

FINAL

OREGON TRANSPORTATION SAFETY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, July 9, 2025- Meeting Minutes

Transportation Safety Office

Hybrid Meeting – DMV HQ – Salem, OR

Members in person: Chair Victor Hoffer, Vice-Chair Matthew Bathke, Dani Schulte, Roger Kuhlman, Jane Aiken

Members via Phone/Teams: N/A

Members absent: N/A

Staff in person and via Teams: Traci Pearl, Jenifer Sether, Margaret Inoue, Shari Davis, Shelley Uselman, Jeff Greiner, Rose Senger, Ryan Stone, Billie-Jo Nickens, Colleen O'Hogan, Kelly Mason, Heidi Manlove, Jody Raska

Guests/liaisons: Lieutenant Clay Core (OSP), Nicole McAda (CLEAR Alliance), Jiguang Zhao (HSEC), John Bonnett (ODOT)

Public Attendees: N/A

Welcome and Introductions

Chair Victor Hoffer called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. and held a moment of silence, remembering those who have lost loved ones in crashes.

Consent Calendar and Minutes

Chair Hoffer called for review and approval of the [July consent calendar](#) and the [June meeting minutes](#). On the consent calendar, DEAC has asked for approval for two new members. **MOTION: pass the June minutes without correction.**

Result: unanimous approval. MOTION PASSED.

Chair Report

Chair Hoffer reported a busy EMS season approaching.

Public Comment

No one signed up for public comment.

Member Reports

Dani Schulte

Ms. Schulte informed the committee that the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR) is in the process of hiring a Transportation Planner.

Jane Aiken

Ms. Aiken expressed her deep concern over Legislature's failure to pass the ODOT budget. Ms. Aiken also proposed a motion for OTSC to formally recommend to the Oregon Transportation Commission (OTC) that they advocate for a special legislative session to address urgent ODOT budget and program needs.

Roger Kuhlman

Mr. Kuhlman had nothing to report.

Matthew Bathke

Mr. Bathke reported ongoing roadwork in Marion County, and reminded the Committee that wildfire season was approaching and to exercise caution and support for first responders.

Liaison Reports

Highway Safety Engineering Committee/HSEC (Angela Kargel/Jiguang Zhao)

In a verbal report, Mr. Zhao noted the unit failed to meet its Federally-required safety performance targets for the year; a recurring issue for the past 5-6 years. As a result, the state submitted a Highway Safety Improvement Program

Implementation Plan (HSIP) to FHWA, which has been approved. Performance measures not met include: total fatalities, fatality rate, total serious injuries, serious injury rate, and fatalities and serious injuries among vulnerable road users, such as pedestrians and cyclists. The approved HSIP will guide engineering practices for the upcoming Fiscal Year.

DEAC (Jody Raska) deferred to September for a report, post-DEAC meeting (to be held July 10).

EMS (Victor Hoffer)

Victor Hoffer noted he renewed his paramedic licensure for the next several years. He also noted the State is entering a “high danger” fire risk as of July 10th.

Oregon State Police (Lieutenant Clay Core)

In a comprehensive report, Lieutenant Core informed the Committee that OSP has a 60-head Trooper class set to begin in October. About 25% of these Troopers are lateral transfers from other agencies within Oregon or from other states. This is expected to ease the current 75 sworn vacancies (49 in Patrol Division). The next Academy class will begin in July 2026. OSP is also adding 4 certified commercial motor vehicle inspectors (this will make 5 statewide), to enhance enforcement and crash reconstruction for buses and heavy trucks. The full-time staffing request for the High-Visibility Enforcement Unit (HVEU) was not approved in the legislative budget, but will continue as a part-time team using Troopers from across the state. The Ignition Interlock Device (IID) Program has been granted authority to hire compliance specialists and retain existing staff. Recruitment will begin later this summer. The OSP K-9 program currently includes 7 drug detection dogs, 1 explosives dog, several Fish and Wildlife K-9s, and several SWAT K-9s.

Legislative Update (Traci Pearl)

Ms. Pearl briefly held review of some TSO-watched bills that did pass this legislative session; [SB558](#); [SB840](#); [SB1036](#); [HB2154](#); [HB2232](#); [HB2978](#).

TSO Manager’s Report (Traci Pearl)

In a verbal report, Traci Pearl detailed the failure of House Bill 2025 and how it impacts ODOT and DMV on an operational level. Between expected layoffs and current vacancies, 932 positions are affected or at risk, including 2 with TSO. TSO is stretched to capacity between its own unfilled vacancies and layoffs. A second round of these layoffs is anticipated in spring of 2026. TSO is preparing to submit its annual NHTSA grant application for 2026, proposing 164 projects. The ODOT budget shortfall will impact project management capacity, which may in turn reduce the number of grant awards next year to manage employee workload. Ms. Pearl announced her retirement, effective September 1, 2025, but confirmed she would be returning as a temporary employee to support continuity. The most recent available [CAR Unit data was reviewed](#).

New Business

[The Committee created, reviewed, signed and dated](#) a formal memorandum to be delivered to the OTC advocating for a special legislative session to approve the ODOT budget and restore staffing. **MOTION: adopt the memorandum by Jane Aiken. SECOND: Dani Schulte. Result: unanimous approval. MOTION PASSED.**

Next Meeting & Agenda Build

The next meeting will be virtual and in-person on Wednesday, September 10, 2025 (9:30 a.m., DMV HQ, Conference Room 316 and Teams).

Possible future meeting topics:

- Roundabouts
- How to help staff with workload
- 2026 Annual Grant Application to NHTSA

XIII. ADJOURN

With no further business brought before the committee, Chair Hoffer officially adjourned the meeting at 11:00 a.m.