

April 16, 2009

The Wyoming Transportation Commission awarded \$28.6 million in highway construction contracts Thursday, including \$22.2 million for the first 15 Wyoming road projects to be funded with federal economic stimulus program money.

Federal Highway Administration analysis suggests about 280 jobs are sustained or created by every \$10 million invested in highway construction, so the stimulus-funded projects can be expected to provide work for about 600 people over the next two construction seasons. In addition to the equipment operators, laborers, supervisors and engineers in the work zone itself, those jobs would include mechanics, materials suppliers and other support personnel.

Seven miles of WYO 116 between Upton and the highway's junction with WYO 450 will be widened and get a pavement overlay and some isolated reconstruction under a \$7.2 million contract awarded to Border States Paving, of Fargo, N.D. The work is expected to take two construction seasons to finish and the contract completion date is Oct. 31, 2010.

Gillette's DRM Inc. submitted the low bid of \$6.4 million for rebuilding US 16 through Upton, including widening to include a turn lane west of town. The project also will include a new storm sewer system, curb, gutter and sidewalks, and enhancements such as lighting and landscaping. Stimulus funding will be used only for the enhancement portion of the project, and the work is expected to be done by Oct. 31, 2010.

Northern Improvement Co., of Fargo, N.D., won the contract for a pavement overlay on seven miles of I-90 northeast of Sundance with a low bid of \$5.9 million. That project is expected to be done by July 31, 2010.

Lovell's Mountain Construction was awarded a \$3.2 million contract for a pavement overlay on nearly 10 miles of US 85 south of Torrington. The contract completion date is Aug. 31, 2010.

Mountain also won a \$1.4 million contract for a pavement overlay on 14 miles of US 30 west of Basin followed by a chip seal by June 30, 2010.

Cheyenne's Reiman Corp. was the low bidder on an \$829,000 contract to add pedestrian railing and lighting on the I-180 viaduct in Cheyenne. The contract completion date is Nov. 30.

"The stimulus act sets a 120-day time frame for getting shovel-ready projects let to contract, and we will meet that goal," WYDOT Chief Engineer Del McOmie said. "Wyoming has a backlog of road improvement needs and this funding will help us accelerate our efforts to meet those needs." The commission plans to consider additional stimulus projects at its April 30, May 14 and May 28 meetings.

Other stimulus-funded contracts awarded by the commission Thursday were:

- Knife River, Cheyenne, \$778,000 for patching to preserve the pavement on various highway sections in Albany and Laramie counties by Sept. 30;
- Highway Improvement Inc., Harrisburg S.D., \$850,000 for crack sealing on 128 miles of highway in Big Horn, Fremont, Hot Springs, Park and Washakie counties by March 31, 2010;
- Z&Z Seal Coating, Billings, Mont., \$540,000 for crack sealing on 85 miles of highway in Albany, Carbon, Laramie and Sweetwater counties by April 30, 2010;

- Olson Fencing, Powell, \$437,000 for replacement of right-of-way fencing along 11 miles of US 14 west of Shell and east of Cody by Sept. 30;
- Wilson Brothers Construction, Cowley, \$371,000 for slope flattening, guardrail upgrades and other improvements on 1.5 miles on US 14-16 west of Greybull by Oct. 15;
- Hedquist Construction, Mills, \$328,000 for drainage repairs on Casper Mountain Road (WYO 251 by Oct. 31;
- Simon Contractors, Cheyenne, \$93,000 for a pavement overlay and new curb, gutter and sidewalks on WYO 151 in LaGrange by Sept. 30;
- S&S Builders, Gillette, \$90,000 for sealing bridge decks in Fremont and Hot Springs counties, by Sept. 30; and
- Olson Fencing, Powell, \$78,000 for replacement of right-of-way fence along 2.25 miles of WYO 331 (Big Goose Road) by O