

APPROVED

May 10, 2023

OREGON TRANSPORTATION SAFETY COMMITTEE
Wednesday, April 12, 2023 Meeting Minutes
Transportation Safety Office
In-Person and Virtual Hybrid Meeting
Salem, OR

Members via Phone/Teams: Chair Victor Hoffer, Vice Chair Jerry Cooper, Jane Aiken, Marian Owens, Will Anderson

Absent Members: None

Liaisons and Guests via Phone/Teams: None

Staff via Phone/Teams: Amy Joyce, Traci Pearl, Alycen Ozawa, Suzanne Gill, Kelly Kapri, Heidi Manlove, Doug Bish, John Bonnet, Jeff Greiner, Michelle Godfrey, Kelly Mason, Walt McAlister, Christina McDaniel-Wilson, Colleen O'Hogan, Jody Raska, Kristen Twenge, Cord Wood, Joe Marek, Darren Neville

Public Attendees: None

I. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Chair Victor Hoffer called the hybrid teleconference meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. and reminded everyone that meeting is being recorded and minutes are being taken. Chair Hoffer asked everyone to take a moment to remember what we do here at the OTSC and Safety Office and asked for a moment of silence and reflection of what we do and those who have felt the pain of losing a loved one in a crash. Chair Hoffer welcomed everyone and had the members introduce themselves. Chair Hoffer welcomed Amy Joyce, DMV Administrator to the meeting this morning. Traci Pearl introduced the Transportation Safety Office staff as well as Joe Marek, Darren Neville, John Bonnet and Michelle Godfrey.

II. CONSENT CALENDAR AND MINUTES

Chair Hoffer called for a review and approval of the Consent Calendar and the March meeting minutes.

MOTION: Jane Aiken moved to approve the March 2023 meeting minutes. Will Anderson seconded. Majority approval by the committee. Motion approved.

III. MEMBER REPORTS

ODOT Tree Removal on I5 (Darren Neavoll)

Darren Neavoll reported on Marion Owens inquiry regarding the tree removal on I-5. He presented materials that referenced two projects this winter that removed about 5000 trees along the corridor from Canyonville to Glendale. Other smaller projects were completed on Stagecoach and a few other passes that were done for safety. The projects included removing trees and providing guardrails on areas where they were not able to remove the hazards as well as adding a crossover to help emergency services get through the area. The work also consisted of pushing the trees farther up the hills to prevent the snow and weather from uprooting the trees as they have had trees fall on freeways and individuals.

Member Discussion – Tree Removal

Marian Owens inquired why the public wasn't made aware of these projects. Darren Neavoll responded they did press releases as the work was going on, but he will follow up to see why it wasn't reported to the public. Jane Aiken asked if there was a way to get signage on the road so people can be prepared when these projects begin. Darren Neavoll responded he would investigate that to see if they could do something like that for these types of projects. Will Anderson added that the reader boards could be helpful and that he did see one on I5 that referenced the dirt mounds on the side of the road. Mr. Neavoll responded he would check into that as well.

Commercial Vehicle Parking at Rest Areas

Traci Pearl presented to the committee the study for the [Commercial Vehicle Parking at Rest Areas](#) of July 2020 that Marion Owens requested from the March meeting. Marion Owens inquired if we could find out if this study has been acted upon. Traci Pearl responded she would find out which steps have been completed to get this plan implemented.

Vice Chair Jerry Cooper

Vice Chair Jerry Cooper shared he had nothing new to report.

Marian Owens

Marian Owens shared she had nothing new to report.

Will Anderson

Will Anderson shared he would like to see the committee report on the 2025 Transportation package (legislative) as the last one, HB 2017, had a lot of work that was done on safety improvements. Mr. Anderson commented the committee could revisit what we would like to advocate for in a package and what role we could have as a committee to help.

Jane Aiken

Jane Aiken reported she attended the second day of the Transportation Safety Conference in Spirit Mountain March 15th, and that it was very well attended. Ms. Aiken added there were a lot of good comments on the public input boards. Ms. Aiken reported she attended the Judges Conference as well and felt this was the best one she has attended.

IV. CHAIR REPORT (Victor Hoffer)

Chair Victor Hoffer reminded the committee that ODOT has a Government Relations Office who is allowed to lobby on behalf of any legislative bill, and that members of the OTSC legislative activities must go through that Office. Also, a reminder that the OTSC is here for transportation safety pursuits and is not a political party or committee. Finally, Chair Hoffer reminded the TSO Program Managers how much we appreciate their hard work and that the Program Managers work hard having faith that their work saves lives, which they do.

