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Walsh Drive Bridge Project

Two-year-long project on I-25 in Casper to replace pair of bridges

By Jeff Goetz

A two-year-long project to replace a pair of bridges on Interstate 25 in Casper began June 1.

WYDOT is demolishing the two bridges over Walsh Drive and replacing the overpass with one, shorter bridge structure. The pair have towered over Walsh Drive for years, and once allowed trains to pass underneath, moving freight on an east-west path to the Glenrock area. However their age and design have led to increasing costs for maintenance over the past decade or so. Frequent issues have arisen with expansion joints, water retention after storms or snow events, and seemingly endless hours and materials spent patching the surface. The current bridges are curved and boxed - basically sealed from the outside - which has helped cause deterioration within the superstructures.

"This project will allow us to take care of a long term maintenance issue. We have expended a lot of time, effort, and funds over the past 10 years to maintain a safe, drivable surface for I-25 traffic through Casper," said District 2 Engineer Mark Ayen.

Ames Construction, of Burnsville, Minn., is currently constructing detour ramps for I-25 traffic in the area of Walsh Drive, or I-25 milepost 186.5. The detours will allow interstate traffic to bypass the construction area. Once completed, northbound traffic will be diverted via ramps to the eastbound lanes of Yellowstone Highway. Southbound traffic will be diverted to the area just to the south of the bridges. Interstate traffic will be one lane, either direction, during the project. Traffic on Yellowstone Highway will be one lane, either direction diverted to the current



A look of the Walsh Drive bridges from below.

westbound lanes. Yellowstone Highway and interstate traffic will be separated by barriers and will not be able to interact.

"Because of the size of the existing, and planned structures, there are challenges in constructing this work during the usual construction seasons. Therefore, the project has been sequenced such that we are building detours that will carry all I-25 traffic, both northbound and southbound, for the entire duration of the project," Ayen said.

The detours also allow Ames Construction to work continuously without needing to shut down the project during the winter months or work under traffic.

Ayen said the project was made more challenging because the bridges span an old railroad bed that is now a part of the City of Casper's Rails to Trails system. Although not currently in service nor do tracks exist, the Rails to Trails agreement requires the replacement struc-

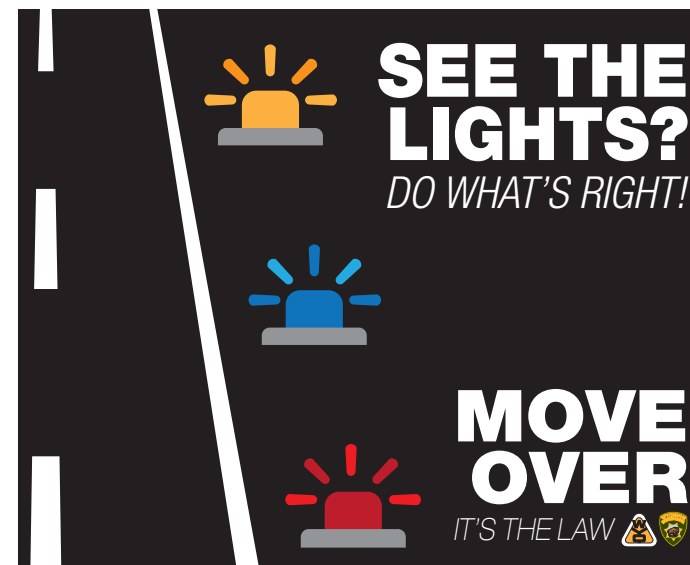
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A look at the bridge decking, illustrative of the maintenance challenges on the Walsh Drive Bridges over the years.

tures had to be designed to be able to accommodate a future railroad track if it was needed. The bed is currently used as a multi-use path.

Ames was awarded the project contract in April 2021 in the amount of \$29.7 million. The entire project is expected to be completed by June 30, 2023. The replacement bridges will be approximately 850 feet long each, or about half the length of the current structures. This is the first of three projects on I-25 through Casper over the next six years. ■



Northwest Wyoming - A

A1 Ten Sleep East project (US 16), bridge rehabilitation on four bridges, 1,200 ft. of reconstruction, 2-inch pavement mill/ overlay.

