

Columbia County Traffic Safety Committee
Minutes
April 2, 2025

Meeting called to order by Chair, Jeff Peterson, at 7:35 A.M.

Trucking representative from CT Brownlow trucking was introduced to the group and is a welcome addition. Mr. Brownlow was voted in as a new member resulting from a motion made by Jeff Peterson.

Approval of March Minutes - Motion to Approve, Brownlow: Second, Russell
Motion passed.

Approval of February Minutes - Motion to Approve, Russell: Second, Brownlow
Motion passed.

Present: (voting) Chioti, Brownlow (new member), Suka, Fluellen, Russell, Barlow, Bird
(non-voting) Miller, Kean, DeJongh, Mc Allister.

Law Enforcement:

Scappoose Police: Fluellen - SPD prepared for the planned peaceful protest, did an awareness event to encourage stopping for flashing red lights on school buses. Drivers were compliant; A driver fell asleep and ran into the high school - No drinking or drugs were involved; SPD has hired a new sergeant - McKensey McCord.

State Police: Kean: State police now have 4 officers. They have issued 30 DUIIs so far this year.

Bicycle/Pedestrian:

Barlow: Several upcoming events: Run on Trial; Banks to Vernonia; Amani Center Race, April 26; Earth Day Event, Scappoose, April 26; Reach the Beach, May 17; Apiary to 47, June 14; Bridge Run, beginning of June.

ODOT:

Messing Creek is in the works; Bridge on Apiary will be closed starting June 15; Cleaning slides on 47; Creeks on grates project; Bump on 26; Funding for Manning Rd. is hopeful and likely; Vegetation spraying starts tomorrow.

Columbia River Fire and Rescue:

Smyth: There has been a steady uptick in calls - trying out 10 firefighters per shift; getting ready for Spring; Volunteer numbers are down - volunteers are a challenge with each volunteer costing \$50,000 to train.

County Roads:

Russell: Cleanup starts tomorrow. Summer projects - 12 miles of chip seal together with 9 miles of patch paving on Scappoose-Vernonia Rd.; Barlow reported slides on Scappoose-Vernonia trail.

City of St. Helens:

Bird: A user-activated RRFB (flashing beacon) is in the plans for pedestrian crossing on Gable Road. Speed study on Gable is ongoing; downtown closures stay in place for now; final completion of phase 1 - River Walk, streets, utilities - is coming: New projects (phase 2 underground) yet to come when funding is available. City is coordinating for TSP.

City of Scappoose:

Suka: Gearing up for Annual City Meeting; Budgets upcoming- looking to make the street fund better; Working on a Handicap RRXing; discussing a 10-year sunset on the city's 3 cent gasoline tax.

Grant Funds:

McAllister: There are grant funds available for EMS ... EMS is very interested. Russell commented on the value of these grants Mr. McAllister brings to our attention.

Meeting Adjourned: 8:25 A.M.

Submitted by Rosemary Lohrke, Secretary