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## Highway work 45 percent done

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Since January, orange cones and winding detours have been the norm on South Douglas Highway "□□" and it's going to stay that way the rest of the summer.

So far, contractor Concrete Works of Colorado has laid more than 30,000 square yards of concrete on the one-mile stretch of road. The \$19.8 million project will add two extra driving lanes and completely rebuild the old five-lane road. It also will create a raised center median.

The project is about 45 percent complete and is on schedule to meet an Oct. 31 completion date, said Josh Jundt, project engineer with the Wyoming Department of Transportation.

Concrete work suffered some delays over the last three weeks because of more than 6 inches of rain that fell. The contractor pulled out its concrete crew to finish a job in Colorado during the delay.



Construction continues on South Douglas Highway on Tuesday evening during rush hour. - News-Record photo by Sarah Voegele

"We're still on an accelerated schedule, and you'll start seeing a lot of action next week," said Ronda Holwell, Wyoming Department of Transportation spokeswoman.

With the exception of minor traffic complaints by a few businesses, Holwell said the people she's talked to have been amazed with how quick the work is being done.

"We haven't gotten any large-scale complaints, and (the public) has been extremely happy with the progress that's been made," Holwell said.

Minor traffic accidents in the construction zone between March and May have risen from 21 accidents in 2007 to 27 accidents, according to the Gillette Police Department. Holwell said only one major accident happened in April when a man was hit by a semi-truck.

WyDOT expects to start work on the highway north of Interstate 90 as soon as the southern portion is finished. Jundt said WyDOT plans to award the bid for the north end of the project in July, and will start a storm sewer project along Fifth Street that is

connected to the highway reconstruction this fall. "It's going to keep rolling," Jundt said.

By the numbers

Here's a rundown of the amount of work done and what's left:

- Total project: 45 percent done and on schedule for Oct. 31 completion
- Concrete pavement: 33,228 square yards done out of 80,731 square yards
- Curb and gutter: 4,403 lineal feet of 10,159 lineal feet
- Sidewalk: 2,694 square yards of 6,359 square yards
- Crushed base (gravel): 38,708 tons of 83,696 tons
- Box culvert (3-feet-by-6-feet): 3,069 feet installed (done)
- Storm sewer pipe: 6,809 ft installed (done)
- Dirt work excavated: 15,963 cubic yards of 36,956 cubic yards
- New traffic lights: 35 percent done

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