A2 US 26/287 between Dubois, Moran Junction. Asphalt patching (2.1 miles) on Togwoote Pass: between MMs 26.20 and 26.70; MMs 24.08 and 24.48; MMs 21.00 and 21.15; MMs 17.88 and 18.03; MMs 17.04 and 17.14; MMs 16.70 and 16.90; MMs 8.78 and 9.18; MMs 3.63 and 3.73; and MMs 3.45 (3.45 miles east of Moran Junction) and 3.55. About 5 miles of US 26/287 will see asphalt pavement surfacing, chip sealing, fencing and other work 10 miles west of Dubois, continuing to the U.S. Forest Service boundary (milepost 40.68). Completion date October 2021.

A3 US26 Riverton Main Street concrete rehabilitation. Project is 0.50 miles in length between North Federal Boulevard and North 1st Street in the Riverton city limits. The project includes concrete milling, asphalt paving, and curb, gutter and Americans with Disabilities Act ramp repairs. Completion date is Oct. 31.

A4 WYO 296 slide repair and road work at MM 32.50. Single lane detour in place. Delays expected.

A5 District bridge rehabilitation on five bridges in Fremont, Big Horn, Washakie counties.

A6 District fencing. Various locations. WYO 28, US 287. October 2021 completion.

A7 US 26/89/189/191 Jackson South. Milling, paving, wearing course work on 3.10 miles beginning at MM 148.70.

A8 WYO 120 settlement project north of Cody. On WYO 120 (MM 115-MM 118.5). Includes 1-inch of asphalt leveling, 2-inches of overlay, chip sealing. Completion date October 2021.

A9 US 287/Lander Main Street concrete repair/pavement overlay – 16.2 miles. Concrete grinding, concrete joint sealing, asphalt paving, chip sealing, curb, gutter, ADA ramp repairs. July 2021 completion.

A10 Cowley/Deaver paving and chip sealing improvements MM 243.23-MM 249.42 (6 miles) of US 310. The \$1.64 million project includes a 1-inch profile milling and a 2-inch pavement overlay and chip seal. Completion date is Oct. 31, 2021.

Southwest Wyoming - B

B1 Between Rock Springs and Rawlins. Grading, draining, placing bases, bituminous surfacing, concrete pavement, bridge rehab, bridge replacement. 12.70 miles on I-80 at MM 107.63.

B2 La Barge Interchange West: Grading, milling, paving, concrete pavement, bridge rehabs on 5.30 miles of WB I-80 at MM 77.45. October completion.

B3 US 189 Muddy Creek: Grading, milling, paving, chip seal on 8.20 miles of US 189 at MM 10.23. October completion.

B4 I-80 east of Lyman. Grading, milling, resurfacing and bridge rehab between MM 49-57. October 2021 completion.

B5 WYO 238 Auburn to Afton: MM 0-12. Grading, draining, placing crushed base and pavement surfacing, reclamation, chip seal,

