

Impaired Driving Program Update

Oregon Transportation Safety Committee

May 28, 2021

Programmatic Update: Two new projects are on deck for being activated – the Yamhill County DUII Deputy position with the Yamhill County Sheriff’s Office, and the administrative support position for the OSP Crime Lab toxicologists. In addition, we are working with DPSST to add a part-time administrative support position for the Law Enforcement Spokesperson/LE Training grant for increased productivity. The position with DPSST will likely not become activated until after the state fiscal year, or possibly the new federal fiscal year and rolled into the FFY2022 DPSST grant.

All grants are proceeding according to plan. Grants that involve large gatherings and trainings are adjusting for COVID direction from the state, but otherwise have managed to conduct many of their deliverables within the mandated restrictions.

The Impaired Driving Strategic Plan has been updated for 2021 to account for the myriad of changes that have occurred since the last update, including new case law, drug decriminalization, new data, etc. This plan will be approved by the GAC-DUII at their June meeting and then shared with the OTSC.

Drug Impaired fatalities continue their steep upward trend while alcohol-impaired fatalities are decreasing, albeit on a slower decline. While alcohol-impaired **arrests** represent a much larger portion of overall DUII crimes, drug-impaired **fatalities** are much higher. This translates that a drug-impaired crash is much more likely to result in a fatality.

The close partnership between the GAC-DUII and the GAC-MS continues with joint efforts on legislation where there is overlap with impairment, as well as coordination on federal issues and media strategy. Both groups have expressed a mutual appreciation for the work together.

Legislative Update: Three bills out of eight sponsored by the GAC-DUII are moving forward and are on track to become law. Those are SB201 (the fixes to the Hedgpeth and Guzman court decisions), HB3050 (formerly HB3134, Crash not Accident language), and HB3140 (adding psilocybin to DUII statutes). Other bills that included 0.05 BAC, DRE testimony, 24/7 sobriety programs and the perennial “Any Impairing Substance” proposals did not move forward. However, with HB3140 and the psilocybin issue, it was mentioned several times in testimony in both chambers that a lack of “any impairing substance” statutes made this piecemeal approach necessary, as we did with cannabis a few years ago. This did raise the level of positive awareness amongst committee members and increase understanding of one of the more frustrating gaps in our DUII statutes.