

TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION OF WYOMING

The Transportation Commission of Wyoming met in the Commission Room of the Transportation Headquarters building in Cheyenne on August 17, 2017. The teleconference meeting was convened at 8:30 a.m. by Chairman Seeton. The following members were present constituting a quorum:

Todd Seeton, Chairman, Jackson (via telephone)
Bob Ruwart, Vice Chairman, Wheatland (via telephone)
Mike Larson, Commissioner, Lusk (via telephone)
Rick Newton, Commissioner, Buffalo (via telephone)
Louie Pfrangle, Commissioner, Worland (via telephone)
Phil Schmidt, Commissioner, Casper (via telephone)
Jim Espy, Commissioner, Savery (via telephone)
William T. Panos, Director
Sandra J. Scott, Commission Secretary

Also present at and participating in the meeting was Dennis Byrne, Chief Financial Officer; Gregg Fredrick, Chief Engineer; Taylor Rossetti, Support Services Administrator; Colonel Kevin Haller, Highway Patrol Administrator; Amy Surdam, Aeronautics Administrator; Pat Lewis, Chief Technology Officer; Mike Kahler, Supervising Attorney General; Rodney Freier, Budget Program Manager; Rhonda Harsy, Financial Services Program Manager; and Bryan Cawley, Division Administrator, Federal Highway Administration.

Ms. Nicole Alonzo, Project Delivery Program Manager and Special Projects Liaison, and Mr. Doug McGee, Public Affairs Program Manager, were also present.

1. Pledge of Allegiance: Chairman Seeton led the attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance.
2. Approval of Minutes: It was recommended by Secretary Scott, moved by Commissioner Schmidt, seconded by Vice Chairman Ruwart, and carried to approve the minutes from the July 20, 2017, regular business meeting.
3. Director Panos presented the Director's report.

Federal Transportation Priorities: Director Panos provided a handout depicting some priorities of the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act. Director Panos plans to meet with Senator Barrasso's U.S. Environment and Public Works Committee staff members next week to learn about some specific issues they are working on regarding their approach to infrastructure funding.

President Trump signed an Executive Order last week that reduces environmental regulations and limits the review process for environmental applications to two years. This action fundamentally changes the way environmental processes are managed by WYDOT and through the FHWA.

Director Panos explained that the FAST Act has federal authorization, but there is no actual appropriation for the coming year. One of the federal transportation priorities is to appropriate funding for FY 2018.

The last priority is the prompt passage of a Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) reauthorization bill that will safeguard or improve the Essential Air Service Program and other program elements that are important to Wyoming and other rural states.

Employee Meetings: Director Panos has held 13 all-hands meetings so far with WYDOT employees, informing them of budget updates, the upcoming solar eclipse, WYDOT's celebration of 100 years of transportation excellence, and other topics. Employees shared lunch with Director Panos as part of the 100-year celebration, and active employees and retirees received a commemorative license plate as a gift to recognize the milestone.

Solar Eclipse Planning: WYDOT has been very active in planning for the total solar eclipse that will encompass Wyoming from Jackson to Torrington on August 21, 2017. Many WYDOT employees have contributed to the plan that has been put into place to ensure public safety. Further details of the eclipse planning will be addressed by the division administrators later in the meeting.

County Commission Meetings: Director Panos continues to meet with county commissions around the state to discuss their surface transportation programs; the future of surface transportation in Wyoming; the breadth of WYDOT's responsibility as it relates to counties, including public transit, highways, airports, air service, law enforcement; and WyoLink.

According to Director Panos, about two-thirds of the 23 county meetings are complete, with very positive results.

The meetings are open to the public, and Director Panos invited the Transportation Commission members to attend.

Commissioners' Meetings with Elected Officials and Other Dignitaries: Director Panos asked that commissioners keep him informed of meetings with elected officials and other dignitaries so that executive staff can offer information that might be useful in those discussions.

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

Monthly Budget Report: Mr. Freier shared that the July 2017 budget report revealed that the Commission budget is 78 percent expended, and the Legislative budget is 68 percent expended, which is below the target budget tolerances.