V. TRAFFIC SAFETY OFFICE (TSO) MANAGER'S REPORT

Traci Pearl reported on the annual Transportation Safety Conference held March 14th and 15th. About 130 attendees participated with traditional and non-traditional partners in attendance. The first day

consisted of multiple workshops where attendees could choose which they wanted to attend. Workshops included Impaired Driving, Safe Routes to School, Vulnerable Road User Assessment etc. The second day consisted of gathering public engagement and input from all attendees on the proposed Highway Safety Plan for 2024. Attendees were encouraged to provide their input in writing as well as on the webpage or email. There was a lot of good feedback provided to TSO and currently the Program Managers are coordinating these notes and looking at how they want to adjust the draft highway safety plan based on that input. The final version will be put forward to this committee in June for final review and approval.

Ms. Pearl reported they are also working on the Triannual, or three-year HSP that is now required under the new Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL). This will be finalized by the program managers in May to prepare for submission to NHTSA by July 1st.

Ms. Pearl reported that Sergeant Tim Plummer from Oregon State Police has retired and is now the acting Chief of Police with Madras PD. Chief Plummer, Chair Chuck Hayes and Vice Chair Cate Duke all members of the GAC-DUII, were presenters at the TSO Conference.

Ms. Pearl reported that Lieutenant Evan Sether is currently the interim Drug Recognition Expert (DRE) State Coordinator for the Oregon State Police. Interviews will be conducted by OSP on the 18th for troopers and we will report on the results of the interviews next month.

Ms. Pearl reported the NHTSA Impaired Driving Assessment began this past Monday and will continue through Friday. It is being held at the Crown Plaza Lake Oswego with multiple interviews yesterday and today. After the interviews today the NHTSA panel of experts will be working to draft the report of suggestions and priority recommendations and will present that on Friday morning. This information will be shared with the OTSC at the next meeting.

Ms. Pearl introduces John Bonnet who is the new Cars Unit Manager for ODOT Transportation Data Section, replacing Robin Ness, who was a 40-year ODOT employee that retired last year.

Ms. Pearl presented the crash statistics and reports that show the weekly status of fatalities for 2021, 2022 and into 2023. These are all still preliminary data: [Oregon Department of Transportation : Crash Statistics & Reports : Data & Maps : State of Oregon](#) These figures for now, are replacing the Oregon Daily Toll reports, which are on hold as they are reworking the initial fatal reporting products. Also being worked on is an online dashboard with charts and maps for real time information about fatalities that they are hoping to publish soon.

VI. TRANSPORTATION SAFETY COMMITTEE SCOPE DISCUSSION – ORS 802-300 (Victor Hoffer/Traci Pearl)

Traci Pearl shared three documents, [Oregon Revised Statute 802.300](#), [ORS 802.310](#) and a one-page overview of the Oregon Transportation Safety Committee and read them out to the meeting members to showcase the OTSC's origination and its purpose. Jane Aiken recommended removing items in the motor vehicle code that are outdated, and that do not promote traffic safety. Will Anderson added he

would like to take a targeted look at certain recommendations that we could make to the legislature to help guide the Transportation Commission's work.

VII. LIAISON REPORT

Driver Education Advisory Committee (Traci Pearl for Jody Raska)

Traci Pearl reported there is a Driver Education Advisory Committee meeting coming up on June 1st. They currently have four vacancies and Jody Raska should be speaking to the OTSC in June in regards to applicant applications received for review and approval by this committee for new members.

Highway Safety Engineering Committee (Christina McDaniel-Wilson)

Christina McDaniel-Wilson reported on the [Vulnerable User Assessment](#) and the new requirements. The purpose of this study is to identify high risk areas and develop strategies and solutions and then incorporate that into our TSAP so that we can use that as a road map for improving vulnerable road user safety. There is a short timeline for getting this work done, by November 16th when it's due to FHWA for review. The committee will be updated as the work moves forward, and they will be sharing a draft for review and feedback. Ms. McDaniel-Wilson reported they are getting ready to launch the [All-Roads Transportation Safety Program](#) (ARTS).

