



OREGON SEISMIC SAFETY POLICY ADVISORY COMMISSION (OSSPAC)

Minutes

September 9, 2025

OSSPAC Members Present:

Member	Position	Present
Allison Pynch	Chair, Public Member	P
Anne Castleton	Vice-Chair, Public Member	P
Althea Rizzo	OEM	P
Carolina Gomez	Multi-Housing Stakeholder	P
Christina LeClerc	ODOT	P
Representative David Gomberg	Legislative Assembly – House	P
Senator Dick Anderson	Legislative Assembly – Senate	A
Liz Safran	Public Member	P
Jonathan Allan	DOGAMI	A
Juan Benavidez	K-12 School Districts	P
Matt Crall	Land Conservation	P
Nishant Parulekar	Utilities Stakeholder	P
Tiffany Brown	Local Government	P
Ty Barker	BOMA	P

Others in Attendance:

Sonya McCormick	OEM
Carissa Clarke	OEM
Natasha Fox	OEM
Svetlana Lazarev	DEQ
Jay Wilson	Clackamas County
Jonna Papaefthimiou	Governor's Office
Autumn Lukens	OHAZ
Kevin White	City of Hillsboro
Todd Smith	DCBS



1. Administrative Matters:

Roll Call & Introductions: Meeting is called to order at 9:00 AM

Review & Approval of July minutes:

Members did not have time to review July minutes.

Approval of July minutes moved to the November meeting.

Events Notification:

OEM Preparedness Fair: October 11, 2025,

Great Oregon Camp-In

Oregon State CLIP Webinar Series:

<https://cascadia.engineering.oregonstate.edu/webinar-series/>

New Business: None.

Next Meeting: November 12

2. Reports:

ODOT – Christina LeClerc

- ODOT is waiting on the outcome of the second half of Special Session. Without funding, there will be no snow plowing over the winter. There are 3 maintenance stations with 30 people on staff, which would be reduced to 1 maintenance station and 1 person to cover the same area. Seasonal staff usually does winter maintenance – hiring usually starts in July, so it's at least delayed

DLCD – Matt Crall

- The Multi-hazard plan has been approved by Governor and FEMA. The plan was based on Risk Assessment that is being morphed into programs for smaller local governments.

OEM – Althea Rizzo

- Geo-related initiatives: there is a new 8-hour, in-person course for Emergency Managers, Foundations for Geohazards in Oregon
- OEM is going on the Spring Coastal Road Show, which consists of visiting coastal communities, outreach events, training for tsunami debris, etc.
- The state's Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) has a new Volcano Communication Coordination Annex

DOGAMI



DCBS – Todd Smith

- Update on the upcoming rule hearing for the 2025 Specialty Code, which will go into effect October 1, 2025.

DEQ

- Svetlana Lazarev provided an update on the Seismic Stability Program Implementation Phase and sent the link to the Annual Program Status Report
- <https://www.oregon.gov/deq/ss/Documents/ftssStatusReport2025.pdf>

Legislative Assembly

- Rep Gomberg: Special Session is ongoing, aimed at funding road maintenance and safety. The House met over Labor Day and approved the bill, but the Senate has quorum issues with one member hospitalized. The Senate will vote on September 17, and it is anticipated to pass. Governor has agreed to wait until October to decide on lay-offs.
- ODOT is responsible for road sustainability and maintenance, which includes landslide response, resilience of highways and bridges

SRO

- Governor's Executive Order of Seismically Resilient Buildings
 - 9/8/2025: all new state-owned buildings of 10k sq ft or more need to comply with seismic safety level 4 – available for immediate occupancy and be usable for recovery and response actions.
 - State will improve buildings that it already owns where staff report to work on a daily basis – they will prioritize retrofitting buildings that humans regularly occupy.
 - The standard will be safe exiting (i.e. collapse prevention), not immediate occupancy.
 - By 2060, state-owned buildings should be safe buildings during a seismic event
 - The state's retrofitting priorities: essential facilities, COOP facilities
 - Implementation plan: long-term, adding seismic improvements into projects that will already be in process
 - Capital Projects Advisory Board will be involved in planning, prioritizing, and implementation
 - Funding: incremental costs in each phase for seismic standards. Estimated costs for new buildings are 3-5%, which will be incorporated into the budget for the project.
 - DAS Facilities has a database of seismically resilient state-owned facilities (Jeremy Miller)



3. Public Comment:

Jay Wilson: Clackamas County

Question about Governor's Executive Order – Does "Highest Seismic Safety Standards" include base isolation for critical facilities? The building code standard doesn't specify the method (of which base isolation is one example) for achieving the highest seismic safety standards. Structural components must be built to the highest safety standards.

4. ShakeOut Update and Discussion – *Althea Rizzo*

[The Great Oregon ShakeOut - Get Ready!](#)

Preparedness Fair at OEM the week before the ShakeOut – indoor and outdoor events.

Contact: Kayla.thompson@oem.oregon.gov

- Be 2 Weeks Ready program stations (food prep, water storage, shelter building, hygiene, etc.)
- Food Trucks
- Escape Room
- Saturday, October 11, 2025: 11 AM – 3 PM

Members suggested promotion of the Great ShakeOut at the Oregon Ducks and Beavers football games

ShakeOut: State Agencies should encourage staff participation – register!