Commissioner Schmidt asked why the H06, the State Highway Fund (legislative appropriations), historically overruns in the budget report. Mr. Byrne advised that funds are moved periodically from the H01 account, the State Highway Fund, to the H06 account to cover expenditures. This action is required to cover legislatively mandated items. Funds will be moved soon to cover those expenditures.

5. It was recommended by Mr. Byrne, moved by Commissioner Espy, seconded by Vice Chairman Ruwart, and carried to approve, by consent, the following bids:

- Bid number 17-218 to furnish and install a boiler system at the Southeast Wyoming Welcome Center, located on I-25 in Cheyenne. The bid was awarded to Miller Mechanical, LLC, of Gillette, Wyoming, for the sum of \$129,600.00.
- Bid number 17-235 to furnish 1,058 cases, MV-301, certificate of title laser form, for delivery in Cheyenne. The bid was awarded to International Security Products, of Paso Robles, California, for the sum of \$52,688.40.
- Bid number 17-237 to furnish sodium chloride in bulk, for delivery at various statewide locations. The bid was awarded to Taurus Natural Salt, of Pocatello, Idaho, for the sum of \$734,487.75; and Compass Minerals America, Inc., of Overland Park, Kansas, for the sum of \$132,667.45; for a total sum of \$867,155.20.
- Bid number 17-244 to furnish liquid and solid anti-icers/deicers, for delivery at various statewide locations. The bid was awarded to Desert Mountain Corporation, of Riverton, Wyoming, for the sum of \$1,076,453.10; and Dustbusters, Inc., of Evanston, Wyoming, for the sum of \$142,340.00; for a total sum of \$1,218,793.10.

Commissioner Schmidt asked why the Commission is required to approve the purchase of laser forms. Mr. Byrne advised that, in accordance with Operating Policy 24-1, Monetary Limitations and Approving Authority, purchases over \$50,000 must be approved by the Commission. Changing the approval threshold has been discussed by the Commission in the past, but no change has been approved.

It was recommended by Mr. Byrne, moved by Commissioner Schmidt, seconded by Commissioner Larson, and carried to approve purchase for Bid No. 17-239 to furnish two each, WyoLink-capable radio system service monitors. The bid was awarded to Edmo Distributors, of Spokane, Washington, for the sum of \$111,814.30.

It was recommended by Mr. Byrne, moved by Commissioner Newton, seconded by Commissioner Larson, and carried to approve purchase for Requisition Number 0000047248 to furnish an Ivanti upgrade and maintenance, for use by the WYDOT Information Technology Program. The contract was awarded to Hewlett Packard, Inc., of Palo Alto, California, for the sum of \$90,982.50. Hewlett Packard, Inc., is a sole source provider of this item.

It was recommended by Mr. Byrne, moved by Vice Chairman Ruwart, seconded by Commissioner Larson, and carried to approve purchase for Requisition Number 0000047314 to furnish Oracle hot site support and maintenance, for use by the WYDOT Information Technology Program. The contract was awarded to Mythics, Inc., of Virginia Beach, Virginia, for the sum of \$98,332.00. Mythics, Inc., is a sole source provider of this item.

Special Commission Meeting: Mr. Byrne advised that a purchase is needed for equipment for WYDOT's Connected Vehicle Project. The potential equipment purchase exceeds \$50,000, so it will require Commission approval. Messrs. Byrne and Lewis did not have an opportunity to thoroughly review the bid proposal, as it was received early this morning. Mr. Byrne asked the

Commission to consider holding a special meeting for the sole purpose of considering this equipment purchase.

Mr. Lewis indicated the purchase is for the communications devices to be installed in WYDOT's patrol vehicles and snow plow trucks, and for the roadside units, which are a crucial element of the project. The goal is to have the units installed and functioning by early November, which will require purchasing the equipment as soon as possible.

The cost of the equipment purchase will be reimbursed by the federal government at 80 percent.