GAC on Motorcycle Safety (Jeff Greiner)

Jeff Greiner reported that the Chair and Vice Chair of the Governor's Advisory Committee on Motorcycle Safety had a virtual meeting with the Governor's Policy Advisor and transportation two weeks ago. Content of the meeting included: Questions from the committee of the policy advisor, re: weighing in on legislation or providing recommendations to the Governor regarding current legislation, specifically regarding Senate Bill 422, motorcycle lane splitting. Also discussed was the membership of the committee and concerns like the GAC-MS members terming. Finally, they discussed with the policy advisor the recommendation from the Transportation Safety Plan (five-year plan) on the adoption of the federal standards for motorcycle helmets in the Oregon Revised Statute. Currently there is a gap between the Oregon state law and the federal standards required of helmet performance and crashes. The conversation was about information sharing and how the committee can be a resource to the Governor's office as well as what are the expectations of the Governor's office of the committee and further discussions are planned. Mr. Greiner will share the information updated as this moves ahead. Topics for the next GAC-Motorcycle Safety meeting next week will include DMV statistics, and Hanna Braziel from DMV will share the 2022 DMV Rider information and vehicle information. DMV puts this together for the committee and for Transportation Safety to use both to meet federal requirements, reporting and applications, to help the safety planning and the committee use that information to stay current on what our customers and riders are doing in Oregon and what the challenges may or may not be. The GAC-MS requests that the OTSC lets them know what their expectations are of them in determining what training programs should be approved for instruction. In their Executive Order are some very specific expectations of the committee and it includes advising the agency on what we should be looking at in training. Currently Oregon doesn't recognize other training programs that are administered or offered in other states, and we only have one training provider in Oregon.

VIII. PROGRAM MANAGER REPORT

Judicial (Kristen Twenge)

Kristen Twenge reported on the Judicial Spring Conference held at the Best Western in Agate Beach on March 22-24th. 86 participants attended and received 17 CLE credits. Dates for next year are set for March 13-15 at the Best Western. The Honorable Eric Bergstrom held a session on Distracted Driving Trials and Jonathan Munson shared the latest information within the DMV.

Traffic Records (Walt McAllister)

Walt McAllister reported that the new [Traffic Records Strategic Plan](#) will be finalized by the Traffic Records Coordinating Committee (TRCC) in early May. Mr. McAllister shared they conducted an assessment where that assessment reveals that we meet, partially meet, or do not meet the assessment ideal. Surveys were conducted with specific questions for the TRCC to develop the plan. Information was gathered as part of the assessment project from people who prepare traffic data, collect traffic data, or use traffic data. Federal law requires a demonstration that progress was made in one or more performance area each grant year to qualify for the NHTSA 405(C) grant funds. The time schedule for performance is April 1st – March 31st. Proofs are submitted and the NHTSA decides whether it meets their needs or needs improvement. Mr. McAllister will update the committee as this moves forward.

Motorcycle Safety (Jeff Greiner)

Jeff Greiner thanked the committee for approving his consent calendar request and presented his handouts for the GAC-MS. Mr. Greiner provided the [Revised Statutes](#) that are relevant to the motorcycle safety program that includes statute 802.320, Sections A, C and H. Section “A” addresses motorcycle safety promotion and public education. “C” is classroom instruction and actual driving instruction necessary to teach safe and proper operation of motorcycles and mopeds. “H” is other education or safety programs that the department determines will help promote the safe operation of motorcycles and moped, promote safe and lawful driving habits, assist with accident prevention and reduce the need for intensive highway policing. Mr. Greiner asked the committee for their guidance, but with no decision today on what the committee would like in terms of what can he provide the committee for consideration and review for people seeking to provide endorsement courses in Oregon and how the GAC-MS can serve in that capacity. Mr. Greiner then asked the committed what level of detail they want as an appointed committee member in the day-to-day operation of the training program or what level of detail would they like from the GAC in making recommendation to the OTSC.

VII. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Amy Joyce presented the [Legislative Update](#) and started with House Bill 2316, Any Impairing Substance. This bill is now in Ways and Means. Ms. Joyce confirmed that out of all the DUII Bills, this is the only one that is still in play as the other bills did not make the deadline of April 4th.

Ms. Joyce referenced HB3374 which replaces the word in all ORS from vehicle ‘accident’ to vehicle ‘crash’. This 2023 legislative bill made it through the House and is now with the Rules Committee and is waiting on a hearing. At this point it is still alive.

Vice Chair Jerry Cooper inquired about the Lane Splitting Bill (SB422) and Amy Joyce responded this one is still in play and has made it through the House and Senate and is currently in Joint Transportation.

IX. Public Comment

There were no public comments shared.

X. NEXT MEETING & AGENDA BUILD

The next meeting will be held May 10, 2023 at the ODOT TLC building and virtually.

- *DMV License Testing (CDL, Class C)*
- *Karl Citek, M.S., O.D., PhD, FAAQ (Nystagmus – Part 1)*
- *Tim Plummer, OSP (Nystagmus and the DRE Program – Part 2)*
- *Statewide Tow Truck Report*
- *Comprehensive Legislative Review of the Motor Vehicle Code*
- *TSAP Implementation Plan (January)*

XI. ADJOURN

With no further business brought before the committee, Chair Hoffer officially adjourned the meeting at 12:08 a.m.