

NWACT June 2026 Meeting Minutes

Date: Thursday, June 11, 2026

Time: 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm

Location: Clatsop Community College, Columbia Hall Room 219, Astoria, Oregon

*Members bolded were in attendance

ODOT

Region 2 ODOT Area Manager

Region 2 ODOT District Manager

Region 2 Senior Planner

Bill Jablonski

Mark Buffington

Caroline Crisp

Office Coordinator

Ben Griffith

Clatsop County

Commission (v)

Commission (a)

Large City (v)

Large City (a)

Terry Hendryx

Elisabeth Adams

Small City (v)

Small City (a)

Citizen-at-Large

David McCall

Patrick McHugh

Washington County

Commission (v)

Commission (a)

Large City (v)

Large City (a)

Small City (v)

Small City (a)

Citizen-at-Large

Citizen-at-Large

Jerry Willey

Small City (v)

Small City (a)

Citizen-at-Large

Citizen-at-Large

Steve Wright

Kathy Kleczek

John Nygaard

Columbia County

Commission (v)

Commission (a)

Large City (v)

Large City (a)

Small City (v)

Small City (a)

Citizen-at-Large

Citizen-at-Large

Casey Garrett

Michael Russell

Scott Jorgenson

Rosemary Lohrke

Betsy Johnson

Transit Districts

Columbia Co (v)

Columbia Co (a)

Clatsop Co (v)

Clatsop County (a)

Tillamook Co (a)

David Carr

Brian Vitulli

Tillamook County

Commission (v)

Commission (a)

Large City (v)

Large City (a)

Paul Fournier

Chris Laity

Sean Lewis

Ports

Port of Astoria (a)

Port of Columbia Co (v)

Port of Columbia Co (a) Sean Clark

Port of Tillamook Bay (v)

Port of Garibaldi (a)

Others in attendance or online:

Don Odermott

**Matt Mumford, Port of Tillamook
Bay commissioner**

Arla Miller, ODOT

**Charles Sterns, Washington
County**

Sarah Lu Heath, Col-Pac

**Walt McAllister
Jered Lyon, ODOT
Stacey Goldstein**

Jennifer Geisler

**Adam Nielsen
Rachel Armitage**

1. Welcome and Introductions

- Casey Garrett called the meeting to order and welcomed attendees. Introductions were completed around the room, with both in-person and online participants identified.

2. NWACT Minutes and Updates

- The April 2026 meeting minutes were reviewed. A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes with two corrections: the meeting date should read April 9, 2026, and Mayor Steve Wright should be listed as attending in person. The motion carried.
- Bill Jablonski reported that Connect Oregon applications would be distributed to members for review prior to presentations and ranking, which were tentatively scheduled for the August 13 NWACT meeting.
- Dave McCall requested that NWACT consider preparing a collective review and comment to the Oregon Transportation Commission regarding the ODOT Transportation Safety Plan update. Bill Jablonski agreed to follow up on the request.
- Bill Jablonski also provided an update on the Capital Investment Plan process and reviewed the five projects NWACT submitted for consideration.
- Bill requested that the agenda item regarding the ODOT debrief on Measure 120 be tabled until the August meeting.

3. Sunset Empire Transportation District Presentation

- David Carr provided a presentation on the Sunset Empire Transportation District mission and its service profile. He gave an overview of the district, including rider demographics, overall ridership, service connections, and partner agencies. He also described current transportation services, education and outreach efforts, and noted that a team of 28 personnel supports district operations.
- The district's service options were reviewed, including fixed route bus service, Ride Assist paratransit, Ride Assist Dial-A-Ride, mobility management services, and the MicroTransit pilot program in Seaside. The presentation also noted the district's partnership with Providence Health and Services on the MicroTransit effort.

4. Clatsop County Transportation Updates

- County staff reported that the December storm caused a slope failure along Youngs River Road near milepost 6.5. Data collection has been completed and permitting has been submitted, with repairs anticipated during the 2027 in-water work period.
- The County provided updates on three in-water projects scheduled to begin in July: Logan Road near Stavebolt Bridge, Youngs River Road at milepost 10.5, and Lower River Road at milepost 0.27. Each project was described with expected closures, detours, and contractor responsibilities.

