

Columbia County Traffic Safety Commission
Minutes
April 2, 2025

Meeting called to order by Jeff Peterson, Chair, 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) Chiotti, Brownlow (new member), Sukau, Fluellen, Russell,
Barlow, Bird
(nonvoting) Miller, Kean, DeJaun, McAllister

Law Enforcement:

Scappoose Police: Fluellen - Scappoose Police Department prepared for the planned peaceful protest: officers 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 four officers. They have issued 30 DUILs so far this year.

Bicycle and Pedestrian:

Barlow: There are several upcoming events: Run on Trail. Banks to Vernonia; Amanie Center Race, EarthDay Event, Reach the Beach, Apairy to 47, June 14 and Bridge Run, beginning of June.

ODOT: Miller: Messing Creek is in the works: Bridge on Apiary will be closed starting June 15; Cleaning slides on 47; Cracks on grates project: Bump26; Funding for Manning Rd. is hopeful and likely; vegetation spraying starts tomorrow.

Columbia County 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. 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. A speed study on Gable is ongoing. Downtown closures stay in place for now; final completion of phase 1 - River Walk, streets, utilities -are coming: New projects (phase 2 underground) is yet to come when funding is available. City is coordinating for TSP.

City of Scappoose: Sukkah: Gearing up for Annual City Meeting; Budgets upcoming - looking to make the street fund better; Working on a Hidicap RRxing; discussing a 10 year sunset on the city’s three 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