are enot out of it,
- Darin - we are working on th year 3 plan, and had to revise som of the rules, we were accounting for existing chargers, what the feds want in teir plans, the private companies arent wanting to share, tried to got to year 5, to se if there was any interest. Weeee are focusing on thee interstate right now.
- Gosar - in preservation mode, you can only scrape and pave
- Ralph - you're absolutely right, when you keep milling and overlay, it will keep striping the asphalt, weeee are trying tot get by with the money we have. WE are at the point where we are beyond what we can hold together. We are looking into itt, it will bite us and w are havee
- Darin - Why w eare putting the pedal to the medal on the leg and the governor's office, we are \$500 million deficit, if we cant sll the impact, then we will see thee roads go back to gravel. Our top three industries all require an effective transportation system. People, funding and grants, top thing. Did w do a good job, do you want us back?
- Nancy - Get the recording. Traffic calming stuff. Square up corners at alllllllll thee corners.

**Comments received outside of meeting: N/A**

**Exhibit A**

## 2024 District 1 STIP notes – Carbon County

District 1 held a STIP meeting in Carbon County on July 17. Meeting was public and in person.

### Advertising the meeting:

A news release was distributed prior to the meeting, see Exhibit A.

### Second meeting: Carbon County Council of Governments meeting in Sinclair

Hosted at the Town Hall in Sinclair

### Advertising the meetings:

This meeting was included in the release from Exhibit A. Since this is a government meeting, most advertising was left to the government agency.

### Who attended:

WYDOT: DE Ralph Tarango, DME Tim Morton, Andrea Staley, Maintenance Area Supervisor Marty Mayfield, District Construction Engineer Ryan Shields, District Traffic Engineer Taylor McCort

See Exhibit C for full sign-in sheet

### Comments received during meeting:

- Slide 32,
  - Irene - HWY13 Contractor came in, looked good. Road looked great. Transformer coming through and it ruined the road.
  - Ryan – That is on our radar. Tim is pursuing it. We have RUA with these wind farm developments and we will look into pursuing it.
  - Irene – If there is pushback please let me know.
  - Tim – They have been pretty responsive so far.
  
- Slide 33
  - Wickum - Ground water problems in that area by the underpass
  - Ryan – they will dig down and daylight that drainage to the south, our geology experts say it will stay dry.
  - W – Worry that the water you are taking out there won't go to another area we are trying to improve.
  - Ryan – we will be sure to look into that, make sure they are looking at it in a bigger scope.
  
- Last slide-
  - Encampment – School bus pick up signage? Timeline for that
  - Taylor – Met with you and decided the sites, established sight distance, make sure there is adequate site distance, all sights met sight distance requirements.

Have to make sure there is any known safety issue, we are still gathering data on that still.. we will see where that goes, hopefully have an answer by the beginning of this school year.

- Blonde – live on residential area by 287, flying down, not slowing to the 40 mph, almost get hit. Would we be able to get turning lane. Right hand turn lane. North and south it is a hazard. After school it gets very congested- for a couple hours.
- Ryan – looked at the speed limit before, haven't looked at turn lanes.
- Wickum – daily, it probably doesn't meet.. but around morning and afternoon commute times
- Ryan – we do look at daily. We can absolutely look at that area.
- Bald guy – concern about when we had bad storm, diverting traffic down an old highway, what would be the chances of widening that old highway. Really bad access into town.
- Ralph – When we close there are no capacity for them. We are looking to move the closure gate at Ft. Steele
- Ralph friend – how do you go about breaking out the money throughout the district
- Ryan – a portion is split equally but then we send money to where the need is. We have an asset management system, that is how they judge where it goes.
- Morgan – is there a new policy about who close the roads
- Ralph – we rely on the boots on the ground guys
- Wickum – the variable speed limit signs really helped a lot, but the issue is the enforcement side.
- Morgan – I25/I80 funding?
- Ralph – got grant to finish the design... talked about inflation. We would need another grant
- Morgan – Wildlife overpass
- Ralph – it is down from Halleck Ridge. That is #1 on priority list, we would need another grant
- Morgan – Talked last year about getting equipment, has that improved.
- Ralph – greatly improved. We are finally getting equipment in

## 2024 District 1 STIP notes – Laramie County

District 1 scheduled a STIP meeting in Laramie County on July 16. Was a public, in person meeting.

### Public work session with Laramie County Commissioners

Located at 310 W 19th Street in downtown Cheyenne

#### Advertising the meeting:

This meeting was included in a news release, see Exhibit A. Since this is a government meeting, most advertising was left to the government agency.

#### Attendees:

Non-WYDOT: Laramie County Public Works Director Molly Bennett, Valerie G. Roybal Executive Assistant Laramie County Clerk, County Commissioners Linda Heath, Buck Holmes, Troy Thompson, Christopher Yaney from Cheyenne MPO, Zach Votaw, see Exhibit B for full attendance sheet

WYDOT: District Engineer Ralph Tarango, District Public Involvement Specialist Andrea Staley District Construction Engineer Ryan Shields, District Maintenance Engineer Tim Morton, District Traffic Engineer Taylor McCort, Keith Fulton, Wayne Shenefelt, Bryce Sanchez, Craig Cox, Emily Worthan, Whitney Wise, Mark Nelson, Nate Sainz

#### Comments received during meeting:

- Last Slide (Open up for questions): Buck Holmes: How will you pay for the escalating road construction costs with the electric vehicles coming out? There will be less fuel tax.
- Ralph- I believe they are looking for a higher registration fee, charge a tax on in the charging stations. They are redoing the NEVI plan each year, right now they are reviewing the plan and it should go out this summer.

#### Comments received outside of meeting:

N/A as of yet

Exhibits:  
Exhibit A



1 July 2024

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**WYDOT to hold STIP meetings In July and August in Laramie, Albany & Carbon Counties**

LARAMIE, Wyo. — The Wyoming Department of Transportation has scheduled its annual State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) meetings this summer. District 1, which encompasses parts of Laramie, Albany and Carbon Counties, has meetings scheduled in July and August.

The STIP outlines WYDOT's construction project schedule over the next six years. A dynamic plan, the STIP is updated every year to make sure it addresses both current and future needs. The STIP shows communities where to find grant information and also highlights WYDOT's purpose, values and mission.

District 1's STIP meeting schedule is as follows:

- Laramie County
  - o 2:30 am on Tuesday, July 16: A presentation to the Laramie County Commissioners in their Commission Boardroom located at 310 W 19<sup>th</sup> St. in Cheyenne.
- Carbon County
  - o 5:00 pm on Wednesday, July 17: A presentation to the Carbon County Council of Governments in Sinclair. Location to be determined.
- Albany County
  - o 6:00 pm on Tuesday, August 13: Joint work session with the Laramie City Council and the Albany County Board of Commissioners at the Albany County Building at 525 E. Grand Ave. in Laramie.

All meetings are open to the public.

Please reach out to [andrea.staley@wyo.gov](mailto:andrea.staley@wyo.gov) for information on how to attend or for a calendar invite. Public comments about current or future construction projects, including project suggestions not included in the STIP, are accepted at each meeting or via email prior to a meeting.