

Scott-Broadway project receives federal funding

By Robert Waggener

Staff reporter

The Wyoming Transportation Commission has approved \$250,000 for "streetscaping" in conjunction with the reconstruction of Scott Street and Broadway.

The federal funds — which are passed through the state — will be used to install decorative lighting and sidewalks, as well as trees on the street, according to Wyoming Department of Transportation spokesman Bruce Burrows of Cheyenne.

City officials said Monday they don't know if the funding will be in place by next construction season, when work could begin, and whether that would delay the project.

Burrows responded, "Although the project has been approved, the actual beginning of work will be delayed somewhat until a new federal transportation funding bill is passed by Congress and signed by the president. We're not in a position to speculate when that will get done."

The Transportation Enhancement Activities — Local grant program provides support for improving local transportation-related facilities.

Burrows said the program will provide 80 percent of the total project cost, with the city supplying a 20-percent match, she said.

Whitney Benefits Inc. is providing some land (as an in-kind donation) and funding for the local match, according to board President Tom Kinnison.

"Whitney participated by doing some in-kind and some funding for the TEAL grant. Whitney will provide easements for public parking by Sheridan Commercial and the Whitney Vocational Center," Kinnison said.

In all, Burrows said, the Transportation Commission approved \$2.1 million for 15 transportation-enhancement projects to begin during the coming year.

The recent contract awards bring the grand total for the Wyoming TEAL program, which was originated in 1993, to more than 150 projects worth about \$23 million.