

Columbia County Traffic Safety Commission
Minutes
January 8, 2025

Order: Chair, Jeff Peterson, called the meeting to order at 7:30 A.M.

Present: Voting: Peterson, Chiotti, Barrow, Russell, Tappan, Garrett, Lohrke, Bird, Suka

Non-Voting: Fluelan, Buffington, Miller, Smythe

There was discussion, to be continued, on who we are required to provide with copies of minutes since it is a public meeting. Also, that it would be a good idea to send them to a public site so that more people are aware of what Traffic Safety Commission does.

There was a complaint from the school bus company about opposing traffic not stopping on Highway 30 for flashing lights as required. A part of the problem is public awareness. A suggestion was made by the bus drivers that, in the Warren Area, the 50 mph speed limit signs be accented by flashing yellow lights. ODOT says that isn't likely to happen.

Law Enforcement: Fluellen: Scappoose has given lots of DUIs recently. Radar signs continue to move to locations where needed. Speeding complaints are down overall. Two new sergeants will be coming as soon as background checks are finished.

Bicycles/Pedestrians: Barrow: The vaults on the shoulders of the highway can be quite slippery and bikes come upon them unexpectedly. Barrow asked if it was possible to find a way to warn bicyclists of upcoming vaults and if there is possibly a way to make them not slippery. On June 14 will be the Columbia County Challenge. It will start in Clatskanie this year. Info. on website.

ODOT: Buffington: Have been facing lots of rain in other counties. ODOT is generously represented in the proposed State budget. Weather has been good - so far.

Miller: Good weather has allowed for brush cutting, clean up and some construction work.

Fire and Rescue: Smythe: Very busy. Increasing staffing as is possible. Lots of calls to apartment buildings.

State Police: Traffic is especially heavy from 3 P.M. to 6 P.M. between Linnton and Scappoose.

Columbia County Roads: Russell: Using sanding and deicer. A lot of water escaped from culverts and several trees were down.

Scappoose-Vernonia will be closed in August for bridge replacement - Apiary will be the alternate route. The Road Department will be going to Salem during Legislative Session to lobby for road money. During ice events, EM Watts speed will be 15 mph with folding Watch for Ice signs. Water is coming onto the road from a driveway. Placement of folding signs was discussed.

City of St. Helens: Alex Bird: City is working with the contractor to make S.H. Street two-way. Upcoming will be a 60 day closure of 1st and St. Helens near Columbia Theater. TSP update coming up. Speed zone on Gable is still in the works. Speed zone signs will be flagged as NEW using black and yellow signs. 13 Nights will hopefully be held downtown.

City of Scappoose: Dave Suka: Dutch Cannon Road - confusion with C-Com about boundaries will be addressed between the parties. Who does deicer and sanding is affected. PUD is doing a large construction project on Dutch Canyon Road.

- Next month's meeting postponed until February 12 - meetings will begin at 7:30 until April.
- Participants can hear better on zoom.
- We will readdress the discussion on distribution of minutes

Submitted by Rosemary Lohrke, Secretary