The Commission agreed to hold a teleconference meeting next Thursday, August 24, 2017, at 8:00 a.m., to consider the purchase.

WYDOT Employee Relocation Program: Commissioner Schmidt inquired about the status of information that was requested about WYDOT's employee relocation program, specifically, the purchase of employee houses when they are transferred to a different location. Mr. Byrne advised that he just finished gathering that information and he will share it with the Commission this week.

Mr. Freier left the meeting.

6. Mr. Fredrick presented the Chief Engineer's report.

Land Slides and Flooding Update: WYDOT has been working with the FHWA on emergency relief funding for the spring landslides and flooding that occurred statewide. Thirty-three locations are being investigated, totaling about \$13 million in necessary repairs.

According to Mr. Fredrick, reimbursements from the federal government can take several years. Mr. Cawley indicated that funds are apportioned periodically and as emergency funding requests are received, they are put into a cue and reimbursements are prioritized, which is why some requests take longer than others. Mr. Cawley added that President Trump recently declared that the Wind River Reservation is eligible to receive Emergency Relief for Federally Owned Lands funds.

About half of the damage assessment and survey reports are complete, and they will be finalized this month. The surveys involve an on-site visit with FHWA staff to verify the damage, and to determine the anticipated repair costs, scope of work, and eligibility for emergency relief funding. After this process is complete, a design will be developed for the damage repairs.

Eclipse Planning: WYDOT staff has been planning for the solar eclipse for almost a year. Preparations have been made in the areas of communications, rest areas, employee staffing, traffic flow, and security. Active construction projects will be paused, and visits have been held with municipalities and counties to prepare for the event. Mr. Fredrick believes the Department is as prepared as it can possibly be for the eclipse. Mr. Fredrick thanked Nicole Alonzo for her work in coordinating the effort.

Ms. Alonzo briefed the Commission about some of the preparations that have been made for the solar eclipse. The communications plan has been finalized. Cellular service providers have brought temporary towers and expanded their service in Wyoming for additional coverage. WYDOT has also obtained satellite phones for emergency use.

WYDOT will use its existing resources to obtain traffic counts before, during, and after the eclipse.

Mr. Gillett shared information about the maintenance preparations that have been made for the eclipse. Maintenance crews have mowed in areas that would not have ordinarily have been cut to prevent grass fires; portable message signs and traffic control devices have been placed in strategic areas; 8-yard dump trucks will be stationed at each rest area for potential trash overflow; rest area septic tanks have been pumped; water tanks have been filled for potential fire support; WYDOT's fuel storage tanks have been filled for state vehicle use; and sand trucks are full and stationed in certain areas in case of a hazardous spill. Maintenance employees will also be on 24-hour standby in the days surrounding the event.

Sale of Welcome to Wyoming Signs: WYDOT recently auctioned five 4' x 8' "Welcome to Wyoming" signs on a public auction site. The signs drew a considerable amount of interest, selling for \$4,400 to \$10,000, and bringing in \$33,000 for all five signs. The funds will be used for surface transportation improvements.

7. Mr. Fulton presented the Engineering and Planning report, beginning with the bid tabulations from the letting held August 10, 2017, in Cheyenne.

**COMMISSION DISTRICT 1
Bob Ruwart - Vice Chairman**

Federal project STP-W211016, involving repairing timber bent caps on the structure over Dry Horse Creek, and miscellaneous work at reference marker (RM) 25.10, between Cheyenne and Horse Creek, in Laramie County. Completion date: November 30, 2017

Engineer's Estimate	\$242,320.00
Reiman Corp., Cheyenne, WY	\$ 77,316.00 -68.1%

It was recommended by Mr. Fulton, moved by Vice Chairman Ruwart, seconded by Commissioner Larson, 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.

