COLUMBIA COUNTY
TRANSPORTATION SAFETY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, September 02, 2026, 07:30 am

MINUTES

- **Call to Order-**07:31 am **Chair**

- **Sign In / Introductions** – **Chair**
  - Present: Mark Buffington, *ODOT*; Jared Britton, *ODOT*; Alex Bird, *City of Saint Helens*; Doug Nassimbene, *City of Scappoose*; Grant DeJongh, *Columbia County*; Tim Hancock, *Columbia County*; Ryan Wallis, *Columbia County*; Casey Garrett, *Columbia County commissioner*; Chris Fluellen, *Scappoose Police Department*; Alex Bubar, *Columbia County Sheriff's Office*; Dylan Kean, *OSP*; Walt McAllister, *ODOT*; Janelle Lawrence, *Oregon Impact*; Jay Tappan, *citizen at large*; Lynn Chiotti, *citizen-at-large*; Bill Etter, *guest*; two note-taking robots

- **Meeting minute approval –** **Chair**
  - No quorum – minutes tabled for October meeting

- **Other business –** **Chair**

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

A. Law Enforcement (Scappoose)
   a. Personnel
      i. 11 officers (one in full-time training)
      ii. Looking at part-time community services officer, would be involved with traffic control
   b. Thanks to ODOT for continued placement of radar trailer on Highway 30
   c. Speed enforcement cameras – reached out to other jurisdictions about usage – no feedback from them yet
   d. No major incidents in Scappoose
   e. Question for County – what is the possibility of installation of speed bumps at EM Watts and Dutch Canyon to slow county traffic down as they enter city limits?
   f. Question about what is driving the increase in traffic in Scappoose
      i. Would guess it is increase in population, people moving to Scappoose, Saint Helens, Columbia County

B. Law Enforcement (OSP)
   a. Hood to Coast – no major incidents – few troops were working that
   b. With the start of school, focusing on school traffic for the next few weeks
      i. Highway traffic, school bus interactions, *etc*.
   c. Personnel
      i. New trooper released for solo work
      ii. Currently training additional trooper with Trooper Kean
      iii. Doing well with recruits
         1. One in academy
         2. One in training

d. Can begin providing OSP numbers monthly (similar to CCSO), if desired

C. Law Enforcement (CCSO) - absent
   a. Jim Macfarlane retired from CCSO – 6 years as captain for CCSO
      i. Jim also resigned from the TSC – will need to fill his seat
   b. Non-OSP crash and enforcement statistics were provided. Alex Bubar to begin providing those as Jim Macfarlane once did.
   c. No major traffic crashes that CCSO responded to

D. ODOT
   a. Rainier Hill and Upside Down slide projects should be done in September – rapidly running out of construction season
   b. Design on Tide Creek bridge is ongoing (determining fastener types, influence of tidal action)
   c. Maintenance
      i. Brush-cutting
      ii. Helping neighboring districts wrap up their projects, paving

E. Columbia County Public Works
   a. Chip seal completed – 20 miles
   b. Culvert replacement – trying to complete select culverts before rain arrives
   c. Paving Sykes Road (fill-in sections between previous paving jobs)
      i. Waiting on better weather conditions
   d. OEM culvert evaluation and preliminary design
      i. RFP process almost wrapped up – hope to have a contract to the Board by the end of the month
   e. Apiary Road MP 8.4
      i. Design completed
      ii. Applied for federal grant for construction – should know results in September?
   f. Holbrook Road – Beaver Homes Road circulation
      i. Looking at long-term fix for Beaver Homes Road structure replacement (structure is weight-limited)
      ii. In the meanwhile, looking at temporary solution to open Holbrook Road to improve circulation in Goble area for buses, emergency vehicles.
         1. Need agency buy-off.

