Columbia County
Public Works

St. Helens, OR 97051
1054 Oregon St.
Direct (503) 397–5090
Fax (503) 397–7215
publicworks@columbiacountyor.gov
columbiacountyor.gov

Columbia County Traffic Safety Commission
Wednesday, October 7, 2026, 7:30 a.m.
Hybrid from Public Works, Healy Hall

Microsoft Teams meeting
Join: https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/250288727196157?p=yhO56X2yfITkVb9t9S
Meeting ID: 250 288 727 196 157
Passcode: Rx6fW9Qh

MEETING NOTES

CALL MEETING TO ORDER:
Jeff Peterson called the meeting to order at 7:37am

Present: Jeff Peterson, Lynn Chiotti, Mike Russell, Bill Etter, Alex Bird, Jay Tappan, Doug Nassimbene, Chris Fluellen, Rosemary Lohrke, Tim Hancock, Alex Bubar.

No quorum present.

CONSENT AGENDA:

1. Approve Minutes from August 5, 2026 and September 2, 2026, Traffic Safety Commission Meetings.

The Traffic Safety Commission needs to appoint a Secretary to keep meeting notes.
The commission discussed using AI for note taking. Lynn Chiotti said she could try to review her Otter AI note taker and produce minutes from that.

VISTOR COMMENTS:

UPDATES:

1. Law Enforcement
   - Cities
     - Scappoose – Chief Fluellen informed the group that they have a radar trailer out. He reported on a crash involving a semi and vehicle. He talked about e-bike safety issues seem to be increasing. He informed the group of an emergency management exercise coming up involving Scappoose CRT and the Scappoose Airport.
       - Rosemary Lohrke asked about coming out of Crown Z Road turning left onto Hwy 30, if there could be a yellow delineation line to direct traffic better.
       - Bill Etter appreciates the Chief focusing on E-bike safety. He shared an experience he had.

        - The group discussed E-bike issues and current and future laws. They are not considered a motor vehicle. Helmet required up to 16 years old. Upcoming in January, lowering age to ride and e-bike to 14.
    - Sheriff – Alex Bubar reported that the Sheriff's Office has a recruit attending Academy. Uptick of crashes on Apriary. Deer vs. cars.
    - State
    - Crash Information-Captain Macfarlane
2. Bicycle/Pedestrian
3. Emergency Management Updates
4. Oregon Impact Update
5. ODOT Updates
6. County Roads Updates – Tim Hancock reported that the County finished the summer paving. Replacing some culverts now and getting ready for fall operations. County has been taking traffic counts on major roads and using that information to inform pavement management priorities.
7. Commissioner Garrett Updates
8. City of St. Helens – Alex Bird informed the group that the City will be holding an Open House next week for their Transportation System Plan Update. Wednesday, October 14, 2026, 5-7pm at the City Council Chambers.
    - Chiotti mentioned there is a bush blocking the view of traffic coming out of S. Vernonia Road and Hwy 30, right by Javalation.

    Alex reported that the vendor has completed all the road scans of the city pavement conditions and will be ready to share in the future.
    - Chair Peterson mentioned St. Helens Mayor's question about if there is interest in establishing a ferry from St. Helens to the other side of the river. The group discussed the relative benefits of this. Peterson said he would like to get Mayor Massey to a meeting in the future to talk about it.
9. City of Scappoose – Doug Nassembene reported that they are done with their paving for the year. Two subdivisions still progressing. The Keys treatment plant and reservoir project is getting close to being complete. Will be sweeping county roads as has been in the past. He reported on some infill sidewalk projects near 3rd Street.
10. Additional Updates
    - Jay Tappan observed that Holloweentown seems to going well. Kiwanis will be doing roadside cleanup on Hwy 30 between Les Schwab and Gable.
    - Group discussion on St. Helens ATV Ordinance.
    - Discussion of improvement on Gable at CCMH property.
    - Lynn Chiotti asked for help with Children's Fair on October 31 at McBride School.

<u>OTHER BUSINESS:</u>

1. Sheriff's Office vacancy – Alex Bubar has been appointed.

Next meeting 11/4/2026.

<u>ADJOURN:</u> Chair Peterson adjourned the meeting at 8:33am