

COLUMBIA COUNTY
TRANSPORTATION SAFETY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, February 04, 2026, 07:30 am

MINUTES

- ❖ **Call to Order-07:30 am** **Chair – Jeff Peterson**

- ❖ **Sign In / Introductions –** **Chair – Jeff Peterson**
 - Present: 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*; James Macfarlane, *Columbia County Sheriff's Office*; Alex Bubar, *Columbia County Sheriff's Office*; Casey Garrett, *Columbia County Commissioner*; Corey Padrón, *Columbia County Emergency Management*; CT Brownlow, *trucking industry representative*; Paul Barlow, *bicycle and pedestrian representative*; Lynn Chiotti, *citizen at large*; Jay Tappan, *citizen at large*; Rosemary Lohrke, *citizen at large*; Walt McAllister, *ODOT Transportation Safety*; Janelle Lawrence, *Oregon Impact*; two note-taking robots

- ❖ **Meeting minute approval –** **Chair – Jeff Peterson**
 - December 2025 meeting minutes – amended roundtable section C.c. to provide information about officer training and status
 - Casey Garrett motioned approval as amended, CT Brownlow seconded – passed unanimously
 - January 2026 meeting minutes –
 - Chris Fluellen motioned approval, CT Brownlow seconded – passed unanimously

- ❖ **Oregon Impact Public Outreach – Traffic Accidents and Traumatic Brain Injury** **Janelle Lawrence**
 - Traumatic head injuries are on the rise; typically result in vision problems, which require corrective surgery
 - Per doctor testimonial, these are entirely preventable
 - To provide young people with tools to help understand the implications of this, Oregon Impact has had glasses cut that simulate the vision impairment resulting from traumatic brain injury
 - Oregon Impact also has a speaker who attends to attest to the accuracy of the impacts after being in a collision involving an impaired driver
 - Participants are given the glasses to wear while trying to play Jenga
 - This training tool is available for schools, gatherings, *etc.*
 - Lynn Chiotti said that she would like to reserve it for the Childrens Fair this year (Halloween)

- ❖ **Roundtable Updates -** **All Members**
 - A. Law Enforcement (Scappoose)
 - a. Two officers graduated from the academy – field training to be completed in-house

- i. 12 officers budgeted; goal is to resume 24-hour coverage
 - b. Sergeant McKenzie McClure recently completed Drug Recognition Expert (DRE) Instructor School
 - c. Fatality on Highway 30 (at Cherry Way) – pedestrian and vehicle – driver not at fault – outside of SPD jurisdiction, but first on the scene (OSP handling investigation)
 - d. Scott Haley passed away, memorial in West Linn
- B. Law Enforcement (OSP) – absent
- C. Law Enforcement (CCSO)
 - a. Also involved in the fatality response on Highway 30
 - b. Two (2) rollovers in the county in the past month – weather-related – no serious injuries
 - c. Jeff Peterson noted that he has seen people passing school buses on Gable Road at Old Portland Road, will forward to Saint Helens Police Department
 - d. Focus on patrols on County roads for safety and speed
- D. ODOT
 - a. Mark Buffington out
 - b. Crews taking advantage of the weather to get work done – brusher and excavator back, so working on tree cleanup
 - c. Brush-cutting around MP 64 on Highway 30 (near Clatskanie)
- E. Columbia County Public Works
 - a. Recently purchased two (2) new traffic counters (similar to model purchased by City of Saint Helens)
 - i. Allows County to get updated traffic counts
 - ii. Also allows response to resident complaints
 - b. Operational changes
 - i. Proposed move to activity-based approach (vegetation, surfaces, drainage, and work requests)
 - ii. Proposed crew consolidation – move everyone to Saint Helens for reporting
 - iii. No plans to sell shops, which will be used for after-hours response and staging
 - iv. Met with Commissioners about this on 01/28; meeting with staff on 02/10
 - v. Open to feedback about this approach
 - vi. Want to be efficient with resources (same with less revenue)
 - c. Brush-cutting around Saint Helens and Rainier
 - d. Grading and rocking roads
 - e. Addressing work requests – mostly potholes this time of year
 - f. Firming up chip seal and paving plans
- F. Trucking Industry Representative
 - a. No comments
- G. Bicycle and Pedestrian Rep
 - a. Submitted application for event permit for Columbia Century Challenge
 - i. Start and finish in Rainier this year
 - ii. Route is available online for those wishing to review

