

Columbia County Traffic Safety Committee  
May,7 2025  
Minutes

Meeting called to order by Chair, Jeff Peterson, at 7:30 A.M.

Approval of April Minutes - Delayed until the June meeting.

Present: (Voting) Garrett, Lohrke, Sukau, Russell, Bird, Peterson, Brownlow, Hendrix, Fluellan, Hancock.

(Non-voting) Buffington, Miller, McAllister, Lawrence

Housekeeping: Discussion of finalization of Brownlow's member status. He has submitted his paperwork to the county and is a voting member.

Law Enforcement:

Scappoose: Fluellen: Scappoose has hired two new sergeants , one is a drug recognition expert. The Department assisted with a bad collision on Scappoose-Vernonia Road near Apple Valley. There is still ongoing construction on Callahan Rd.

ODOT: Buffington: This summer rumble strips will be installed all along Hwy. 30 except in populated areas. Upside-down slide at Tide Creek has stopped moving on Hwy. 30 for now. ODOT will take the opportunity to repave the section of road if they can get the money to do it. If they can't get money to repave, they will at least patch. Russell said that Tide Creek road itself is still on the move. Apiary closure will begin just after school lets out for the summer. ODOT will most likely strip Apiary when the work is finished. There's a grass roots effort to convince the state to let forest roads be used as a bypass while Apiary is closed. That won't happen because there are many issues involved in using forest roads.

Miller: Crews are finishing up on spraying vegetation. They have cleaned up a homeless camp and have found a defective culvert on Apiary that the county will need to take care of.

County Roads: Russell: The county has paved from Bennet to Bachelor Flat and will now be paving from Bachelor Flat to Stone Rd with an overlay. For two weeks in the middle of August the county will chip seal 9 miles of Scappoose-Vernonia. Will borrow some equipment from Clatsop County. Hancock: Other work - culvert on Firlock Park.

Patches and overlay on Pittsburg, Cater, Sweedtown, Scappoose-Vernonia - no big projects are scheduled this year - next summer the bridge at mile post 2 on Scappoose-Vernonia will be replaced. Options for West Oregon Electric which serves members on both sides of the bridge will be seriously considered. County will look at options for West Oregon Electric during the bridge closure.

Garrett: Budget meetings starting today. The County has negotiated for 20 furlough days with the employees and is looking for other funding solutions. We are advocating for a handful of things with the legislature. And are working on Senator Weber's Bill to improve safety on the Highway from the top of Rainier Hill to Seaside. It keeps getting harder to get money from local funding.

City of St. Helens: Bird: There will be no more detours. June 30 is the deadline for the ongoing project. Getting set up for the flashing beacon on Gable Road with a June 30 goal. Will be doing small patches.

City of Scappoose: Scappoose Traffic Safety Meeting is held remotely on the first Thursday of every month. The Callahan Road project is nearly complete. It is unknown whether the 25mph speed limit will be extended up Callahan. The street fund is in a good position with a couple of million dollars saved up. This year, they will move forward with a study to do ADH streets around the grade school. Some patching will be done. There have been few complaints about the Havik/Old Portland intersection since parking hasn't been allowed up to the intersection.

Grants and info: McCallister: The Grant process has closed - think longer term and get ahead of the grants. Safe Roads for All Grant - Word is that submitted requests are on hold.

General info. Information link: Oregon Health Authority transportation dashboard. Walt will share more information next meeting.

Oregon Impact: Janelle Lawrence: Reports: Most cases of PTSD are a result of traffic accidents. DUII and Speed are amongst grants offered.

Submitted by Rosemary Lohrke, Secretary