
AGENCY RESPONSE

WYDOT and General Fund Appropriations for Highways



Department of Transportation

State of Wyoming



Dave Freudenthal
Governor

John F. Cox
Director

April 28, 2008

Senator John Schiffer, Chairman
Management Audit Committee
Wyoming State Legislature
213 Capitol Building
Cheyenne, WY 82002

Dear Senator Schiffer:

The Wyoming Department of Transportation truly appreciates the opportunity to comment and respond to an excellent and professional Legislative Service Office report, *WYDOT and General Fund Appropriations for Highways*.

As stewards of public funds and public trust, we found the questions addressed in the report very appropriate and timely. Our response to the issues raised in the report is attached.

I would also like to take this opportunity to commend the LSO staff for their thorough and comprehensive review of WYDOT's highway construction procedures and processes in preparing this report.

Sincerely,

John F. Cox
Director

Attachment: WYDOT Response

WYDOT and General Fund Appropriations for Highways Legislative Services Office Report Response

Recommendation: WYDOT should revise policies and re-orient the district focus to support a system-level project selection approach.

Response: Agree

In response to changes in program funding, WYDOT's Planning Program began discussing system-level project prioritization more than four years ago. WYDOT's existing functional management systems were capable of producing valuable data on highway pavements and bridges. The separate management systems could not, however, readily provide integrated decision options and outcomes to management to determine impacts to the overall state highway system. With the recent implementation of the WYDOT Enterprise Resource Planning system the department is now ready to begin implementing an asset management system linked to financial data to provide WYDOT management and the Transportation Commission with timely options and outcomes for integrated system analysis. This asset management system is scheduled to come on line late in 2008 with expanded capabilities added in succeeding years. In addition to the planned capabilities of the asset management system, good management practices will still warrant that executive staff and district engineer/program manager oversight and input remain a key component in the project prioritization process.

Meetings with Local Officials

In the report, LSO addresses issues relative to the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). On page 22, the report discusses local meetings held with local officials to discuss the STIP. These meetings with local officials are mandated by federal law and federal planning regulations. In the past, the public has sometimes been invited to attend. In the future, WYDOT will provide the public, as well local officials, with advertised notice concerning these meetings.

Department Homepage–Internet

Shortcomings with the department's current Internet homepage are described on page 23 of the report. This homepage is being redesigned to facilitate the public's ability to find information about transportation projects. Search and navigation capabilities will be improved, and information will be presented in a more user-friendly manner. Though electronic publication and dissemination are becoming increasingly important, WYDOT will continue to mail the STIP to local government entities in hard copy, and it will be available throughout the state in public libraries in written form as well.