

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF  
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, TETON COUNTY, WYOMING**

The Board of County Commissioners in Teton County, Wyoming met in special session at 9:08am on **June 21, 2019** in the Commissioners Chambers located at 200 South Willow, Jackson, Wyoming.

The purpose of the meeting was to meet with Wyoming Department of Transportation Director Reiner and discuss current and upcoming projects in Teton County.

Commissioner's present: Natalia Macker – Chair, Greg Epstein – Vice Chair, Mark Newcomb, and Luther Propst. Mark Barron was absent.

Town of Jackson: Jim Stanford and Larry Pardee

WYDOT: Director Luke Reiner – WYDOT, Colonel Kebin Haller – Wyoming Highway Patrol, and Keith Compton – WYDOT District Engineer

Staff: Alyssa Watkins, Heather Overholser, Amy Ramage, Todd Smith, Chett Hooper, Darren Brugmann, Roger Schulz, Kristen Waters, Marvin Arriola, and Shelley Fairbanks

Others: Senator Dan Dockstader (via phone), Bob Hammond – WYDOT, Bruce Daigle - WYDOT

Chairwoman Macker informed the audience there would be no public comment.

Director Reiner opened with a brief synopsis of his first few months in office, then asked Mr. Compton to begin the updates.

**MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION**

1. Progress of Jackson North

Mr. Compton gave an update on the Snake River North project that is slated to be completed by the end of July. They are continuing work on the bridge deck and the wildlife fence. The traffic diversion just south of South Park Loop Road to the bridge is to create a safe work zone.

2. Update on Jackson South

Mr. Compton gave an update on the new project, from the existing project to Hoback Junction. They are not anticipating much disruption to traffic this year. There will be work on the critical path – structure work. Completion date on this project is mid-summer 2022 and is dictated by the structure work and landslide rehab work.

Other project updates included:

- a. Overlay on five-lane south of town (High School Road to South Park Loop Road) through next spring
- b. Concrete slab replacement in town on Broadway in the fall of 2019

3. Update on WyoLink Tower Scheduled for Install

WYDOT owns and is responsible for WyoLink system (radio based communication system) and there are over 500 entities around the state that use WyoLink. The system was built out from the east to the west side of the state and there are holes on the west side of the state. The intent is to put in 16 new towers and at least one will be in Teton County. WYDOT is currently working on a site location and Teton Pass is the most likely location. 5G will not replace WyoLink. Director Reiner has gone on record asking that other users not be charged.

4. Housing for Teton County Employees

WYDOT owns land behind the WYDOT shop and plans are being looked at to put state housing in that location. With employee turnover, there is a real struggle to find employees/first responders that can afford to live here. Funding is an issue and the possibility of the housing for all state agencies is up for discussion. Councilman Stanford brought up the possibility of partnership with the Housing Department and/or Community Housing Trust.

5. Snow Sheds

Keith Compton talked about the feasibility of snow sheds on Teton Pass to cover known and potential avalanche paths that exist between Wilson and Idaho state line. The biggest problem is skier triggered avalanches. WYDOT has been working with the Forest Service on a broad range of things including the entire corridor management plan, closures associated with avalanche risk, and parking areas. The feasibility study should include the economic loss and productivity with a closure due to an avalanche vs. snow shed. The cost of the snow sheds is one of the biggest barriers to installing snow sheds; but maintenance and location are also barriers. Partnerships with the communities, both Teton County, Wyoming and Teton County, Idaho, could help with budget constraints.

6. Snake River Bridge Replacement / Wyoming 22/390 Intersection Project / Hwy 22 Design Generally – Stakeholder Involvement (e.g., BCC, Public)

Mr. Compton gave an update on the Snake River Bridge replacement. They are still in the preliminary planning stage but moving forward. There will be another public meeting when the grading plans come out. A transit consultant was brought in and will wait for the results from that consultant before the plans are finalized. There are a challenges that include environmental, wildlife, and budget constraints with the Highway 22/390 intersection.

