

April 30, 2009

The Wyoming Transportation Commission has awarded another \$28 million in highway construction contracts to be funded with federal economic stimulus program money.

The new contracts bring to \$50.4 million the amount of stimulus-funded work WYDOT contracted for in April. The department expects to receive \$157.6 million in stimulus money for highway construction, and have about \$156 million of it obligated for projects by the end of May.

Based on a Federal Highway Administration analysis, that amount of spending on highway construction can be expected to provide work for about 4,300 people. 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.

The commission awarded the newest contracts during a special teleconference meeting Thursday scheduled to deal with the additional construction contracts being awarded due to the availability of the stimulus money and the time limits the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act sets for using that money. Additional stimulus contracts will be awarded at the commission's regular monthly meeting May 14 in Cheyenne and another special teleconference on May 28.

The largest contract awarded Thursday was for \$8 million to Simon Contractors of Cheyenne for 14.5 miles of milling and pavement overlay to address pavement deterioration on Interstate 90 between the Dry Creek and Powder River interchanges west of Buffalo. The contract completion date is Sept. 30, 2010.

Nearly 34 miles of Interstate 80 between Rock Springs and the BLM Road Interchange to the east will get a thin seal coat to extend the life of the pavement and improve traction for vehicles under a \$3.8 million contract awarded to Intermountain Slurry Seal of Watsonville, Calif. The work is expected to be done by Sept. 30, 2010.

An 18-mile section of I-80 east of the Carter-Mountain View Interchange, and a 5.5-mile section west of the La Barge Interchange will get the same seal coat under a \$2.7 million contract awarded to Geneva Rock Products of Orem, Utah. The project also carries a Sept. 30, 2010 completion date.

Chip seals will be completed to preserve the pavement on 145 miles of highways in Albany, Carbon and Laramie counties under a \$3.6 million contract awarded to Oldcastle SW Group of Grand Junction, Colo. Those chip seals will be completed between June 15 and Aug. 31, and any not completed this year will be done within the same period next year.

Ten miles of WYO 89 immediately north of Evanston will get a pavement overlay, bridge repairs and a turn lane added at Bear River under a \$3 million contract awarded to Granite Construction Co. of Watsonville, Calif. The highway is a heavily traveled recreation route and the pavement is deteriorating. Once the contractor begins work, the contract requires the project to be completed in 60 days. The contract completion date is Sept. 30, 2010.

Nine highway sections including US 85 between Torrington and Lingle, US 20 between Lusk and the Nebraska border, WYO 220 northeast of Muddy Gap, Casper Mountain Road and WYO 270 south of Manville will get chip seals under a \$2.5 million contract awarded to Northern Improvement Co. of Fargo, N.D.

Cheyenne's Reiman Corp. won a \$2.4 million contract to replace cracked concrete slabs and install new sidewalk, curb and gutter on sections of two miles of Casper's First Street between Yellowstone Highway and the North Platte River by Oct. 31.

Western Wyoming Construction of Lander submitted the low bid of \$1.5 million for a pavement overlay on a deteriorating four-mile section of US 26 between Riverton and Shoshoni by Sept. 30, 2010.

Worland's Hout Fencing of Wyoming won a \$548,000 contract for building retaining walls along US 189 in Diamondville by July 31, 2010.