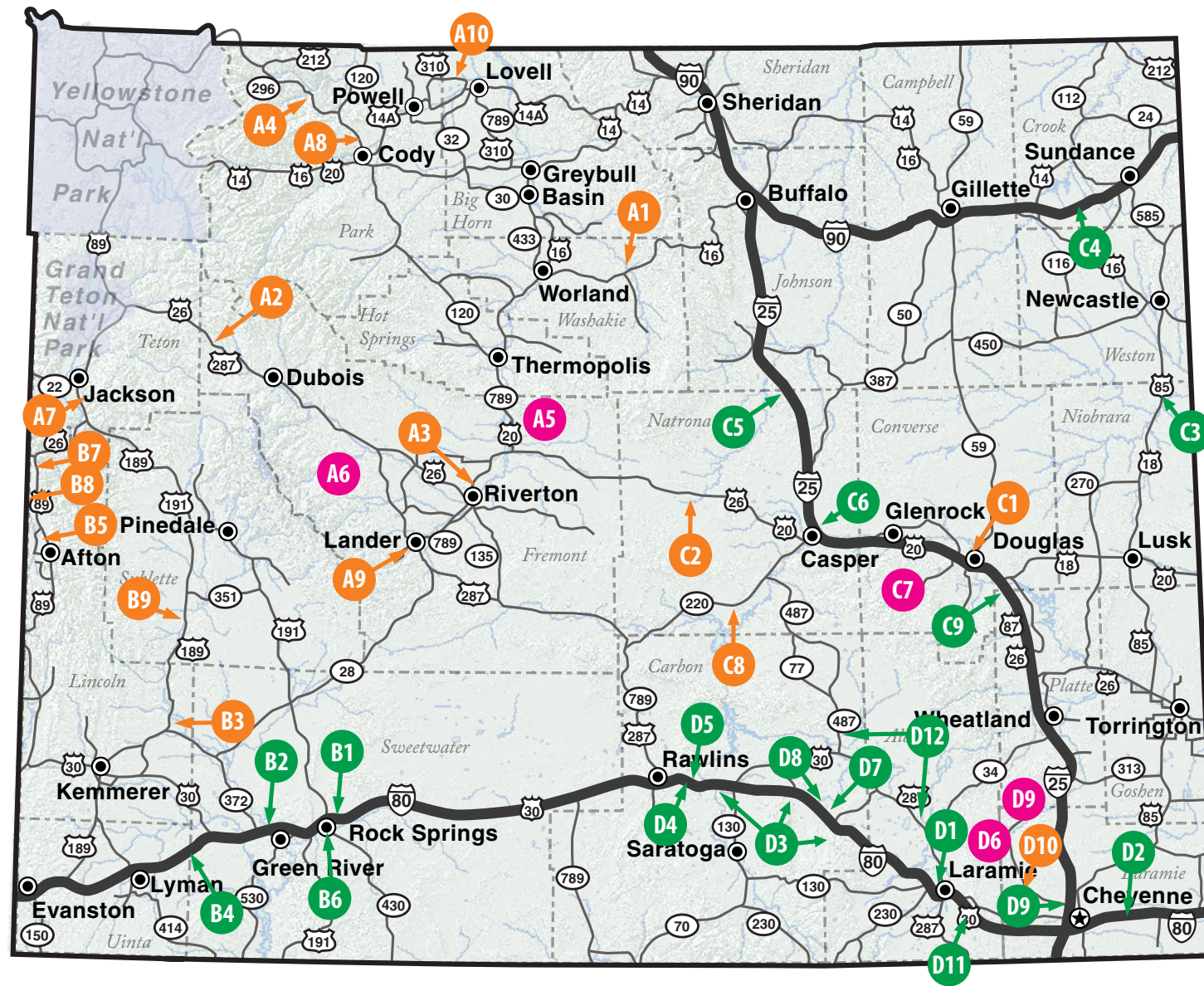
bridge replacements on 12.10 miles. Fall completion.

B6 Rock Springs/I-80 Interchange Road: Grading, draining, placing bases, bituminous pavement surfacing, concrete pavement, removal/replacement of structure, conduit system, water systems on 1 mile.

B7 Etna North: Grading, draining, crushed base, bituminous surfacing, full depth reclamation on 9.30 miles of US 89 at MM 108.13.

B8 WYO 239 Bridge work: Bent cap replacement, other work on WYO 239 at MM 0.94 at the Salt River Bridge.

B9 Big Piney West: Grading, milling plant mix, bituminous surfacing, reclaimed asphalt pavement on 4.81 miles of WYO 350 at MM 0.25.



Legend

- I** **Interstate highway work zones:** Generally, there are no delays or detours. Travel may be narrowed to one lane (on pavement) each way and involve a reduced speed limit.
- P** **Two-lane road projects:** Motorists may be required to stop and wait to follow pilot cars. Usually, any delays are limited to 20 minutes or less and travel is on pavement.
- R** **Two-lane road projects:** At times, motorists may have to drive on gravel or another temporary surface, typically for two miles or less. Delays are limited, there are no detours unless specifically noted but there may be a pilot car.
- D** **District-wide projects:** Various locations, may involve reduced speeds.

Not every project is listed

Due to the unpredictable nature of the construction process, not all projects are active all the time. In addition, some short-term projects and smaller projects which disrupt traffic to a lesser degree are not listed. Completion dates are approximate.

Commercial vehicle operators: In work zones, size and weight restrictions may apply. Ask for details at any Wyoming port of entry or call (307) 777-4376. Current restrictions are also available on the Internet at www.wyroad.info/highway/restrictions.html.

