COLUMBIA COUNTY
TRANSPORTATION SAFETY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, July 01, 2026, 07:30 am

MINUTES

- **Call to Order-**07:32 am **Vice Chair – Jay Tappan**

- **Sign In / Introductions** – **Vice Chair – Jay Tappan**
  - Present: Mark Buffington, *ODOT*; Jared Britton, *ODOT*; Alex Bird, *City of Saint Helens*; Kevin Turner, *City of Scappoose*; Doug Nassimbene, *City of Scappoose*; Mike Russell, *Columbia County*; Grant DeJongh, *Columbia County*; Tim Hancock, *Columbia County*; Chris Fluellen, *Scappoose Police Department*; Janelle Lawrence, *Oregon Impact*; Jay Tappan, *citizen at large*; Lynn Chiotti, *citizen-at-large*; Bill Etter, *guest*; two note-taking robots

- **Meeting minute approval –** **Vice Chair – Jay Tappan**
  - Mike Russell moved, Alex Bird seconded – unanimous

- **Other business –** **Vice Chair – Jay Tappan**
  - Speed concerns and solutions – Bill Etter
    - License plate readers for traffic speed enforcement
      - City of Sherwood has implemented license plate readers for traffic speed enforcement – grace period, followed by enforcement
      - What is the possibility of implementing this in Columbia County? There has been a lot of growth in the county, including through increased housing density, and both on highways and any straightaway section of road, there are issues with speeding, which conflicts with the increased traffic volume
        - What public outreach would be required?
        - What political actions would need to be taken? What would be the political nexus for implementation?
      - Additionally, there are concerns about out-of-state drivers – Highway 30 serves as a bypass for I-5 when there are issues with that route
      - Highway 30 by the Trojan site was listed as an example
      - Does Clatsop County have similar issues?
      - Could this be tied to safety corridors (means of enforcing the enhanced concern over the area)?
    - Oregon Impact
      - There is grant money available for speed equipment
      - Contact is Jamie at Oregon Impact
      - Sherwood used a 30-45-day grace period where letters were sent to drivers informing them of the issue prior to full enforcement
        - Education, then enforcement
    - ODOT
      - ODOT is slowly moving towards acceptance of these devices – require specifications (breakaway mountings, *etc*.)

- Tillamook and Clatsop Counties have asked about this on their highway routes
- Local jurisdiction ownership with devices on highways as an option?

- Scappoose Police
  - Have begun to look at the cost, viability of this on city streets
  - Similar concerns near Dutch Canyon, Old Portland Road behind Fred Meyer, *etc*.
  - Concerns about speed, turning movements on/off Highway 30; extensive speeding between Cornelius Pass Road and Scappoose – have heard of a lot of speeding in Warren, as well
  - Highway 30 is ODOT jurisdiction, so would need to work with them on response
  - Will reach out to City of Sherwood to see what their implementation plan looks like
- City of Saint Helens
  - Saint Helens has radar traffic counters – as an interim measure, can collect this data (volume, speed) and provide it to local law enforcement – demonstrated need
- Columbia County
  - Anecdotally, the volume of radio traffic requesting enforcement for speeding, reckless driving appears to be up – typically results in general call for enforcement

- Lane splitting – Lynn Chiotti
  - Concerns about motorcycle lane splitting on Highway 30 and enforcement – both speed and recklessness
- Speed of Old Portland Road in Scappoose – Bill Etter
  - Concern about the speed of Old Portland Road between Bonneville Road and Fred Meyer – new development driving volume, which conflicts with speed
    - Section may cross jurisdictional lines – City and County to look at this

❖ **Roundtable Updates -** **All Members**

A. Law Enforcement (Scappoose)
   a. Personnel
      i. One (1) graduate at the end of July – brings total to 12
      ii. One (1) officer recently graduated, now working in Scappoose
   b. Radar trailer – has been over by high school – will move soon
   c. Access from police station in Scappoose
      i. Current one-way – traffic has to route towards Maple to get access to Highway 30
      ii. Would like to reverse that one-way, add light at Highway 30
         1. ODOT will require request through city engineer; traffic engineering at ODOT will make opinion on additional light through this section of Highway 30
   d. Jay Tappan has heard several compliments about Chief Fluellen from residents

