

COLUMBIA COUNTY
TRANSPORTATION AND ROAD ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Thursday, February 19, 2026, 10 am

MINUTES

- ❖ **Call to Order-10:04 am** **Chair- Rosemary Lohrke**

- ❖ **Sign In / Introductions –** **Chair – Rosemary Lohrke**
 - Present: Pat LaPointe (utility community), Karl Webster (CRPUD), Nita Greene (citizen-at-large), Paul Langner (City of Rainier), Rosemary Lohrke (citizen-at-large), Sabrina Moore (citizen-at-large), Mike Russell (CCPW), Grant DeJongh (CCPW), Tim Hancock (CCPW), Julie Wheeler (CCPW)

- ❖ **Approve Minutes** **Members**
 - Mr. LaPointe moved to approve minutes from October 16, 2025, meeting.
 - Ms. Greene seconded.
 - Motion passed unanimously.

- ❖ **Open Forum for Comments –** **Members and Guests**
 - Sabrina Moore stated that no minutes have been posted online since November 2024. She would like to be added back to the distribution list to receive notification of meetings and minutes.

- ❖ **Updates/Discussion -** **Mike Russell, PW Director**
 - Crew Consolidation at the St. Helens Shop
 - Management is interested in having the department be run with a more activity-based maintenance work plan. A slide show was presented. Please find attached the Power Point slides.
 - This plan originally had a goal of starting at the end of March, but they're still figuring out how the new program will be implemented.
 - Currently the Road Department is operating more reactively instead of activity based.
 - Road ratings overall are 52 out of 100. The roads are deteriorating quickly.
 - Paul Langner mentioned that in 2027 the PERS collar comes off and employee costs will increase by 33%.
 - Tim reviewed the 2026 Work Plan.
 - Sabrina discussed having conference calls in the morning as opposed to all the crews in St. Helens. The consolidation would create more wear and tear on the equipment and increase travel times.

- ❖ **Round Table Discussion** **Chair & Members**
 - Tim Hancock
 - Reviewed chip sealing and other project updates
 - Sabrina Moore
 - Brought up the Old Portland Road intersection realignment with Millard Road. Mike noted he will look into a fix there, a wedge of asphalt perhaps, to assist large trucks to make the corner.

- Inquired if there's any money available from the General Fund. Mike replied that there isn't any at this time. Perhaps a bond could be brought to the voters to benefit the County roads.
- Stated that the inefficiency in government is appalling and not cost effective.
- Paul Langner
 - Brought up how the furloughs aren't accomplishing anything. The inflation rate is way more than any money that may have been saved by implementing them.
- Mike Russell
 - Side by Side Ordinance allowing them to drive on the County roads
 - Sheriff Pixley is not interested in a blanket ordinance. Perhaps they would be okay on gravel roads with speed limits of less than 45 mph.
 - Registration of UTV's
 - Where do the fees collected go? Who benefits from them?
 - Most injuries/deaths occur to UTV occupants when versus cars.
 - Pat rides his UTV on the road with an orange triangle on the back for safety.
 - Paul stated that City of Rainier has very tight parameters set on the use of ATVs in the city limits.
 - Mike is interested in the City of Rainier's ordinance and their process to creating it.
 - There will be more discussions on the formulation of this ordinance and TRAC's involvement will be appreciated.
 - TRAC Vacancies
 - There are a few vacant positions. He's looking into getting more members.

❖ **Next Meeting** – May 21, 2026

Chair

❖ **Adjourn** – 11:00 AM

Chair

Respectfully Submitted By,



Julie Wheeler
TRAC Secretary