

Uncertain Roads

Highway Bill Inaction Holding Up State Planning

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF

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Next week's expiration of the federal highway bill is creating uncertainty for South Dakota projects, a state official said Thursday.

Congress has extended the highway bill twice, said Joel Jundt, director of the division of planning and engineering with the South Dakota Department of Transportation (DOT). The original bill expired last September and was extended to May and

again to July 31. "There will very likely be another short-term extension," he said during a webinar marking the last public hearing on the Statewide Transportation Improve-

hearing on the Statewide **Nelson** Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). The expired highway bill isn't the only concern for state officials, Jundt said. The federal highway trust fund is also projected to run out of funds at about the same time. Without adequate funding, the federal government could look to reduce its reimbursement to the states for transportation projects, Jundt said. That may mean rolling back projects at the state and local levels.

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IMAGE: METRO GRAPHICS



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Following The Family Trail



Descendent Of Meriwether Lewis Explores Yankton Area Thursday

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The Corps of Discovery Expedition may have concluded more than two centuries ago, but there's another Lewis in town – and he's following in his relative's footsteps.

Richard Lewis – a second cousin, six generations removed, to Meriwether Lewis – along with his wife Margaret, visited Yankton Thursday as part of their voyage to retrace Richard's family history back to 1803, when President Thomas Jefferson appointed Meriwether to steer an expedition to explore the Louisiana Purchase.

"I think the Lewis family is very proud of Meriwether and it's nice to see him recognized. I'm very proud of him and the whole expedition,"



KELLY HERTZ/P&D

Richard Lewis, who is a second cousin, six generations removed, to explorer Meriwether Lewis, visited Yankton Thursday as he and his wife, Margaret, retrace the trail of the Corps of Discovery expedition of Lewis and Clark took in exploring the northern reaches of the Louisiana Purchase in 1804. The Lewises, who live in Virginia, are pictured in front of the sculpture, "Spirit of Discovery," which stands in from of Yankton's Lewis and Clark Specialty Hospital to honor the expedition.

Officials Celebrate Pipeline's Past, Future

BY ROB NIELSEN

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Most visitors — and even many residents — are unaware that hundreds of thousands of gallons of Canadian oil have been flowing beneath the Yankton area for the last five years on the long trek to refineries in the south.

Thursday, local officials and officials with TransCanada celebrated the fifth anniversary of the completion of the Keystone Pipeline in Yankton which just recently sent its billionth barrel of oil south this month. Stakeholders attended a luncheon at the Hillcrest Country Club and a tour of the Keystone Pipeline's Hartington pump station. The event also touted the proposed Keystone XL pipeline.

Mayor Dave Carda spoke on the impact that building the Keystone system had on the city — saying it came in at the right time.

"In 2009, Yankton was fortunate enough

to have (Keystone) to help our economy grow when the pipeline was built through Yankton," Carda said. "Our economy was slow at the time. I saw that where I work at Kolberg-Pioneer. We were laying off people left and right, so this was a huge boost for our environment."

Carda said the influx of workers was a huge boost to the area.

"As a community, we were happy to see them come in — whether it be the temporary workers that stayed in the hotels, the campgrounds," he said. "They brought their families into town and they just moved into our community. ... These skilled workers worked with their families. They moved in to enjoy what we have in Yankton and the surrounding communities, eating at our restaurants, shopping at our stores and enjoying all our local tourist attractions that we have in our community at a time we really needed that." Bob Cappell, who was director of the Yank-

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ROB NIELSEN/P&D TransCanada officials lead a tour of the Keystone Pipeline's Hartington pump station Thursday during an appreciation event celebrating the pipeline's fifth year of operation. Richard told the *Press & Dakotan* during a stop Thursday.

For as long as he can remember, Richard has been educated about his family's history by relatives. However, his personal interest took some time to develop.

"People's intensity and desire about (history) is variable," he said. "You get more interested as you get older."

Having developed a deeper interest throughout his years, he recognized the moment to complete this expedition should not be delayed any longer.

"I'm almost 73 years old and you never know – next year, you may not feel like doing it," he said.

To accompany the Lewis' around Yankton's historic locations was local resident Ken Jones. A retired pharmacist, Jones also served as the South Dakota representative on the Lewis and Clark Trail Commission before the group disbanded after completion.

Jones, his wife Kaye and the Lewises started the tour of Yankton by visiting the monument of Pierre Dorion, an interpreter on the expedition who is rarely written about or appraised, according to Jones.

"When you think of Lewis and Clark expedition, you never hear of (Dorion)," Jones said. "Dorion was a French fur trader and went down to St. Louis with his goods when he met the expedition who then hired him as an interpreter. He's the one who set up the party with the Indians on Calumet Bluff. They thought so much of him they hired him to

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