

FINAL

OREGON TRANSPORTATION SAFETY COMMITTEE
Wednesday, October 8, 2025- Meeting Minutes
Transportation Safety Office
Hybrid Meeting – DMV HQ – Salem, OR

Members in person: Vice-Chair Matthew Bathke, Jane Aiken

Members via Phone/Teams: Roger Kuhlman, Dani Schulte

Members absent (excused): Chair Victor Hoffer

Staff in person and via Teams: Traci Pearl, Jenifer Sether, Amanda Pietz, Shari Davis, Kelly Mason, Suzanne Mullen, Nicole Charlson, Tiana Tozer, Shelley Uselman, Colleen O'Hogan, Margaret Inoue, Heidi Manlove, Walt McAllister

Guests/liaisons present in person and via Teams: Sarah Litkie (TNTT, Injury Prevention), Nick Fortey (FHWA), Captain Evan Sether (OSP), John Bonnett (ODOT CAR Unit), Jiguang Zhao (HSEC), Christina McDaniel-Wilson (FHWA)

Public Attendees: N/A

Welcome and Introductions

Vice Chair Matthew Bathke 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

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

MOTION: pass the October consent calendar and September minutes without correction. Result: unanimous approval. MOTION PASSED.

Chair Report

Chair Hoffer (absent, excused) sent a message to be shared as his chair report: ““I am pleased to welcome Amanda Pietz to the meeting today and I would like to thank Amy Joyce for her dedication to highway safety. We look forward to working with Amanda Pietz and continuing to support our TSO staff.”

Vice-Chair Report

Vice-Chair Bathke spoke of recent traffic fatalities in Marion County, with alcohol as a major contributing factor. There was an emphasis on the mental health impact on responders and a discussion for the need for peer support for public works staff and all first responders. Vice Chair Bathke also challenged the committee to embrace their advisory role to the OTC further by producing regular actionable recommendations, citing the success of the [most recent memo written](#) to the attention of the Commissioners.

Public Comment

No one signed up for public comment.

Member Reports

Jane Aiken

Ms. Aiken proposed discussion on commercialization of rest areas as a state funding source, and suggested reviewing Washington State's [Safety Rest Area Strategic Plan](#) as a model.

Roger Kuhlman

Requested follow-up on roundabout design concerns, especially for truck traffic. A suggestion was made by Captain Sether to invite Professor David Hurwitz from Oregon State University (College of Engineering) to present on roundabout design research.

Dani Schulte

Reported hiring a new transportation planner for CTUIR, and announced receipt of the [Oregon Community Paths](#) grant for trail enhancements. Ms. Schulte also discussed transit providers' role in emergency response and suggested incorporating mental health support into PTASP ([Public Transit Agency Safety Plan](#)).

Liaison Reports

Oregon State Police (Captain Evan Sether)

Announced a new class of 60 recruits beginning in October, reducing patrol vacancies significantly. Captain Sether discussed fatal crash trends, particularly crossover and roadway departure crashes, and emphasized the importance of data-driven enforcement and 24-hour patrol coverage. A discussion also ensued about overlength trucks rerouting onto unsafe roads during active I-5 closures.

FHWA (Nick Fortey)

Mr. Fortey reviewed Oregon's Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) report with the Committee and attendees. He also discussed national focus on arterial road safety and the Safe Systems Approach. Further Federal guidance is needed before providing detailed feedback on Oregon's arterial safety response.

ODOT CAR Unit (John Bonnett)

Mr. Bonnett shared updates on fatal crash data processing and resulting mental health check-ins for the staff who process this data. He also mentioned Clackamas County's development of a post-crash triage best practices guide.

TSO Manager's Report (Traci Pearl)

Announced 154 grant projects for FY 2026; 90 have already been executed. Ms. Pearl shared the most recently available updates on crash and fatality trends.

Special Presentation: Pedalcyclist Fatality Trends (Suzanne Mullen, TSO)

With support from John Bonnett and Nicole Charlson, Suzanne Mullen [presented a PowerPoint](#) to the Committee and attendees.

Organizational Update (Amanda Pietz, ODOT PDAD)

A transition was announced: TSO will be moving from DMV into the Policy, Data, and Analysis Division (called PDAD), to better align with planning and data functions. Traci Pearl is set to retire at the end of 2025; active recruitment for her replacement underway. Ms. Pietz will be designated as the new Governor's Representative for Highway Safety; replacing Amy Joyce in that role.

Annual Grant Application (AGA) Discussion

The 2026 AGA was reviewed and discussed. Members expressed interest in reviewing grantee reports and effectiveness of funded programs. Ms. Pearl explained the approval process and offered to share additional resources (e.g., [Countermeasures That Work](#), the [Grantee Orientation 2026 slide show](#)).

Next Meeting & Agenda Build

The next meeting will be virtual and in-person on Wednesday, November 12, 2025 (9:30 a.m., DMV HQ, Conference Room 316 and Teams).

Future meeting topics:

--November: 2026 meeting dates, roundabouts (ODOT, Kevin Haas) and Transportation Safety Action Plan (TSAP, Mary McGowan).

--December: updates scheduled for Capital Investment Plan (CIP; Amanda Pietz)

Possible future meeting topics:

- Travel meetings (Newberg, Umatilla)
- Impact of Federal shutdown on work plans

XIII. ADJOURN

With no further business brought before the committee, Vice Chair Bathke officially adjourned the meeting at 11:43 a.m.

