

FINAL

OREGON TRANSPORTATION SAFETY COMMITTEE
Wednesday, September 10, 2025- Meeting Minutes
Transportation Safety Office
Hybrid Meeting – DMV HQ – Salem, OR

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

Members via Phone/Teams: N/A

Members absent (excused): Dani Schulte

Staff in person and via Teams: Traci Pearl, Jenifer Sether, Amy Joyce, Tiana Tozer, Jeff Greiner, Walter McAllister, Billie-Jo Nickens, Shelley Uselman, Rose Senger, Shari Davis, Kelly Mason, Suzanne Mullen, Colleen O'Hogan, Ryan Stone, Margaret Inoue, Vanessa Churchill, Jody Raska

Guests/liaisons present in person and via Teams: Bill Merrill (DMV), Lieutenant Clay Core (OSP), Jiguang Zhao (HSEC) Sarah Litkie (Legacy Health, Trauma Nurses Talk Tough)

Public Attendees: KOIN

Welcome and Introductions

Chair Victor Hoffer called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. and held a moment of silence, in remembrance of those lost in motor vehicle crashes. In-person and virtual attendees introduced themselves.

Consent Calendar and Minutes

Chair Hoffer called for review and approval of the [September consent calendar](#) and the [September meeting minutes](#).

MOTION: pass the September minutes without correction. Result: unanimous approval. MOTION PASSED.

Chair Report

Chair Hoffer honored the memory of those lost during 9/11 and emphasized using that remembrance as motivation to love our families and work toward safer highways.

Public Comment

No one signed up for public comment.

Member Reports

Jane Aiken

Ms. Aiken shared an article on tribal-state land partnership and drew parallels to OTSC's judicial education efforts and partnerships with tribal judges.

Roger Kuhlman

Mr. Kuhlman reported the Safe Routes To School meeting had been postponed.

Matthew Bathke

Mr. Bathke shared a real-life example of a child's life saved due to proper car seat use; he praised occupant protection programs and their importance.

Liaison Reports

Driver Education Advisory Committee/DEAC (Jody Raska)

Two new members have been added to DEAC; two vacancies remain. Expansion of program access to foster care youth was discussed. Currently, there are 48 approved compliance providers, with 3 new ones added. As of June 30, 2025, there are 307 certified instructors. Statistically, 13% of teen crashes involve students who have had driver education, 87% of those did not.

GAC-Motorcycle Safety/GAC-MS (Jeff Greiner)

Preliminary 2025 motorcycle-involved fatalities are down 31% YTD, compared to 2024. The GAC meetings have been suspended due to lack of quorum. There is a survey underway involving driver awareness of motorcycles. A potential legislative concept involving rider education curriculum review may be submitted for 2026.

DMV (Bill Merrill)

A new statute allows action against individuals who may cheat or aid in cheating on DMV tests. DMV at large is preparing concepts for the 2026 legislative session.

TSO Manager's Report (Traci Pearl)

The 2026 Annual Grant Application (AGA) was submitted to NHTSA and is awaiting formal approval. The ODOT budget vote has been delayed until at least September 17, 2025, due to legislative absence. Ms. Pearl formally retired on September 1, however; she has stayed on part-time to support TSO's needs. The new web-based grant system, called SGMS, will formally launch on October 1. The most recent available [CAR Unit data was reviewed](#). Member Roger Kuhlman expressed interest in seeing more data on the increase in pedalcyclist fatalities.

Legislative Update (Amy Joyce)

ODOT is facing a funding crisis; layoffs and a hiring freeze are in effect as the organization awaits further instruction. DMV is held harmless due to its revenue-collecting role. The special-session bill is expected to pass September 17th. TSO has five vacant Program Analyst positions. Consultant support has been secured for the annual report and triennial plan development.

Annual Grant Application (AGA) Review and Approval

Members discussed concern over limited review time [for the ample document](#), and suggested pending questions and approval for the October meeting. **MOTION: approve the AGA, with further review scheduled for the October meeting. Result: unanimous approval. MOTION PASSED.**

Next Meeting & Agenda Build

The next meeting will be virtual and in-person on Wednesday, October 8, 2025 (9:30 a.m., DMV HQ, Conference Room 316 and Teams).

Future (possible) meeting topics:

--October: review and discuss the 2026 AGA for any amendments

--November: updates scheduled for Capital Investment Plan (CIP; Amanda Pietz) and Transportation Safety Action Plan (TSAP; Mary McGowan).

--Pedalcyclist data analysis

XIII. ADJOURN

With no further business brought before the committee, Chair Hoffer officially adjourned the meeting at 11:44 a.m.

