



Oregon

Tina Kotek, Governor

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Transportation Safety Office**

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Memorandum

To: Chair Hoffer & Members
Oregon Transportation Safety Committee

From: Jody Raska, TSO Staff to Driver Education Advisory Committee

Date: May 14, 2025

Re: Driver Education Advisory Committee Report to the OTSC

The Driver Education Advisory Committee (DEAC) last met on April 25, 2025, in person at Chemeketa Community College in Salem prior to the opening of the PacNW Driver & Traffic Safety Conference.

One member, Melissa Richey, has served two terms and rotates off the committee, leaving a Community College representative vacancy. Ms. Richey was thanked for her service and her contributions to the DEAC and the Driver Education program as a whole. An additional member, Stephanie Kahee, submitted her resignation from the committee on April 17, leaving a Public School representative vacancy. With these two, there are currently four vacancies on the nine-member DEAC in the following categories: public school, commercial driver training school, community college and at-large. During the immediately following Pac NW Conference, announcements were made about the vacancies encouraging attendees to apply. Applications and Committee Guidelines were available. TSO staff hope to present candidates for appointment at the June OTSC meeting so any appointed new members can be onboarded before the July 2025 DEAC meeting.

Ms. Raska, TSO's DE Program Manager, provided a program update noting that there are over 2,000 provider DMV2U student completion entries to date and identified some of the challenges and fixes identified in using this system. FY26 grant applications have been received and will be scored in the coming week for project implementation either July 1 or October 1 depending on state or federal funding. It was also noted an additional limited funding source has been identified which can be used as an additional support for students in foster care and for students who may turn 18 prior to course completion. The latter must have a compelling reason for the delay (e.g. medical condition that interrupted the course and delayed completion, etc.).

Ms. Uselman shared there is one new provider working through the approval process and DMV's Third Party Programs continues to share inquiries related to commercial driver training schools. Ms. Uselman has completed five compliance inspections to date and all have gone well. No significant issues have been noted related to DMV2U entries and OAR requirements. There are now a total of 47 approved providers: 5 community colleges, 23 commercial driver training schools, and 19 public providers. One provider remains on probation and has been meeting all reporting requirements with probation scheduled to end in June. One instructor certification suspension has been stayed pending an administrative hearing.

Ms. McDermeit, Western Oregon University, provided an update on instructor courses and instructor certifications. WOU remains on target to certify 56 new instructors during the grant year. It was noted that although 50+ new instructors are certified each grant year, due to attrition, we are maintaining a roster of close to 300 certified instructors on the roll. Ms. McDermeit encouraged meeting attendees to discuss instruction retention during the Instructor Roundtable meetings at the PacNW Conference. Mr. Todd Sholty was hired in November as a full-time trainer of trainers and has been meeting, virtually and in person, with all ODOT-approved driver education programs to discuss challenges and what services and helps he can provide. He has been able to accommodate smaller instructor training courses that would otherwise have been cancelled due to low enrollment.

Ms. Whisenhunt, Chemeketa Community College, provided an update on continuing education courses provided for instructors to meet CE requirements during each 2-year certification period. Enrollment and completions for each of the courses was shared. Meeting attendees were invited to share ideas about future course topics and opportunities for teaching those courses through Chemeketa.

An update on the 2025 legislative session was shared by Ms. Raska, highlighting bills that TSO's DE program has been tracking. Bills discussed were:

- HB 2990 which deals with translation of DMV written materials into the top five languages spoken in Oregon other than English.
- HB 3323 which establishes a driver improvement course for teens under 18 who receive a citation
- SB 9 which aims to increase access to DMV services (drive tests) in Wallowa County. While the bill does not directly address teen driver education, it has created an opportunity for discussions on expanding access to the teen driver education program in that area.

The remaining portion of the meeting was open for public comment. Items discussed were related to increasing availability of instructor training, changing the instructor training process, challenges noted with DMV2U, and upcoming grant opportunities. Attendees were encouraged to apply for vacant positions on the DEAC.

The next meeting of the DEAC is scheduled for July 10, 2025.