

# Wyoming **Road Work** guide

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## Crews busy in Gillette

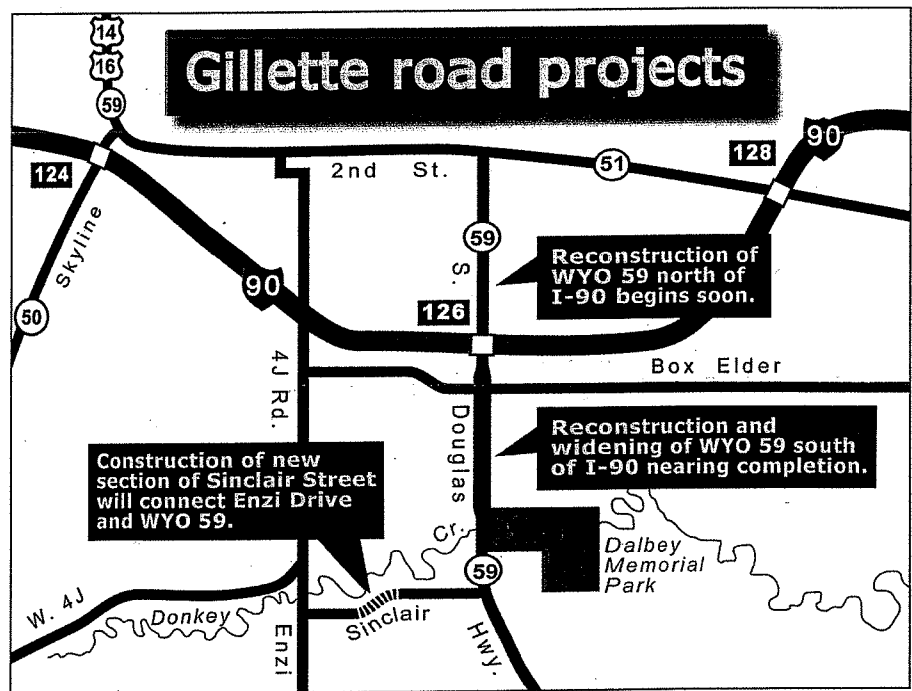
Road construction crews in Gillette are staying busy, thanks to three major WYDOT projects, together worth more than \$35 million, which are currently under contract.

Foremost (in terms of cost) among the three projects is the improvement of 1.2 miles of the WYO 59 (South Douglas Highway). The project begins at the WYO 59 Interchange on I-90 (exit 126) and extends southward to the Donkey Creek bridge adjacent to Dalbey Memorial Park. The \$19.8 million reconstruction project includes widening the roadway from five to seven lanes and replacing old asphalt and concrete pavement with new concrete.

Work began in late January and has progressed quickly, relative to the scope of the project. The prime contractor, Concrete Works of Colorado, expects to have a majority of the work complete in October, considerably ahead of schedule.

"Overall, this project has gone quite smoothly. The contractor has been very proactive in their dealings with scheduling as well as the local businesses," WYDOT resident engineer Josh Jundt said.

The reconstructed roadway features three travel lanes in each direction and a center lane for left turns. A raised median provides an additional safety margin and access to and from side



streets and business approaches has also been improved. The project also includes improving storm and sanitary sewer facilities.

Preliminary work on another WYO 59 project is set to begin this month. The \$11.6 million effort, being undertaken by Upper Plains Contracting, involves 0.8 mile of the route from I-90 north to the intersection with WYO 51 (2nd Street) in downtown Gillette.

This second WYO 59 project will serve to reconstruct a five-lane section of the route, as well as replacing sidewalk and storm and sanitary sewer lines. A majority of the work will be undertaken next spring and

summer, ahead of the Sept. 30, 2009 completion date.

Meanwhile, in south Gillette, crews from Intermountain Construction and Materials are in the midst of a project on Sinclair Street which will provide a new connection between WYO 59 and Enzi Drive (which extends south from the intersection of 4J Road and West 4J).

Previously, Sinclair Street was split in two sections with a gap in the middle; the east section connected to WYO 59 while the west section connected to Enzi. The current project consists of widening (to five lanes) the east section of Sinclair and building a

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## Energy development increases spur traffic

### Continued from front

matching new section to close the gap. Sewer upgrades and new sidewalk are also included in the project, which has a completion date of Nov. 30, 2008.

The busy Gillette project schedule is a reflection the steady increase in traffic from continuing energy development in the area. From 2000 to 2007, Gillette posted a 23-percent increase in population, tops among Wyoming's larger municipalities, while surrounding Campbell County posted a 20-percent increase, second only to Sublette County.



A widened stretch of WYO 59 in south Gillette takes shape.