

Oregon Transportation Safety Committee

(Oregon Revised Statutes 802.300, 802.310, 802.320, 802.325, 336.802, and 813.600)

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 (ORS 802.300).

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 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 and 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.

Specific topical areas of direct responsibility include the motorcycle safety program (ORS 802.320), bicyclist safety program (ORS 802.325), Ignition Interlock program (ORS 813.600), and teen driver education program (ORS 336.802).

The Committee is on point to lead and organize the statewide highway safety program across all state, local, other Governor-appointed Committees, non-profit and volunteer organizations (ORS 802.310). From the first Commission, to the Oregon Transportation Safety Committee of today, the group works to develop an annual plan that lists highway safety projects and activities to be conducted in Oregon. The plan, known by the names Highway Safety Plan or Performance Plan, is presented for adoption to the Oregon Transportation Commission each summer.

The Committee consists of five-members, appointed by the Governor, as recommended by the Oregon Transportation Commission. The Committee typically meets one day a month, hosts a one-day planning session in January, sponsors a two-day statewide highway safety conference in October, and participates in task forces or as a liaison to other governor-appointed or statewide committees as appointed by the Chair.

Over the past 50 years the Committee has helped usher in new or improved laws in the areas of teen driving, Ignition Interlocks, child safety seats, distracted driving, speed, work zones, motorcycle safety training, safe routes to school, safe and courteous driving, pedestrian safety, impaired driving, and testified on dozens of other highway safety topics.

Committee members receive a small per diem of \$30 for every day they conduct work as a Committee member. Mileage, meals, and overnight accommodations are reimbursed at the state approved rates.

Administrative Provisions

ORS 802.310

Transportation safety programs

- **administrator**

- (1) The administrator for transportation safety shall serve as the Governor's representative for highway safety in conformity with the Federal Highway Safety Act of 1966. The Director of Transportation and the Oregon Transportation Commission shall be responsible to the Governor for the administration of the state transportation safety programs. All reports and recommendations relating to program evaluations, assignment of responsibilities and approval of plans and activities shall be provided to the Governor by the commission.
- (2) The Department of Transportation, in consultation with the Transportation Safety Committee, shall do the following:
 - (a) Organize, plan and conduct a statewide transportation safety program.
 - (b) Coordinate general activities and programs of the several departments, divisions or agencies of the state engaged in promoting transportation safety.
 - (c) Provide transportation safety information and develop other measures of public information.
 - (d) Cooperate fully with all national, local, public and private agencies and organizations interested in the promotion of transportation safety.
 - (e) Serve as a clearinghouse for all transportation safety materials and information used throughout the state.
 - (f) Cooperate in promoting research, special studies and analysis of problems concerning transportation safety.
 - (g) Make studies and suitable recommendations to the legislature concerning safety regulations and laws.
- (3) The department shall review plans and applications for participation by counties and cities in the federal government highway safety programs conducted under the Federal Highway Safety Act of 1966 and any amendments thereto. The committee shall make recommendations to the department regarding the approval of plans and applications under ORS 802.315 (Department authority to apply for and receive federal highway safety program grants and other funds). [1983 c.338 §873; 1991 c.453 §7; 1993 c.741 §78; 2005 c.70 §4]