COMMISSION DISTRICT 3
Todd Seeton - Chairman

Federal project NHPP-DR34562, involving grading, draining, placing crushed base and bituminous pavement surfacing, building a retaining wall, and miscellaneous work on approximately 0.10 mile of US 89, beginning at RM 139.22, between Alpine Junction and Hoback Junction, in Teton County. Completion date: June 30, 2018

Engineer's Estimate	\$1,617,956.50
C. M. Owen Construction, LLC, Jackson, WY	\$1,863,289.48 +15.2%
Rock & Co., Thornton, CO	\$2,852,768.00

It was recommended by Mr. Fulton, moved by Commissioner Newton, seconded by Commissioner Pfrangle, and carried that **C. M. Owen Construction, LLC, Jackson, 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.

The FHWA has been working with WYDOT to prepare a request for the August redistribution of obligation limitation. An additional \$55 million has been requested that, if approved, could be obligated by September 30, 2017. Mr. Cawley thanked WYDOT for its assistance in preparing the request. A response is anticipated in the next couple of weeks.

Mr. McGee entered the meeting.

8. It was recommended by Mr. Fredrick, moved by Commissioner Espy, seconded by Commissioner Larson, and carried to approve the following project authorizations:

COMMISSION DISTRICT M (Miscellaneous)

Various

STIC 0.00 B189039; Headquarters; Construction Management System; enhance E-construction technology; FY 2018; request federal funds of \$125,000

Ms. Alonzo left the meeting.

9. Mr. Gillett presented the Operations report.

Maintenance Activities: Maintenance crews have been busy patching roads, mowing, repairing fence along the rights-of-way, striping, performing sign repairs, and other activities throughout the summer. The state's hot plant has been moved from District 1, and it is in full operation in District 2.

Construction Activities: There are currently 14 active projects in District 1, 6 in District 2, 10 in District 3, 18 in District 4, and 11 in District 5, for a total of 59 projects statewide.

Ms. Harsy left the meeting.

10. Colonel Haller presented the Highway Patrol report.

The Fatal Crash Summary through July 31, 2017, includes 69¹ fatal crashes involving 83¹ deaths. The fatalities include 29 rollover crashes, 34 multi-car crashes, 4 fixed objects, 10 motorcycles, 3 ATV/snowmobiles, and 3 pedestrians. Of the 69 fatal crashes that occurred so far this year, 11² involved commercial vehicles.

There have been 30³ fatal crashes to date deemed drug or alcohol related, resulting in 36 deaths, one² of which involved a commercial vehicle. Of those deaths, 25 were attributed to not using occupant restraints.

Of the 83 deaths that have occurred to date this year, 41 can be attributed to the non-use of occupant restraints, with 24 involving rollover crashes, 15 involving multi-car collisions, and 2 involved a fixed object. Thirty-one of those who died from non-use of occupant restraints were Wyoming residents. Eleven of those who perished were under 21 years of age, and 2 of those fatalities were attributed to the failure to use proper occupant restraints.

Of the 69 fatal crashes that have occurred to date this year, 27 of them occurred on primary/secondary highways, 22 occurred on interstate highways, and 20 occurred on city/county roads.

Six multiple-fatality crashes have occurred on Wyoming highways as of July 31, 2017, of which 4 involved multiple vehicles, 1 involved a commercial vehicle, and 3 were alcohol related.

Inclement weather or road conditions contributed to 6 vehicle crashes so far this year, which resulted in 6 deaths. Speed was considered a factor in 9 of the vehicle crashes that caused 13 deaths.

The days of the week for fatal crashes in 2017 are as follows:

Sunday	10 crashes
Monday	10 crashes
Tuesday	8 crashes
Wednesday	6 crashes
Thursday	10 crashes
Friday	14 crashes
Saturday	11 crashes

¹Numbers at the time of reporting; final numbers may change.

²Number not included in the total deaths (sub-crash data).

³Not all chemical test results were available at the time of reporting.

