

COACT (Central Oregon Advisory Committee on Transportation)

Safety Committee Notes

August 22, 2022 | 11:30am-1pm

Location: Zoom or COIC Bend Office

Staff:

Scott Aycock, Sommers Taylor, COIC; Tyler Deke, Jovita Anderson, Bend MPO

Attendees:

Barb Campbell, Bend MPO; Commissioner Patti Adair, Deschutes County; Commissioner Jerry Brummer, Crook County; Commissioner Krisanna Clark-Endicott, City of Redmond; Dave Thomson, Deschutes County Bike & Pedestrian Advisory Committee; Walter McAllister, Robert Townsend, ODOT

Action Items:

There was a request from Commissioner Brummer to include topics around distracted driving at the next meeting.

Commissioner Krisanna Clark-Endicott requested that there be data from local enforcement on how many traffic safety devoted enforcement officers there are.

Jovi will compile a summary of crash status' in detail for each 3 counties in central Oregon (top three locations and top 3 safety issues/behaviors).

Outcomes:

The next meeting will take place on November 28th, 2022. COIC staff will send out calendar invites and will coordinate with other staff members about setting up a recurring meeting time.

Jovi plans on reaching out to Jefferson County to discuss their safety plan and implementation.

Jovi asked for members to reach out to staff if they know of anyone else that should be included on this group (i.e. school districts).

Staff is going to create a webpage specific to safety on the website.

1. **Call to Order & Introductions**

Scott Aycock, COIC

2. **Committee Formation & Membership**

Tyler Deke, Bend Metropolitan Planning

Organization (MPO)

- **Attachment A_Membership Roster**
- Background: In 2021, COACT created a subcommittee to work toward safety on Central Oregon transportation issues. The subcommittee is now starting after a delay due to staff constraints.

Tyler explained that the funding for this group came from ODOT to develop a safety action plan, Bend received funding for this plan and then Deschutes County also received their own pot of money to develop this plan. These plans were presented to COACT last year and there was universal agreement to form a regional safety team as a subcommittee of COACT. Jovi mentioned that this list may represent the Executive Committee for this group as school driver representation (along with other organizations) are needed, but not included on this original roster.

3. Safety Committee Roles in Oregon

Jovi Anderson, Bend MPO

- Background: Discuss the role of Safety Committees in Oregon and the funding to help this process from ODOT Transportation Safety Division

There have been small safety groups within Central Oregon cities and the hope is to expand these groups from city specific, to the region. The main goal of the Safety Committees is to reduce fatal and serious injury crashes.

Walter McAllister from ODOT explained that there are state grant funding opportunities for community traffic safety programs and partners. State partners are looking for local traffic safety groups that can connect professionals and advocates, leverage the efforts of partners and those who can develop new and different safety efforts, specifically when it applies to technical skills and education. ODOT recommends looking towards Lane County for other regional Safety Committee examples.

4. Overview of Emphasis Areas and Crash Trends in Central Oregon

Jovi Anderson, Bend MPO

- **Attachment B_Central Oregon Crash Maps 2016-2020**
- **Attachment C_Safety Performance Report 2022**
- Background: Central Oregon has seen a dramatic increase in traffic deaths, during 2020, including vulnerable road users like those walking and biking who are hit by cars. Review of crash emphasis areas and safety action plan findings.

Some goals of this Safety Committee are to meet the National Roadway Safety Goal of “achieving a significant reduction in traffic fatalities and serious injuries on all public roads”, and to ensure that States and MPOs invest federal resources into projects that make progress towards these national goals.

Jovi reported on some safety performance measures that they are required to report on. These being number of fatalities, rate of fatalities per 100 million vehicle miles traveled (VMT), number of serious injuries, rate of serious injuries per 100 million VMT and number of non-motorized fatalities and serious injuries.

With some one-off accidents in rural areas, most of the fatal and serious injury crashes between 2016-2020 were within the Bend area. Based on this data, the key messages are still slow down, drive sober, buckle up and pay attention.

5. Safety & Enforcement Status

Tim Guest, Bend Police

- Background: Safety Projects in Central Oregon

Jovi stepped in for Tim Guest as Tim was not available for the meeting. Jovi overviewed the Calls for Services document that Bend Police provided. **Jovi plans on reaching out to the Jefferson County Sherriff to talk with them as they start implementing their safety plan. There were some follow-up questions regarding this document that Jovi will follow-up with enforcement officials.**

6. Safety & Education Status

Brian Potwin, Commute Options

- Background: Transportation Safety Education efforts in Central Oregon

Brian discussed how Commute Options is involved with safety, which is through education and encouragement. He discussed the different programs Commute Options provides, one of these being Safe Routes to school. Commute Options reach is larger than just the region, having done work in Baker City and beyond.

7. Safety & Engineering Status

Bob Townsend, ODOT

- Background: Safety Projects in Central Oregon and opportunities for new funding.

Bob covered a few of the safety projects ODOT has covered in the past as a means to show everyone what sort of projects the group should look towards when considering new funding. Bob also covered some of the ODOT safety fund buckets that are available.

8. Review Charter & Membership

Tyler Deke, Bend MPO

- **Attachment A_Draft Charter & Membership Roster**
- **Action: Review and consider expanding for a staff level group to lead specific efforts with quarterly updates to the Executive Team**
- Background: Review Charter and membership. Consider Ex-Officio staff roles for each county and city as available to cover all messaging for a holistic safety

messaging campaign. Update contacts for staff to reach out for additional participation. Review existing membership for any comments.

ODOT recommended adding something to the purpose statement about *coordinating* regional efforts around safety transportation efforts. Jovi reviewed the short-term and long-term goals for this group. The goal would be for each quarter to update the short-term and long-term goals.

9. Review Communication Calendar

Tyler Deke & Jovi Anderson, Bend MPO

- **Attachment E_Safety Communications Calendar**
- **Action: Discuss communication details and provide guidance for safety efforts**
- Background: Review draft messaging calendar.

Jovi reviewed the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration Campaign Topics, hoping that we could share the goals out with the groups here to share out and start their own messaging. The ask was to see, out of the safety topics, if there was one this group wanted to focus on? ODOT also recommends to connect with Portland to broaden the safety messages. **Jovi asked for members to reach out to staff if they know of anyone else that should be included on this group (i.e. school districts).**

10. Comments & Discussion

Scott Aycock, COIC

Commissioner Brummer asked for there to be conversation regarding distracted driving at the next meeting. Commissioner Krisanna Clark-Endicott's requested more data from local enforcement on how many devoted enforcement officers and asked for the percentage of enforcement toward traffic safety.

11. Discuss COST Meeting Quarterly Meetings and COACT Updates

- The next meeting of the COST is scheduled for the last Monday of the month each quarter (August 22, 2022, November 28, 2022, February 27, 2023 and May 29, 2023 from 11:30 – 1pm) or consider a different time and date. Consider in person locations and virtual options.

Scott proposed holding these meetings before COACT meetings. Staff will work on creating a new poll for standing meeting times and will send out calendar holds for dates that Jovi has created.

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