

COLUMBIA COUNTY

TRANSPORTATION SAFETY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, June 03, 2026, 07:30 am

MINUTES

- ❖ **Call to Order-07:30 am** **Chair – Jeff Peterson**

- ❖ **Sign In / Introductions –** **Chair – Jeff Peterson**
 - Present: Mark Buffington, *ODOT*; Jared Britton, *ODOT*; Walt McAllister, *ODOT*; Alex Bird, *City of Saint Helens*; Jeff Peterson, *Columbia County*; Mike Russell, *Columbia County*; Grant DeJongh, *Columbia County*; Tim Hancock, *Columbia County*; Ryan Wallis, *Columbia County*; Casey Garrett, *Columbia County commissioner*; Chris Fluellen, *Scappoose Police Department*; Alex Bubar, *Columbia County Sheriff's Office*; CT Brownlow, *trucking industry rep.*; Jay Tappan, *citizen at large*; Lynn Chiotti, *citizen-at-large*; Rosemary Lohrke, *citizen at large*; Bill Edder, *guest*; two note-taking robots

- ❖ **Meeting minute approval –** **Chair – Jeff Peterson**
 - Rosemary Lohrke moved, Jay Tappan seconded – unanimous

- ❖ **Other business –** **Chair – Jeff Peterson**
 - Bylaw revision
 - Chair had sent bylaws for review. Proposed the following changes:
 - Article V, Sec. C, change quorum from 9 (of 17 positions) to 50% +1 of active voting members (filled positions).
 - Article V, Sec. A, change meeting start time from 06:45 to 07:30.
 - Article V, Sec. A, remove the portion that indicates there will be no meetings in July or August.
 - Bylaws currently with County Counsel.

- ❖ **Roundtable Updates -** **All Members**
 - A. Law Enforcement (Scappoose)
 - a. Personnel
 - i. One (1) graduate at the end of July
 - ii. One (1) recent graduate finishing solo training
 - iii. Adding a couple of specialists in department – detective and K-9 drug detection (pending approval)
 - b. Crash last week – property damage, DUI
 - c. DRE-instructor certificate just acquired in department
 - d. Dave Sukau, public works director for City of Scappoose, resigned
 - i. Question about who was taking over for Dave in the meanwhile – unsure, city manager handling planning for that position
 - e. Saturday is Outdoor Fun Fest in Scappoose

B. Law Enforcement (OSP) - absent

C. Law Enforcement (CCSO)

- a. Traffic crashes in the month – 54 – all agencies in county
- b. Traffic stops in the month – 767 – all agencies in county
- c. Will keep providing updates to TSC

D. ODOT

- a. Talking about budget again since the referendum struck down the transportation funding
 - i. Good for FY 2027
 - ii. Will have acceptable level of service until around June 2027
- b. Four (4) paving jobs this season
 - i. In Columbia County, Tide Creek and Rainier Hill
- c. Mowing, brush cutting, sign cleaning
- d. Paving week of 06/08 – rut grinding in Rainier, then Saint Helens – Scappoose
- e. Highway 30 MP 34 crash – fatality – semi vs. car last month (near Canaan Road and straightaway)
- f. Question about Neer City Road improvements
 - i. Bridge project will include a turn pocket for Neer City Road
- g. Question about whether sensors and hazard lights can be added to dangerous crossings/intersections to alert drivers of other vehicles
 - i. Can look into this

E. Columbia County Public Works

- a. Paving schedule
 - i. Pittsburg at Hwy 30 in June
 - 1. June 09 – culvert replacement and french drain – road closure
 - 2. June 22-23 – grind and pave – assisted living facility to Hwy 30 – road closure
- b. Chip seal
 - i. Chip seal will begin around August 03
 - ii. Crews will begin stockpiling
- c. Brush cutting, ditching
 - i. Appreciation of work being done on Canaan-Meissner
 - ii. Part of programmatic cutting approach
- d. Question about Chapman Road – right before bridge, pavement on shoulder cracking
- e. Question about Apiary Road culverts – Meissner Road to MP 8.4
 - i. Meissner Road – temporary fix, looking into permanent solution
 - ii. MP 8.0 – keeping an eye on this one
 - iii. MP 8.4 – plans being drafted, should be done this summer; looking for funding for construction – not this summer

F. Trucking Industry Representative – absent

G. Bicycle and Pedestrian Rep - absent

H. City of Saint Helens Public Works

- a. PAC meeting in July for TSP update (evaluations, goals, objectives)
- b. Scappoose-Saint Helens trail – alignment and alternatives being reviewed

- i. Current challenges with some alignments noted, working on solutions
- c. Sanitary sewer project for basins 4 and 6
 - i. Bids came in high – working on negotiations with lowest apparent bidder
 - ii. Bids higher than DEQ grant
- d. Sykes Road – signal update associated with sewer project
- e. Striping with County in city limits – striping is getting serviced, should be ready soon

I. City of Scappoose Public Works – absent

J. Citizens-at-large

- a. Lynn Chiotti
 - i. Messaging to pedestrians (especially kids) – pay attention
 - ii. Alex noted that they had a lot of interest from kids at high school about speed zone study

K. 911 Rep – absent

L. Columbia County Commissioners

- a. NWACT – capital project selection for region (top five) for next 10-year period
 - i. 1-3 – Highway 6 improvements
 - ii. 4 – Scappoose to Saint Helens Highway 30 corridor signal improvements
 - iii. Looked at crash data at Gable Road intersection and High School Way intersection – consulting with cities, decided to move to a corridor approach rather than one discrete location – now looking at crash data between both cities
- b. Gilmore Road – ODOT and Columbia County looking at way to protect road from migrating creek – glad there could be partnership on this
- c. Budget complete – vote in a couple of weeks

M. School Bus Rep – absent

N. Oregon Impact – absent

O. Guest – Bill Edder

- a. Is there a place (website, email, *etc.*) where the public can reach out about potholes/road maintenance? Difficult for everyone to know where jurisdictional lines are
 - i. No clearinghouse for road requests, but ODOT can direct people to correct agencies – AskODOT or contact Mark Buffington
 - ii. No current method of public knowing for sure where jurisdictional lines are (*e.g.*, GIS) without reaching out to agencies
 - iii. Pothole fixes (temp. vs. permanent) are dependent on season, budget

❖ **Open Discussion**

❖ **Next Meeting** – Tentatively July 01, 2026

Chair

❖ **Adjourn** – 8:36 AM

Chair