

**COLUMBIA COUNTY**  
**TRANSPORTATION SAFETY COMMITTEE**

**Wednesday, January 07, 2026, 07:30 am**

**MINUTES**

❖ **Call to Order-07:31 am**

**Chair – Jeff Peterson**

❖ **Sign In / Introductions –**

**Chair – Jeff Peterson**

- Present: Mark Buffington, *ODOT*; Jared Britton, *ODOT*; Dave Sukau, *City of Scappoose*; Alex Bird, *City of Saint Helens*; Jeff Peterson, *Columbia County*; Mike Russell, *Columbia County*; Grant DeJongh, *Columbia County*; Tim Hancock, *Columbia County*; Chris Fluellen, *City of Scappoose Police Department*; Alex Bubar, *Columbia County Sheriff's Office*; Rosemary Lohrke, *citizen at large*; Walt McAllister, *ODOT Transportation Safety*; Janelle Lawrence, *Oregon Impact*

❖ **Roundtable Updates -**

**All Members**

A. Law Enforcement (Scappoose)

- a. Two officers graduating from academy
- b. Severe crash at Old Portland Road and Highway 30 – no fatalities, flipped Chevy Silverado – will move radar trailer in the future, as this seems to help with reducing speed
- c. No other updates, complaint areas, *etc.*

B. Law Enforcement (OSP) – absent

C. Law Enforcement (CCSO)

- a. First meeting, will have more next time
- b. Some crashes throughout Columbia County, but most are not serious

D. ODOT

- a. Not much for Columbia County
- b. Weathered wind storm well in this area; Washington County and Tillamook County got hit hard – Highway 6 bump:
  - i. Pilot cars in eastbound lane; westbound is gone
  - ii. Saw some cracking – stopped to remove guard rail, add rock – seems to be working for now
  - iii. Should be rebuilt in first week of February
  - iv. \$2M (emergency funds) for 100 yards of road – seems to be the way things are handled currently
- c. Projects are still on track – Rainier Hill paving this summer – need about \$500K for Tide Creek bump repair, but not patch/pave budget – waiting to see what the reallocation looks like with no new transportation funding
- d. Trees came down during wind storm on Highway 30 and Highway 202
- e. Excavator down – awaiting repair
- f. Some ice after Christmas – deicer was placed early in the morning – chasing the cold conditions

- E. Columbia County Public Works
  - a. Anticipating one snow storm before the end of winter
  - b. December wind storm – all roads were open in one day, but had 16-hour shift
  - c. Lost power at PW office – ran generator – test for future events
  - d. Currently working on standards maintenance – rocking, grading
  - e. Otto Miller – rotten tree removal – pulling it down – too rotten to cut
  
- F. Trucking Industry Representative – absent
  
- G. Bicycle and Pedestrian Rep – absent
  
- H. City of Saint Helens Public Works
  - a. Couple of trees down during wind storm – River Street
  - b. National Engineers Week – reaching out to local high schools, talking about radar traffic counters – showing how speed studies are done
  - c. TSP – kick-off getting closer, waiting to hear from ODOT
  - d. Milton Creek Bridge – columns hit in accident, aesthetic damage, getting quotes for repairs
  
- I. City of Scappoose Public Works
  - a. Off-season for transportation
  - b. New plow – no need for use yet
  - c. Down two staff – anticipating seeing some turnover soon due to retirements (Parks, Utilities)
  - d. Vine Street school route project
    - i. RFP
    - ii. Wanted to do in 2026, too far behind schedule due to staffing
    - iii. Enhancing scope, larger project in 2027 (3<sup>rd</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, storm mitigation, *etc.*)
  - e. Looking at standardizing drywells throughout Scappoose – 20’ – get them installed, tie into them later – good idea of subsurface conditions in Scappoose, so this will help mitigate drainage
  - f. Questions about Scappoose roads:
    - i. EJ Smith or Dutch Canyon during wind storm? No issues.
    - ii. Keys Road is a mess (Huser subdivision) – County and City working on improvements at Keys Landing
    - iii. City will be working on Keys Road near reservoir (down to Bonnie Lane) - will work with County on restoration standard
    - iv. Miller Road has bad potholes – County to cold patch
  
- J. Citizens-at-large
  - a. Local detour concerns
    - i. Rainier rerouting was not handled well – are there preset routes?
    - ii. County TSP identifies routes
    - iii. There were emergency routes outlined in 2019-2020 – CCOM, emergency agencies, *etc.* should have them
    - iv. ODOT reaches out to locals if there will be a long-term closure/detour – this can get difficult with cities, some of which have had staff turnovers or contact changes – sometimes it is easier to just reach out and collaborate on a route
    - v. Local concern about highway traffic on local roads (*e.g.*, 2015 – Highway

- 30 traffic on Canaan-Meissner led to Meissner slide – repaired in 2023)
- vi. Detouring around Rainier in general is not easy – lots of ways to get people lost
- vii. CCOM does not always know who owns the road (cities, ODOT, county)
- viii. CCOM rep used to attend these meetings – director turnover
- ix. No reps from north County?

K. 911 Rep – absent

L. Columbia County Commissioners – absent

M. School Bus Rep – absent

N. Oregon Impact

- a. Introduction of Janelle and Oregon Impact
- b. Oregon Transportation Safety Committee asking for publication on why veterans appear to be disproportionately impacted by fatal collisions
- c. Happy to bring whatever educational information is needed, new topics

O. ODOT Transportation Safety

- a. Grant cycle about to begin – reach out if you would like information
- b. Law enforcement grants also about to start – will be of interest to law enforcement organizations
- c. No work on information from feds on their plans
- d. Safety Action Plan – what is the most important thing to work on in the next 20 years – members will want to look at this to make sure their concerns/plans are in this
- e. Wanted to see how local agencies are doing

❖ **Next Meeting** – Tentatively January 04, 2026

**Chair**

❖ **Adjourn** – 8:12 AM

**Chair**