

Oregon Transportation Safety Committee History

The Oregon Transportation Safety Committee has its roots in the federal Highway Safety Act of 1966. In response to that Act, the Oregon legislature created a governor appointed Oregon Transportation Safety Commission in 1967. A newly created position of Governor's Highway Safety Representative, and the Commission, were assigned to advise the governor regarding laws and activities to address the growing problem of highway safety, and to manage and conduct a program to address safety on the roadways. In 1991 the Commission and Representative were moved by the Oregon Legislature to a placement within the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) as part of a reorganization of state government. State laws were subsequently re-written to place the Commission as a Committee with an advisory role to the Oregon Transportation Commission. Under law, the Committee retained certain decision making responsibilities as part of the new organizational structure. With the move, Commission Staff became employees of ODOT, forming into what is now named the Transportation Safety Division. From the first Commission, to the Oregon Transportation Committee of today, the group works to develop a plan that lists projects and activities conducted in Oregon. The plan, known by the names Highway Safety Plan or Performance Plan, is presented for adoption by the Oregon Transportation Commission each summer.