

## **Another \$38 million in stimulus contracts awarded for Wyoming highway projects**

**May 28, 2009**

The Wyoming Transportation Commission awarded \$39.1 million in highway construction contracts Thursday, including \$38.2 million to be funded with federal economic stimulus program money.

The commission now has awarded \$124.5 million in stimulus-funded construction contracts during the past two months. Together with the \$9.9 million in engineering and design work needed to get the projects to construction, WYDOT now has obligated \$134.4 million of the \$157.6 million in stimulus money it expects to get for highway projects. The department expects to have the remainder of its stimulus money under contract by September.

Federal Highway Administration figures indicate WYDOT continues to lead the nation in the percentage of its highway construction stimulus funding obligated for projects. The FHWA considers stimulus money obligated if a department has called for bids on a project that will use stimulus funding. Based on that criteria, as of Thursday WYDOT had 98 percent of its stimulus funding obligated, 11 percent more than the second-ranked state.

The largest contract awarded Thursday went to High Country Construction of Lander, which submitted the low bid of \$10.2 million for reconstruction and widening of 3.85 miles of US 14A about midway between Cody and Powell. The highway section between Park County Lane 18 and Park County Road 18 will be widened from its current two lanes to five lanes to accommodate growing traffic. All but \$108,000 of the project cost will be funded with stimulus money. The contract completion date is Oct. 15, 2010.

Concrete rehabilitation work will be completed on 15 miles of Interstate 80 between Green River and Rock Springs under a \$7.4 million contract awarded to Interstate Improvement Inc. of Fairbault, Minn. The work between the Green River Bridge and the Dewar Drive Interchange will include replacement of damaged concrete slabs and application of a high performance wearing course to improve safety by increasing traction and skid resistance. All but \$300,000 of the project cost will be funded with stimulus money. The contract completion date is Sept. 30, 2010.

Worland's McGarvin-Moberly Construction submitted the low bid of \$4.8 million for milling and a pavement overlay to extend the life of the pavement on 6.4 miles of I-80 that includes the East Sinclair Interchange. The contract includes an Aug. 31, 2010 completion date, but once work begins the company must complete it in 45 consecutive working days.

A second Worland company, Hout Fencing of Wyoming, won a \$4.3 million contract to replace deteriorating snow fence along 23 miles of I-80 between Laramie and Walcott Junction. The existing A-frame fence between the Quealy Dome Interchange and the Wagonhound Rest Area

will be replaced with vertical wooden fence with embedded posts which department tests have indicated requires less maintenance. The work is expected to be done by Sept. 15, 2010.

Cheyenne's Knife River submitted the low bid of \$3.2 million for patching to save the pavement on sections of Interstate 25 in Natrona and Johnson counties. Patching on the highway from the Natrona-Johnson county line north to Kaycee will be in the travel lanes, while the patching in the Glendo area will be concentrated on the shoulders. The contract completion date is Sept. 30, 2010.

Nearly seven miles of the South Fork Highway (WYO 291) between Cody and South Fork will get a pavement overlay under a \$2.9 million contract awarded to Riverside Contracting of Missoula, Mont. The work to address rutting and cracking problems is scheduled to be completed no later than Sept. 15, 2010.

McGarvin-Moberly won a second contract with the low bid of \$2.5 million for a pavement overlay and slope widening on a deteriorating six-mile section of US-16-20/ WYO 789 just north of Basin. The contract completion date is Oct. 31, 2010.

Knife River also won a second contract with a low bid of \$2 million to apply a high-friction Novachip surface on five miles of both sides of I-80 from the Summit Rest Area west through Telephone Canyon to improve safety by increasing traction and skid resistance. Heavy traffic, high speeds in the canyon have combined to create a polishing effect on the concrete pavement. WYDOT began testing a two-mile section of the Novachip surface in the westbound lanes in 2007 and has found it to be effective in improving safety. The contract completion date is Sept. 30, 2010.

Hout Fencing was awarded a second contract for its \$1.2 million bid for construction of a deer crossing underpass and 4.5 miles of deer fencing on WYO 789 about seven miles north of Baggs. The project will improve safety in an area identified by the Wyoming Game and Fish Department as a major deer migration route. The work is expected to be complete by Oct. 31.

Johner & Sons of Spearfish, S.D. was awarded a \$464,000 contract for slide stabilization work along WYO 24 just west of Alva to be completed by Aug. 31. The project will include removing the soils and rock creating the driving force for the slide above the road and depositing it in a draw on the other side of the road. The project will not be funded with stimulus money.

The commission made the awards during a special teleconference meeting scheduled to deal with the additional volume of construction contracts being awarded due to the availability of the stimulus money and the time limits the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act imposes for using it.