H. City of Saint Helens Public Works

- a. Final stages of IGA with ODOT over the City's TSP – should be taking this to City Council on February 18.
- b. Scappoose – Saint Helens Trail – consultant has developed draft public involvement plan and strategy documents – under review; developed webpage for project; almost done developing TAC/PAC for project; plan to hold public events in the summer; looking for feedback on where to have public events
- c. National Engineers Week – going to have 7-8 SHHS students attend, learn about speed zones and how these are determined, set in the City (show off new radar counter)
- d. Ridgecrest Development (Bachelor Flat and Ross) – developer has proposed public improvements along Bachelor Flat; working on logistics – sight distance at Ross Road; as part of the development, would be good if the County could get updated traffic data (speed, counts); developer designed for 40 MPH, but it should be 35 MPH

I. City of Scappoose Public Works

- a. No chance to use new plow yet (best insurance policy)
- b. Three (3) retirements, one (1) more on horizon
 - i. Actively recruiting positions
- c. Paving this summer
- d. Working on getting an engineering firm secured for sidewalk project near schools
- e. Scappoose Transportation Safety Committee Meeting tomorrow (02/05) – new city councilor on committee – Dave Sukau to head
- f. Jeff Peterson mentioned that he had placed a speed zone ahead sign on Callahan Road eastbound before the speed zone near the city (approaching Dutch Canyon Estates subdivision) – this would be a topic of Scappoose TSC meeting

J. Citizens-at-large

- a. No comments

K. 911 Rep

- a. No 911 rep, but Corey Padrón present from Emergency Management
- b. Meeting on 02/04 at 13:00 for mass casualty plan
 - i. County does not have a mass casualty plan, just follows guidelines
 - ii. Will provide update at future meeting
- c. Genasys evacuation
 - i. Evacuation zones based on transportation of hazardous material spills

L. Columbia County Commissioners

- a. Gearing up for short session; Commissioner Garrett to chair steering committee
- b. Session to have some focus on economic development in OR
- c. Travel lodging tax – local adjustment for how this is spent – currently 30% discretionary, 70% tourism – would like to see that flipped, or at least 60:40
- d. No County TLT, but Scappoose and Saint Helens have them – Saint Helens allocation grandfathered in (Scappoose could adjust theirs something passes)
- e. Would require referendum
- f. NWACTION capital improvement priorities (5-year plan) next week
- g. Looking at County's top 3-5 priorities regionwide – focus on safety
- h. Interested in the Saint Helens side-by-side ordinance discussion today (02/04)
- i. Hope to see this as a model for other jurisdictions

- j. Question about whether this would apply to Highway 30 in Saint Helens; it sounds like there might be one crossing (Gable Road), but generally, no
- k. Public Works operations plan – had public discussion during Board meeting – think there needs to be a lot more discussion on this topic – current plans not authoritative
- l. Budget session gearing up - not looking great for Columbia County

M. School Bus Rep – absent

N. Oregon Impact

- a. DUI multi-organization task force meeting in April
- b. Regarding the pedestrian fatality, there is a lot of available funding for pedestrian enforcement and education – can include staff time and overtime

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

❖ **Open Discussion**

A. CCSO brought up the turn pocket at Gable Road and Highway 30

- a. This is with respect to westbound Gable traffic turning southbound/eastbound on Highway 30
- b. There are two stop bars – one to the east of the railroad tracks and one at the signal
- c. If traffic stops at the railroad and there is no vehicle between the railroad and the intersection, the induction loops do not seem to detect the vehicles and the system has to wait until it cycles through
- d. This leads to a massive rush when the left-turn arrow changes, which encourages unsafe behavior (not paying attention to pedestrians, running red lights, *etc.*)
- e. This intersection is managed by ODOT – could they look at alternatives to induction loops (radar, cameras, *etc.*)?

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

Chair

❖ **Adjourn** – 8:21 AM

Chair