**Check the construction report online at:
www.wyroad.info: Construction – Statewide**

Central & Northeast Wyoming - C

C1 WYO 59: Reconstruction, intersection work, bridge rehab, new pavement between MM 0-8.75. October completion.

C2 US 20/26: Grading, milling, fencing, new pavement on 8.8 miles between MM 21.24 and 30.

C3 US 85 milled surface, paving between MM 202 and 215. July completion.

C4 I-90 bridge deck repairs on 6 structures reduced to one lane between MM 160-168.

C5 I-25: Grading, structure repair, new pavement northbound lanes between MM 244-254 near TTT interchange.

C6 I-25 MM 186: Remove and replace two structures over Walsh Drive. Anticipated 2023 completion.

C7 District 2 bridge rehab: Various locations within Converse, Laramie, Natrona, Platte counties:

US 20/27/87 MM 187.83; I-25 MM 172.12 SB; I-25 MM 160.87 SB; I-25 MM 110.55 NB; I-25 Service Road MM 14.31; I-25 Service Road MM 2.45; and WYO 320 MM 2.52. Oct. 31, 2021 completion.

C8 Passing lane resurfacing on WYO 220 between Muddy Gap, Casper. Project on 8 miles of pavement and new 1,000-ft. passing lane. New fencing installed. Completion date: June 30, 2022.

C9 Resurfacing on 8 miles of I-25 between Glendo, Douglas. Mill, overlay and resurface interstate with median work. Completion date is Oct. 31, 2021.

Southeast Wyoming - D

D1 I-80/west Laramie (MM 313-310) – pavement, bridge work in both EB & WB lanes. Lane closures, reduced speed limits, delays merging at on-ramps. Expected completion: fall 2021.

D2 I-80 near Hillsdale (MM 372-382) – bridge replacement, pavement work. Expect head-to-head lanes, reduced speeds. Expected completion: October 2021.

D3 I-80 Winter Freight – Fort Steele Rest Area (MM 228). Rest Area remains closed, avoid parking in interchange. Pavement work near Halleck Ridge (MM 250.5-252.5), between Cooper Cove/Quealy Dome (MM 279.5-281.5). Expect lane closures, reduced speeds. Expected completion: 2022.

D4 I-80 near Sinclair (MM 221-227.5) – pavement, bridge work. Traffic in head-to-head configuration in WB lanes while crews work EB lanes. Expected completion: fall 2022.

D5 WYO 76/Sinclair (near I-80/MM 221) – Bridge work on overpass/I-80 interchange, single lane with traffic light directing movement across bridge. Expect delays. Expected completion: fall 2021.

D6 Bridge work in Laramie County – Lane closures, reduced speeds on US 30/ Lincolnway near Missile Drive in Cheyenne, I-80 over Southwest Drive (MM 360), US 85/ South Greeley Highway near Allison Road (MM 7.74), WYO 213 in Burns (MM 2.61),

WYO 215 near Pine Bluffs (MM 0.22). Expect delays. Expected completion: late fall 2021.

D7 I-80/Quealy Dome (MM 291.5-282.7) – Bridge, pavement work on I-80 between Quealy Dome, Cooper Cove. Expect lane closures, reduced speeds. A 13 ft. width restriction. Expected completion: spring 2022.

D8 I-80/Elk Mountain (MM 252-258) – earthwork for milling. Paving project begun in WB lanes. Expect lane closures, reduced speeds, potential delays. A multi-year project with work in EB lanes to start in 2022.

D9 Laramie County – Durable markings, striping on I-80 between MM 362-372, I-25 between 0-11.59, US 85/South Greeley Highway between MM 7.3-8.3. Slow moving operation, potential delays. Avoid passing due to wet striping. Estimated completion: July 2021.

D10 WYO 211/Horse Creek Road (MM 20.46) – bridge repair project, traffic alternating on single lane with yield. Expect delays. 12 ft. width restriction. Expected completion: fall 2021.

D11 I-80/Telephone Canyon (MM 319) – Rockfall mitigation, far right lane closed. Expect delays. Expected completion: fall 2021.

D12 Bridge rehabilitation projects at WYO 487 (MM 4.01), US 30 (MM 310.66). Expect delays; traffic signals/single-lane section of work zone. Expected completion: fall 2021.