OREGON TRANSPORTATION SAFETY COMMITTEE  
Wednesday, October 23, 2019 Meeting Minutes  
Spirit Mountain Casino & Conference Center  
27100 SW Salmon River Hwy  
Grand Ronde, OR

Members Present: Victor Hoffer, Jerry Cooper, Marian Owens, Luis Ornelas  
Staff: Troy Costales, Traci Pearl, Jody Raska, Kristin Twenge  
Liaisons/Guests: Nick Fortey (FHWA), Chris Henry (GAC-MS), Debbie Weber (GAC-MS), CJ Strauss (GAC-MS), Rich Greene (Columbia River Driver Education), Denise Caldwell (Rogue Community College Driver Training), Ethan Lodwig (GAC-MS), Garrett Dow (Portland Police Bureau)

I. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS  
Chair Victor Hoffer called the meeting to order at 6:16 p.m. and asked for a moment of silence to remember people in Oregon and the world who’ve been affected by motor vehicle crashes; and to remember why we do what we do. Roundtable of introductions.

II. CONSENT CALENDAR AND MINUTES  
Chair Hoffer called for a review of the minutes from the September 2019 meeting and the consent calendar.

MOTION: Mr. Cooper moved to approve the September 2019 meeting minutes and consent calendar as presented. Ms. Owens seconded. Call for vote; unanimous. Motion passed.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT  
Mr. Henry commented on his gratitude for the TSD Safety Conference. He is encouraged by ODOT’s efforts to recognize the need for setting speed limits in ways that take into consideration our existing transportation systems; it’s not all rural freeways and urban streets. He is also appreciative of the recognition that there are many users of the transportation system including walkers, bicyclists, and motorcyclists, not just the passenger and commercial vehicle users. What’s encouraging and potentially in conflict, in relation to ODOT’s Active Transportation group, is promoting ways to move people about for better safety and health outcomes and the importance of language used. They use language stating they are designing for people, rather than for vehicle-centric language. He is encouraged by the change but there is more to do.

Chair Hoffer noted the conference has been great so far and appreciates the collaboration with the tribes.

Mr. Cooper noted discussion from the previous GAC DUII meeting about a legislative interim work group to discuss impairment-related concepts that did not move forward. Mr. Cooper would like to be involved as the OTSC representative on that group. Mr. Costales noted that during legislative session, Sen. Prozanski, Chair of the Senate Judiciary Committee, committed to holding an interim work group specific to other substances that impair, .05 BAC, and a few other things. Sen. Prozanski has, through his
staff, indicated the interim work group would not meet until after the short session. It may be that OTSC receives a direct invite to participate in that group.

Ms. Owens and Mr. Ornelas both expressed their appreciation for the conference. Mr. Ornelas recommended the Safe Routes to School presentation on Thursday morning.

Mr. Greene made a request that teens be encouraged to get permits and driver licenses as early as possible. The longer that teens are on a graduated driver license, the better drivers they tend to become.

Ms. Caldwell noted there is a tremendous need for driver education instructors.

Ms. Owens commented that new drivers in Australia have special plates posted on their cars for a period of time identifying them as new drivers.

Ms. Strauss noted that novice drivers in Japan are required to display a sign noting their beginner driver status. It also provides penalties to experienced drivers who are involved in a crash with a beginner driver.

**IV. SAFETY CONFERENCE SPEAKER**

Officer Garrett Dow is a crash reconstructionist with Portland Police Bureau and his primary responsibility is to investigate fatal and serious injury crashes within the City of Portland. There have been 45 fatalities and 51 major crashes this year so far. Officer Dow provided an overview of several different types of electronic evidence that is used in crash investigation including cell phones and vehicle infotainment systems. There is a federal rule requiring all newly manufactured vehicles to have an airbag control module, a type of “black box”, which records telemetry and other system data. Investigators are able to access that information to aid in crash investigations.

A question was asked about issues retrieving information from manufacturers as there had been in the past. It was noted that NHTSA has mandated the black box requirement for this type of information in all car models 2014 and newer; Chevrolet has been doing it since the 1990s. The only manufacturers which are tough are Hyundai, Kia and Jaguar. It can be done but it’s difficult.

Mr. Ornelas asked about the use of drones in crash reconstruction. Officer Dow noted that Portland Police is interested in the technology. They find that using drones decreases the time a roadway is closed. ODOT has determined that a highway closure has an economic cost of $700 per minute. In Portland, some roadways have been closed for up to 12 hours for a crash investigation; the use of drones would significantly decrease road closure time and provide equal or better investigative tools than those currently being used.

Mr. Lodwig asked if there are black box modules on motorcycles. They are not currently required nor are they required on commercial motor vehicles. An additional question was asked about what happens with the data. Most recorders output data in hex code and Bosch produces a readable format. Any
copies are stored as evidence. After an investigation is complete, it could be available to the public upon request.

A question was asked about using dash cams or camera feeds to provide evidence of traffic violations. Is there a way for a citizen to issue a citation? There is a civilian process for writing a citation.

Ms. Owens was appreciative of the inclusion in the OTSC packet of the article regarding Dr. John Tongue. Dr. Tongue was a great advocate for traffic safety.

V. NEXT MEETING & AGENDA BUILD
The next meeting will be held Wednesday, November 13, 2019 at DPSST in Salem OR. Topics for consideration at future meetings include:

- TSAP Implementation Emphasis Area Update
- Planning for the next TSAP
- DMV: License testing (CDL, Class C)
- FHWA Project Update
- Photo Radar
- Clear Alliance
- Rest Areas – truck parking
- Safety Aspects of Roadway Engineering
- Oregon Health Authority, Public Health Division

VI. ADJOURN
With no further business brought before the committee, Chair Hoffer officially adjourned the meeting at 6:57 p.m.