The meeting was recessed at 10:24am and reconvened at 10:31am.

Discussion continued on the Snake River Bridge Replacement and Highway 22/390 Intersection projects. There was talk of different structures and costs of those structures. Possible partnership with the town and county in funding.

7. Challenges that Troopers Face in Division K (Teton and Lincoln Counties)

Colonel Haller talked about housing concerns, distracted driving, safety restraints, and increase in fatalities. He spoke of the Wyoming Highway Patrol working with the Legislature on updating texting laws and seatbelt laws.

Jackson Police Chief Todd Smith, and Sheriff Lieutenant Hooper extended appreciation to Colonel Haller and the Wyoming Highway Patrol for their continued partnership with the Jackson Police Department and Teton County Sheriff's Office.

8. Future Ongoing Method of Communication

Director Reiner talked of WYDOT incorporating itself into the community as transportation issues are being addressed. Lines of communication begin with the District Engineer. Commissioner Epstein stated that the public communication is quite good but would like the lines of communication open and have them in a public setting. Councilman Stanford stated there is continued interest on traffic issues around the Town Square. Larry Pardee, Town Manager, would like to see the Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) to meet on a consistent basis to address Teton County's transportation issues. Commissioner Propst talked of expanding community and regional transit.

Heather Overholser, Director of Public Works, addressed the issue of the Integrated Transportation Plan. Amy Ramage, County Engineer, spoke of beginning the charter process on Highway 22. Mr. Compton stated this project is not in the State Transportation Implementation Plan (STIP) due to funding.

9. Teton Science School Intersection at Hwy 22

Mr. Compton stated they met with the Teton Science School about this issue yesterday and that this is not the only intersection along Highway 22 with the issue. The interim solution is to sign the intersection as soon as signs are fabricated. WYDOT is exploring long term options for this area.

10. Truck/Traffic Management on Teton Pass (e.g., Overweight Vehicles)

Mr. Compton addressed the issue of overweight vehicles, weigh and motion scale on the other side of the pass. Without someone at the scale house, it is an honor system. There is a camera to take a picture but a ticket cannot be issued based on the picture. Colonel Haller talked of enforcement efforts have been increased but is not always a deterrent. WHP is now doing outreach with partners in Idaho in an attempt to enforce.

11. Wilson Planning Process / Pedestrian Crossing – Hwy 22 at Wilson School

Commissioner Epstein asked about the planning process and where WYDOT is at. Mr. Compton stated they are working on getting a consultant selected and hoping to start the planning process soon. Concerns of citizens include crossing the corridor, speed zones, traffic calming, school crossings, network of pathways and sidewalks giving controlled access.

12. Wildlife Crossings / Reduce Wildlife/Vehicle Collisions (Wildlife/Vehicle Collisions are Usually on Local Highways)

Director Reiner discussed statistics and data in an effort to minimize wildlife/vehicle collisions and state accomplishments in the effort including large crossing structures (underpasses and overpasses) and deer fencing, speed limit reductions, advisory signs, and timing restrictions. The Wyoming Wildlife Roadway Initiative Implementation Team (WWRIT) was formed. WYDOT Districts and Wyoming Game & Fish Department Regions have worked on refining project sites and ranked into local or statewide solutions. Over 240 sites, local and statewide, were identified for need with 41 statewide high priority sites. There were 10 statewide top priorities. While Teton County was not in the top 10, the entire list remains active.

**ADJOURN**

A motion was made by Commissioner Epstein and seconded by Commissioner Newcomb to adjourn. Chair Macker called for the vote. The vote showed all in favor and the motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 11:40am.

Respectfully submitted: sdf

TETON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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Natalia D. Macker, Chairwoman

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Greg Epstein, Vice-Chair

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Mark Barron

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mark Newcomb

ATTEST:

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Luther Propst

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Sherry L. Daigle, County Clerk