- The County also reported that chip sealing began the previous week, with approximately 20 miles scheduled for the year. The County plans to assist Columbia County with chip sealing approximately 15 miles of roads in August.
- Additional updates included completion of the final mile of overlay on Fishhawk Road, scheduled for July 7 and 8, and the Westport Bypass project, for which state and federal permits have been received except for the Grant of Access. The County is awaiting the railroad easement and final railroad design, with construction anticipated to begin in spring 2027 and completion expected in fall 2028.
- The County also thanked ODOT for notification that the Cullaby Creek/Carnahan Park Bridge project was approved by the Local Agency Bridge Selection Committee for Local Bridge Program funding. The project is estimated at approximately \$3 million and will replace an existing wooden structure constructed in 1964. The new bridge will be longer and wider to meet current state and federal stream requirements, and it is located on one of the County's tsunami evacuation routes.
- The County also thanked ODOT staff, including Caroline Crisp and Steve Hanson, for assistance in preparing an RFP to update the County Transportation System Plan. Negotiations with the selected firm were ongoing.

5. Transportation Safety Plan Presentation

- Walt McAllister presented information on trends in fatal and serious injury crashes in Oregon. He noted a significant increase in serious injury crashes in 2023 and discussed possible contributing factors, including Oregon's population growth to more than 4 million residents. Data presented covered the period from 2019 through 2023.
- The presentation highlighted the major categories of fatal and serious injury crashes, including roadway departures, intersection crashes, speed-related crashes, aging driver-involved crashes, alcohol- and drug-related crashes, young driver-involved crashes, and motorcycle-involved crashes. Discussion followed regarding traffic enforcement and its potential role in crash trends.
- Participants also discussed aging drivers, vehicle safety technology, driver education, and Oregon's eight-year driver license renewal cycle. ODOT staff noted that Oregon has a standardized driver education curriculum and is working to expand access statewide.
- Sarah Lu discussed Oregon's Vision Zero goal and the challenges of eliminating fatalities and serious injuries statewide. The group also reviewed crash distribution between urban and rural areas.
- ODOT presented draft 2026 Transportation Safety Plan emphasis areas, including top-tier priorities such as roadway departures, intersections, speed-related crashes, and alcohol- and drug-related crashes, as well as second-tier priorities including aging drivers, pedestrians and bicyclists, and young drivers. Additional focus areas included unrestrained occupants, distracted driving, medium and heavy trucks, and motorcycles.
- The proposed schedule for public review and adoption was also reviewed. The draft plan is scheduled for public review from June 15 through July 31, 2026, with refinement in August, recommendation for adoption by the Oregon Transportation Safety Committee in September, and adoption by the Oregon Transportation Commission in October.
- Commissioner Garrett noted that the TSAP may influence project priorities but does not directly guide the Capital Improvement Program. He also asked whether Columbia County was using information from its Safe Routes for All grant award. Bill stated that the draft plan would be circulated for review.
- Caroline Crisp presented the project charter and work plan, noting that stakeholders would have the opportunity to submit edits and comments directly to ODOT by email. ODOT will email out charter and workplan in October meeting.

6. NWACT Business and Member Updates

- Paul Fournier reported that a bicycle safety billboard has been installed along US 101 and noted that project implementation continues to move forward.
- Kathy Kleczek recognized the 50th anniversary of the Oregon Bike Bill and announced that the Transportation and Growth Management planning grant opportunity is currently open.
- Sean Clark reported on a new airport rehabilitation project that is now under construction.
- Matt Mumford reported that FEMA funding has been secured, but that the available funding is insufficient to save the hangar.

7. Additional Business

- Bill Jablonski noted that Connect Oregon applications have been received and that applicants will provide presentations in the coming months. He stated that additional program information would be distributed by link.
- Draft versions of the charter, work plan, and safety plan will be circulated for review, and members were encouraged to submit comments on the safety plan.

Upcoming Meetings

- The next meeting is anticipated for August 2026 at the Port of Tillamook Bay. Additional meeting materials for August will be distributed electronically in advance of that meeting.

Adjournment: 3:01 PM