F. Trucking Industry Representative – absent

G. Bicycle and Pedestrian Rep - absent

H. City of Saint Helens Public Works
   a. Second project advisory committee (PAC) meeting for Transportation System Plan (TSP) update on September 15
   b. October 01 – public event for TSP – discuss project, update council, accept citizen comments (website to provide feedback in draft form)
   c. Scappoose-Saint Helens trail – meeting with council to provide update, get feedback
   d. Opened bids for Basins 4 and 6 sewer project – will award to the lowest responsible bidder – this project will have boring under Highway 30, railroad from Port

Avenue to west of highway

I. City of Scappoose Public Works
    a. Overlay from city hall to Grant-Watts School
    b. SW Keys Street water project almost complete
    c. Wastewater plant upgrades under construction (hauling gravel at this point)
    d. Waterline repairs on Dutch Canyon Road

J. Walt McAllister, ODOT
    a. Safety Action Plan – 5-year work plan – in implementation phase
        i. Presentation is available
        ii. Different tiers that are considered – rural roadway departures are of particular interest
        iii. Intersection portion is focusing on roundabouts – lower speed collisions resulting in fewer fatalities
    b. Awarding grants
        i. Many new grantee agencies with limited experience, so a bit of walking through the process
    c. Traffic records assessment – Oregon does not have a strong citation trucking record (currently agency-based, and there is no centralization) – progress in addressing this anticipated in a couple of years
    d. Oregon won a grant from federal agencies to update crash data system – would digitize everything, remove the need for faxed/mailed records (current process)
    e. Questions for Walt
        i. Do committees get to look at crash data?
            1. Yes, there is a portal that can be reviewed online (heat map of collisions)
        ii. What is the next step once data is collected?
            1. Come to committees and work on plans or project-development – the last plan for Columbia County was completed (law enforcement, engineering, *etc*.).
            2. For photo-enforcement, Columbia County is not allowed to install on its own – must apply to state for permission.

K. Citizens-at-large
    a. No comments

L. 911 Rep – absent

M. Emergency Management – absent

N. Columbia County Commissioners
    a. Concerns about gravel on, near road
        i. EJ Smith Road in Scappoose
        ii. Blaha Road in Warren
        iii. Public Works to inspect
    b. Oregon rally group aiming for November 06, 07 event
        i. Will be applying for event permits
        ii. Impacted roads: Karth, Wilkerson, Pittsburg
        iii. Want to make event more public-facing
    c. Connect Oregon

i. Went to Salem for program
ii. Program focuses on multimodal transportation
iii. Two projects in this area:
1. Astoria Pier 2
2. Port Westward seismic upgrade
iv. Top 30 projects get funded – quite a bit of money coming to this area

d. I-5 closure
i. Begins September 11
ii. Plans for tolling current bridge before replacement
iii. No consideration for Highway 30 impacts (including Lewis and Clark bridge between Rainier and Longview)

O. School Bus Rep – absent

P. Oregon Impact
a. October event (Children's Fair) coming up
i. Event will need to borrow materials from Oregon Impact
ii. Oregon Impact would like to do a newsletter story on the event
iii. Will coordinate with Lynn Chiotti
b. Finished book on military-to-civilian driving transition and collisions
i. 2K downloads
ii. 100 print copies sent to VA hospitals
iii. Pleased with numbers
c. There are a few other individual traffic events occurring throughout the month of which Oregon Impact will play a part

❖ **Open Discussion**
- Public comments (Bill Etter)
  - Highway 30 congestion
    - Expect it to be similar to other I-5 closures – truck issues as people try to route around, find out about using Highway 30
    - Knock-on effects as congestion impacts other high-traffic areas (*e.g.*, through Scappoose during rush hour, Gable Road x Highway 30)
  - Compliments to County road crews for work being done in unincorporated areas (Canaan, Fern Hill, others) and to ODOT for Highway 30 maintenance
  - Concerns about law enforcement statistics
    - Are these abnormally high? No, they are typical.
    - Numbers seem high, wonder if there is anything that can be done about them.

❖ **Next Meeting** – Tentatively October 07, 2026 **Chair**

❖ **Adjourn** – 8:09 AM **Chair**