
MINUTES

REGULAR TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMISSION MEETING

January 21, 2026

7:00 a.m.

Via Zoom

- PRESIDING:** Mike Kilkenny, Chairman
- COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:** Russ Brown, Jim Schwinof, Victor Johnson and Bob Wood
- COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:** Jayme Reineccius and vacant position
- STAFF PRESENT:** Mike Bosse – City Engineer, Todd Stephens – City Engineer, Cynthia Roe – City EIT, James Sprague – Transportation Manager, Kellen Mathisen - Traffic Officer City of The Dalles Police, Officer Kimball – City of The Dalles Police Dan Richardson – Council Representative, and Cindy Keever – Administrative Secretary
- GUESTS PRESENT:** Tom Tramontina and Judy Merrill

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Kilkenny at 7:05 a.m.

2. ROLL CALL OF COMMISSION MEMBERS

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion to approve the January agenda was made by Brown and seconded by Schwinof. Motion approved by Kilkenny, Wood and Johnson. Reineccius was absent and one vacant position.

5. PRESENTATIONS/PROCLAMATIONS

None

6. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

See Item #9 E

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7. STAFF REPORTS

A. TRANSPORTATION DIVISION MANAGER REPORT

- 1) ADA work continues at E 14th Street and Federal Street and at 9th Street and Quintin Street in preparation of paving.
- 2) Cold patch asphalt has been installed on the E 9th Street and Quinton Street project. The road was opened in the first week of January.
- 3) Asphalt patching and potholing work will continue throughout the city.

B. CITY POLICE REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

- 1) Officer Mathison introduced Officer Rebekah Kimball, a newly appointed officer with The Dalles Police Department. Mathison reported he has been training Officer Kimball for the past several weeks. He will resume traffic enforcement duties once the training period has been completed.

C. CITY CODES ENFORCEMENT OFFICER REPORT

- 1) No representative to give a report.

D. CITY ENGINEERS REPORT

- 1) Stephens reported the Federal Street Plaza should be out to bid within the next month. Award of the contract is scheduled for April of 2026. The goal for completion of the project is October 2026, in time for the Downtown Trick or Treat Event in October.
- 2) Bosse said the Westside Interceptor Phase II project started last week. First Street is scheduled to be closed until mid-May as the contractor upsizes the wastewater line. The railroad spur line to the Cherry Growers will also be abandoned as this project continues. The cruise ship buses hauling passengers away from the docks will coordinate their travels with the construction company. Work will progress towards Webber Street.
- 3) The First Street Streetscape Project is scheduled to go out to bid during the first part of February and the winning contractor will start soon after the award.

8. CONSENT AGENDA

It was moved by Brown and seconded by Schwinof to approve the December minutes. Kilkenny, Wood and Johnson voted in favor. Reineccius was absent. Motion carried.

9. DISCUSSION ITEMS

- A) A discussion occurred regarding the request for additional yellow curb on Cherry Heights across from

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B) St. Mary's school. It was decided the safety and visibility at that location is adequate so no additional painting of the curbs will need to be done. Johnson will reach out to St. Mary's for clarification and will let the city know if there are additional concerns. No action is needed currently.

C) A request to replace four regular stop signs with "lighted" stop signs was discussed. The locations are as follows; 1) the intersection of 12 Street & "H" Street, both north and south side, 2), the sign at the SW corner of 13th Street and "H" Street and 3) the stop sign at the edge of the Middle School parking lot, on the east side of 13th Street and "H" Street.

A discussion was held and it was noted the stop sign at the edge of the Middle School parking lot is private property. The cost of replacing a regular stop sign with a flashing red light stop sign is \$10,000 per sign. This is cost prohibitive. It was also noted that when there is a saturation of lighted stop signs around town the signs become ineffective. Sprague will reach out to the author of the email and let her know her request was denied.

C) A discussion was held regarding a loading zone request from the Rayland Hotel, on 2nd Street. Transportation Manager Sprague received a request for a Loading Zone sign on 2nd Street between the Rayland's driveway/parking lot and Liberty Street. A discussion was held and it was decided parking in the downtown corridor is always at a shortage and the deliveries trucks should use the hotel's parking lot or the back alley if the parking space on 2nd Street is occupied. Sprague will contact the hotel to inform them of the denial of their request.

E) Judy Merrell again brought up the continued need for guidelines and enforceable rules for electric bikes, etc. She continues to see dangerous acts and practices by riders and is very worried about the potential for accidents between riders, pedestrians and vehicles. Are tickets being given? Councilor Richardson asked the commission, "What is the feasible and enforceable action that the commissioners want the city council to do"? Brown said he would like to see enforcement of the state statute or the council to direct the Police Department or the Codes Enforcement Department to better enforce the state statute.

Officer Mathison asked members to report incidents to the police department so they can create a record of specifics; for example - locations, descriptions of individuals, lack of helmets and times these infractions occur.

Merrell said she would be happy to share her findings regarding how other towns and cities are dealing with this issue. She will reach out to the city councilors soon.

10. ROUNDS TO COLLECT AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

- 1) Richardson requested having a conversation with ODOT regarding the dangerous intersection at Hwy 197 and Fremont/Columbia View Drive. Stephens said the city is meeting with ODOT after this meeting to discuss more safety options. Stephens will bring findings back to the February Traffic Safety Commission meeting.

11. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, meeting adjourned at 7:40a.m.

Submitted by/
Cindy Keever, Administrative Secretary
Public Works Department

SIGNED: 

Mike Kilkenny, Chairman

ATTEST: 

Cindy Keever, Administrative Secretary
Public Works Department