The times of day for fatal crashes in 2017 are as follows:

12:00 a.m. to 6:00 a.m.	13 crashes
6:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.	11 crashes
12:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.	19 crashes
6:00 p.m. to 12:00 a.m.	26 crashes

The following statistics were also provided to the Commission:

- 83 percent of those who died in rollover crashes were unbelted.
- 43 percent of all those who died in multi-vehicle crashes were unrestrained.
- 72 percent of the fatalities so far this year were drivers of the involved vehicles.
- 52 percent of residents who died were not wearing seat belts.
- 60 percent of the Wyoming resident fatalities were unbuckled.
- 43 percent of the non-resident fatalities were unrestrained.
- Alcohol and/or drug impairment was a factor in 45 percent of the fatalities.

Patrol-Investigated Crash Summary: The Patrol-Investigated Crash Summary depicts 3,886⁴ crashes statewide, of which 3,057⁴ involved non-commercial vehicles, and 829⁴ involved commercial vehicles.

Commissioner Larson asked how Wyoming's fatality statistics compare to other states. Colonel Haller explained that fatality rates in some surrounding states are comparable to Wyoming, and other states have experienced fewer deaths. Colonel Haller could not pinpoint specific reasons.

Director Panos expressed concern that, even with the significant measures taken by WYDOT to implement highway safety, there is no indication of how to prevent the fatalities from increasing. Colonel Haller shared the same frustration, but he stated that education is the key to lowering crash rates and fatalities.

Commissioner Larson also asked if WYDOT has any data that suggests whether one-car fatalities could be prevented if additional rumble strips or rumble stripes were installed statewide. Colonel Haller indicated that the Highway Patrol has data proving the effectiveness of rumble strips/stripes, and that he will include that information in the monthly Highway Patrol report in the future.

Harvest Season Public Education: The Highway Patrol recently sent letters to farmers, ranchers, contract carriers, 15 regional newspapers in Wyoming and Nebraska, Wyoming County Treasurers, the Wyoming Trucking Association, and many growers and/or carriers of agricultural products. The letter contained information about Wyoming's regulations pertaining to the upcoming harvest season, including a handout titled, "5 Keys for an Efficient Harvest on Wyoming Highways." The WHP hopes the information will prevent some common problems that arise each year.

⁴Does not contain all crashes worked; some reports are still pending.

Sturgis Ham 'N Jam Rally: About 20 additional troopers were recently deployed for the annual Sturgis Ham 'N Jam Rally in northeast Wyoming earlier this month. Colonel Haller was in the area for several days during the event, and he sensed that motorcycle traffic counts were down this year. The South Dakota Highway Patrol agreed with this analysis.

Two motorcycle fatalities occurred during the rally, one of which was believed to have been the result of a medical issue.

Solar Eclipse Preparations: The primary concern of the WHP with the solar eclipse is the huge influx of traffic coming into and leaving Wyoming. Troopers will remain in their usual stations statewide to manage traffic. The WHP Special Services Squad, a team of about 24 troopers that are equipped and trained for certain emergency events, will be staged and ready to be deployed in case of a catastrophe.

No oversize or overweight load permits will be issued in Wyoming August 20-22, 2017, because of the traffic concerns surrounding the solar eclipse. Trucking companies were notified about three weeks ago so they could plan for the interruption in service. Other states in the path of totality are enacting similar restrictions.

Letter to Carriers of Plant Harvests: A letter was recently sent to farmers, ranchers, and contract carriers regarding compliance with federal and Wyoming state laws and regulations while operating on Wyoming highways during the upcoming harvest season. The letter included an attachment titled, "Five Keys for an Efficient Harvest on Wyoming Highways." The attachment provided guidance in the areas of vehicle requirements and registration, the International Fuel Tax Agreement (IFTA), Wyoming Interstate operating authority, and Wyoming Overweight Class F permitting.

Trooper Recruitment: The WHP currently has 10 certified recruits who have just entered WHP basic training at the Wyoming Law Enforcement Academy. The new recruits will be commissioned in about 14 weeks.

11. Ms. Surdam presented the Aeronautics report, including the July 2017 Aeronautics Flight Operations Passenger Summary Report, and the Wyoming Aircraft Accident Report.