- 530,000 participants in 2024, 400,000 registered so far in 2025 – hoping to beat the record

Great Oregon Camp-In: Practice emergency plans at home with activities about shelter, food, water, etc.

[Oregon Department of Emergency Management : The Great Oregon Camp-In : Community Preparedness : State of Oregon](#)

5. OSSPAC Subcommittees – Updates

Legislative Subcommittee:

- State agencies will look through ORP and other relevant OSSPAC reports to see what's been accomplished, what's outstanding, and what needs our attention
- Allison, Liz and Ty will be reaching out to Senators and Representatives on relevant committees to make seismic connections



- Next meeting: Carissa will set recurring meetings with a regular schedule

Education Subcommittee:

- Objectives: statewide information assessment survey
 - Where people get information
 - What are they looking for
 - What are you not finding easily
 - Identify gaps, trends
- Recommendations for a user-friendly hub for the state enterprise information sharing
- Stakeholders' information sharing throughout the state
- Department of Education: curriculum in schools, drills
- Contact Laura Hall at RDPO – some assessment work has already been done

6. Recovery – Commission Discussion

In your area of expertise, what does recovery look like?

- Tiffany Brown: Recovery definition – returning rapidly to a state of prior level normalcy. Recovery bleeds into response and mitigation. Short-term, intermediate, long-term recovery.
 - Guidance for recovery comes from FEMA – very high level, geared towards federal government.
 - Long Term Recovery Groups (LTRGs) are associated with specific incidents
 - New State Recovery Plan in Oregon
 - Push for pre-disaster recovery planning: prioritization is key.
 - Need to move beyond general frameworks and address specific recovery topics: short-term, intermediate, long-term efforts
 - New State Recovery Manager position at OEM
 - Case studies showing the complexities and barriers in recovery processes: Holiday Farm Fire in Lane County, Japan's new government arm for earthquake recovery
- Juan Benavidez: immediate re-occupancy is key
 - Schools should be a recovery center for community – location, community
 - Leverage partnerships with the Red Cross, NGOs, government programs, etc.
 - When do they transition from community recovery back to business as usual?
- Nishant: concerns about utilities and infrastructure.
 - Planning or discussing interdependencies is not prioritized, which can lead to cascading failures.
- Matt Crall DCLD: human component – recovery in neighborhoods and housing.



- Temporary neighborhoods can become permanent
 - Permanent relocations and population shifts
 - Lack of comprehensive planning for post-disaster coastal population movements – survey residents to understand their plans post-disaster
 - Japan: people did not want to return to tsunami zones after recovery. Planning for land use in devastated areas.
- Carolina Gomez: high risk within vulnerable communities
 - Example: Hurricane Katrina: federal instructions for vouchers to permanently relocate to other cities.
 - Building rehabilitation would require funding
 - Development department: no clarity on resiliency – looking into other states and countries for guidance.
- Liz Safran: What opportunities does recovery offer us to learn and do things differently?
 - Lifeline interdependencies, land use planning
 - Eliminating some of what we know will be big vulnerabilities in recovery
 - OSSPAC can bring together agencies to discuss gaps between scopes
 - Do we look at recovery planning as planning starting with what's broken?
 - Do we start our planning as a state based on how it will be after the event and move from there?
 - “Build Back Better” – will we build what we know to get back to normal as soon as possible or try to improve and build for a better future?
- Anne Castleton: CEI hub relocation: policy planning needs to be done before the event to avoid years of retroactive planning
 - Without pre-event planning, recovery could be delayed by years spent in community discussions and political negotiations.
- Ty Barker: post-earthquake recovery challenges: financial viability for office buildings
 - High rebuild costs may exceed property values, potentially leading to lease terminations and speculation by long-term investors
 - And on the CRE side the 3-way interface of tenant/lender/insurance will make any "recovery" ie rebuild or restore or demolish will be a negotiated evaluation and decision matrix. With insurance Caps on EQ risk plus the low valuation vs rebuild cost the post event decision may be NOT to rebuild since the restoration vs valuation right now is a non-viable financial model
 - Redeveloping
- Todd Smith: temporary authority for certifications – building officials can be flexible to make sure the system still works.
- Christina LeClerc: Delays in road recovery
 - Significant delays and prioritization issues
 - Immediate focus would be on emergency access routes following the established FEMA response plans



- Highway 101 would likely take 5-15 years to rebuild
- There will not be enough people, materials, or time to get things done as quickly as people want them done. Redesign is less likely – cheaper and faster to put back as it was.
- Priority is getting people safe – redesign should be separate to recovery
- Althea: Shock Doctrine book – disaster capitalism: <https://naomiklein.org/the-shock-doctrine/>
 - Planning needs to involve protecting people, not just infrastructure.
 - How the public can be better served after an emergency without being taken advantage of
 - Legislation
- How do we compel people to plan for disaster recovery?
- Emergency Management is eclipsed by emergency response
- What can OSSPAC do?
 - Legislative Subcommittee – weave these long-term issues into the agenda
 - Invite SMEs to OSSPAC meetings
 - Recovery Subcommittee? Eventually

7. November Meeting Planning

ORSAP

CRESCENT Flood Map Update

Legislative Goals

2026 Legislature

Adjourned: Chair Pyrch adjourned the meeting at 10:53 AM.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, November 12, 2025