COLUMBIA COUNTY

TRANSPORTATION SAFETY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, August 05, 2026, 07:30 am

MINUTES

- **Call to Order-**07:33 am **Chair – Jeff Peterson**

- **Sign In / Introductions** – **Chair – Jeff Peterson**
  - Present: Mark Buffington, *ODOT*; Jared Britton, *ODOT*; Alex Bird, *City of Saint Helens*; Doug Nassimbene, *City of Scappoose*; Mike Russell, *Columbia County*; Grant DeJongh, *Columbia County*; Ryan Wallis, *Columbia County*; Casey Garrett, *Columbia County commissioner*; Chris Fluellen, *Scappoose Police Department*; Dylan Kean, *OSP*; Walt McAllister, *ODOT*; Jay Tappan, *citizen at large*; Lynn Chiotti, *citizen-at-large*; Rosemary Lohrke, *citizen-at-large*; Jeff Peterson, *citizen-at-large*; two note-taking robots

- **Meeting minute approval –** **Chair – Jeff Peterson**
  - Rosemary Lohrke moved, Jay Tappan seconded – unanimous (end of meeting)

- **Other business –** **Chair – Jeff Peterson**

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

A. Law Enforcement (Scappoose)
   a. National Night Out – 08/04
   b. Personnel
      i. Another recent graduate, FTO training begins today – brings total to 11 officers
   c. No major collisions in Scappoose this month
   d. Speeding is still main issue, saturation recently seemed to help
   e. Rosemary Lohrke mentioned that she felt the 35 MPH speed zone should extend further along Highway 30 to the south from Scappoose city limits – speed study would need to be requested by either city engineer (Chris Negelspach) or county roadmaster (Mike Russell), depending on location.
      i. Need could be there with recent business expansion to the south of the city

B. Law Enforcement (OSP)
   a. Personnel
      i. Three (3) recent recruits in field training for Saint Helens post – should be in field in next couple of months
         1. One lateral from Arizona arriving in a couple of weeks
      ii. Trooper Halsey moving to Albany (September 01)
      iii. New recruit in academy
      iv. Will have seven, typically have three
   b. Saturation with City of Scappoose for speeding
   c. Setting up another saturation event between Astoria and Rainier – getting set for some time in August - September

C. Law Enforcement (CCSO) - absent
    a. Updates stats provided by Jim Macfarlane

D. ODOT
        i. Rainier Hill pushed back until September
        ii. Upside Down slide – funded, still getting bids
        iii. Budget
            1. End of FY, back to the issue of funding – outlook is pessimistic
            2. Reviving layoff scenarios
            3. Back on hiring freeze – 10% vacancy – District I at about 10% vacancy – Clatskanie shed near full
        iv. Maintenance
            1. Paving – rut paving on Highway 30 – everyone thought this was well done
            2. Brush cutting along Highway 30
                a. Request from Scappoose PD to uncover the 35 MPH coming into Scappoose – currently covered by vegetation

E. Columbia County Public Works
    a. August 10 – August 19 – chip seal
        i. August 10 – Old PDX in Scappoose (Bonneville to Callahan), Church (Highway 30 to Hazen)
        ii. August 11 – Pittsburg (Rancho to S Canaan)
        iii. August 12 -13 – Canaan (Lawrence to S Canaan)
        iv. August 17 – Neer City (Highway 30 to Brownlee)
        v. August 18 – 19 – Apiary (Old Rainier to Meissner)
            1. One lane open – flaggers with pilot cars
    b. Traffic counter project has moved to Scappoose-Vernonia Road
    c. Apiary Road MP 8.4 – design work is completed, have submitted grant for construction, should know about the grant by the end of August, beginning of September

F. Trucking Industry Representative – absent

G. Bicycle and Pedestrian Rep - absent

H. City of Saint Helens Public Works
    a. Striping project with Columbia County went well – faster, cheaper than contractor
    b. Moving forward with Scappoose to Saint Helens trail – going to city council with three (3) alignment proposals after ODOT-requested feasibility study was completed – no public outreach yet
    c. TSP – consultant looking at data – PAC meeting at end of month
    d. Police station kick-off last week (week of 07/27)
    e. In a week, will partner with CYVL
        i. Assessment of city streets with smart camera
        ii. Will report back to group how it goes

I. City of Scappoose Public Works
    a. Subdivisions moving along
        i. Huser, on JP West – building houses

ii. JP West busy with Buxton Ranch at bottom of hill

b. Overlay next week (week of 08/10)
   i. Elm Street (4th and 6th)
   ii. 3rd Street
   iii. Myrtle Street
   iv. Oak Street
c. Striping (crosswalks, *etc.*) with thermoplastic

J. Walt McAllister, ODOT
   a. Safety Action Plan done – going through public review
   b. Grant process – improved STOP program
      i. Of interest to law enforcement, this can pay for new CAD system if it improves the STOP data results

K. Citizens-at-large
   a. No comments

L. 911 Rep – absent

M. Emergency Management – absent

N. Columbia County Commissioners
   a. Upcoming ACT meeting
      i. Tolling proposed, considered through Washington state
      ii. Receiving complaints about tolling and impacts to other highway segments, Longview bridge
      iii. Talked to Bill Jablonski, ODOT, will hear more at meeting – mitigation for Columbia County?
   b. Voting on Connect Oregon cycle applications
      i. Port has application for Port Westward – seismic improvements to docks

O. School Bus Rep – absent

P. Oregon Impact – absent

❖ **Open Discussion**

❖ **Next Meeting** – Tentatively September 02, 2026 **Chair**

❖ **Adjourn** – 7:59 AM **Chair**