B. Law Enforcement (OSP) - absent

C. Law Enforcement (CCSO) - absent
   a. No update of traffic information – will check with CCSO

D. ODOT
    i. Rainier Hill paving work will likely begin in August
    ii. If funding available, plan for grind and inlay of Tide Creek slide (about 1,000 feet)
    iii. Nicole Charleston is looking at a potential safety corridor for Columbia County – still collecting, analyzing data – safety corridors tend to be net zero, though there may be one going away in central Oregon, will keep group posted
    iv. Maintenance
        1. Crew grind and inlay – starting near Scappoose, working back towards Rainier
    v. Fatality on Lewis-Clark bridge (provided agency assistance)
        1. Head-on semi and car
        2. Unsure as to cause, believe it was medical

E. Columbia County Public Works
    a. Summer projects
        i. Pittsburg Road – completed last month – thank you ODOT, City of Saint Helens for traffic control coordination
        ii. Paving starting next week (07/06) – Cater Road, moving to Sykes Road (not during fair week)
        iii. Chip seal starting August 03 – working with Clatsop County on this – some tie-ins with Highway 30 (Church, Neer City, *etc*.) that will require temp. flagging on highway – 20 miles total chip seal project
    b. Traffic counter program still collecting county data
    c. Other design, development projects proceeding
    d. No planned road closures for this summer for construction

F. Trucking Industry Representative – absent

G. Bicycle and Pedestrian Rep - absent

H. City of Saint Helens Public Works
    a. PAC meeting rescheduled (July 01 to July 16) – open to public, no public comment
    b. Ness Campbell – wide loads on Gable Road near new apartments – extruded curbing median damaged by loads – need to look at other routes (*e.g.*, Old Portland Road)
    c. Sewer project – out to rebid (bids were too high initially) – July 15 – mid-August
        i. Cutting scope to bring back into alignment with budget
        ii. More trenching, less boring (bores were expensive) – have to bore under railroad

I. City of Scappoose Public Works
    a. New Public Works Director – Kevin Turner – welcome
    b. Crack sealing city streets
    c. Crosswalk and stop bar repaint
    d. Developments
        i. Dutch Canyon Estates IV wrapping up
        ii. Huser Estates – infrastructure done, working on houses
        iii. Buxton – infrastructure phase

J. Citizens-at-large
    a. Jay Tappan
        i. Electric scooters – see a lot of these flying down the road, high speeds, using bike lanes in wrong direction, no helmets, lot of youth
        ii. Scappoose Police just released a post about this
            1. Laws are somewhat contradictory
            2. 20 MPH max.
            3. 16 years and older for operation (will go down to 14 in 2027)
            4. Under 16 years old requires helmet ($25 fine)
            5. Must have operation pedal
        iii. County has heard a lot about advocacy for these devices – requests for more infrastructure as an alternative to automobiles

K. 911 Rep – absent

L. Emergency Management – absent
    a. Mike Russell – The emergency management department has been eliminated at the County; duties are temporarily assigned to the County's Public Health Department
        i. Jessica Kosydar is the main contact at Public Health
        ii. City of Scappoose to reach out regarding resource staging throughout county

M. Columbia County Commissioners – absent

N. School Bus Rep – absent

O. Oregon Impact
    a. Second book done, published on Monday (June 29)
        i. Topic is why auto collisions are the leading cause of death for former service members
        ii. Issue arose 10-12 years ago, kind of fell off, but the issue is still there
        iii. Differences in military driving compared to civilian driving
        iv. 500 copies to distribute – working to get these to returning service members
    b. Grant deadlines moved from September to July – additional paperwork at Oregon Impact to meet deadlines

- **Open Discussion**

- **Next Meeting** – Tentatively August 05, 2026 **Vice Chair**

- **Adjourn** – 8:24 AM **Vice Chair**