Solar Eclipse Preparations: Wyoming airports have made preparations for the solar eclipse. Fuel reserves are at capacity, alternate landing and parking plans have been established, and many other details have been addressed to minimize any potential problems that could arise from the increased air traffic. Ms. Surdam plans to visit the Torrington, Lusk, and Guernsey airports tomorrow to ensure they are as prepared as possible for the event.

Air Service Enhancement (ASE) Developments: A meeting was held last month in Casper to discuss Wyoming's air service, available funding, and the future of a more cohesive and robust program for its citizens and to promote economic development. Wyoming Business Council board members, chairman of the Economically Needed Diversity Options for Wyoming (ENDOW) Initiative, the Wyoming Airport Operators Association president, Wyoming Senator Michael Von Flatern, Representative Tom Walters, the director of the Wyoming Business

Alliance, the Wyoming County Commissioners Association president, and the Wyoming Association of Municipalities executive director attended the meeting. Another meeting will be held August 23, 2017, to continue the conversation about ways to develop sustainable air service in Wyoming.

Since the inception of the ASE Program in 2004, the State of Wyoming and local governments have invested more than \$46 million to provide air service in Wyoming. Before 2004, Wyoming experienced about 700,000 enplanements each year. Since 2004, Wyoming has had more than one million enplanements per year in 6 of the last 11 years. Wyoming continues to experience about 50 percent passenger leakage to surrounding the states. Ms. Surdam hopes to reduce the leakage rate to about 35 to 40 percent in the future.

Funding for the ASE Program is at risk unless additional revenue sources are found. The pilot shortage will also have a significant impact on Wyoming's air service in the future.

Ms. Surdam will keep the Commission informed of the committee's strategy to develop a plan for Wyoming's future air service.

12. Mr. Rossetti presented the Support Services report.

Employment Summary: WYDOT employed 1,928 personnel as of August 7, 2017, compared to 1,925 a month ago.

WYDOT currently has 62 vacancies posted on the State of Wyoming Human Resources web site, and 42 of those jobs are outside of Cheyenne. Additionally, 14 of those vacancies are for Highway Patrol positions. Maintenance job openings will be posted soon so that 18 individuals can be hired in time for winter snow removal statewide.

Solar Eclipse Preparations: WYDOT Driver Services offices will not conduct driving tests in Jackson, Riverton, Casper, Wheatland, or Torrington on August 21, 2017, as those locations are in the path of the totality of the solar eclipse. The Jackson Driver Services office will extend this rule through August 23.

13. Mr. Lewis presented the Chief Technology Officer's report.

Solar Eclipse Preparations: The Telecommunications Program has been very active in preparing for the communications aspect of the solar eclipse. Mr. Lewis indicated this event will be a good test for WyoLink, and will allow the Department to address issues, if any, in the future.

Transportation Management Center (TMC) personnel are scheduled to double up on shifts during certain times throughout the day on August 21 to address any traffic issues statewide. Many potential scenarios have been discussed by TMC staff and they have established a plan to handle certain situations, should they arise.

The Department will utilize its dynamic message signs (DMS) to share important safety messages throughout the event. Messages will be displayed about extreme fire danger, no

overweight/oversize loads, no parking along the sides of the roadway, and turning on headlights during the eclipse. DMS signs will be reserved for safety-related messages.

WyoLink Update: At its June business meeting, the Transportation Commission gave approval to proceed with a contract to hire Motorola Corporation to finish the build-out of the WyoLink system. A consultant was hired to assist WYDOT with negotiating the contract with Motorola. The contract is being developed and will be executed as soon as possible.

General Matters: Commissioner Schmidt inquired about the Department's recent meeting with the State Efficiency Commission. WYDOT provided a report to that Commission on June 29, 2017, depicting the various areas where the agency has changed its practices to become more efficient. A copy of the report will be sent to the Transportation Commission members.

14. It was moved by Vice Chairman Ruwart, seconded by Commissioner Schmidt, and carried to adjourn the meeting. Chairman Seeton adjourned the meeting at 10:55 a.m., on Thursday, August 17, 2017.