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MINUTES

REGULAR TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMISSION MEETING

March 18, 2026

7:00 a.m.

Via Zoom

**PRESIDING:** Russ Brown, Vice-Chairman

**COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:** Jayme Reineccius, Jim Schwinof, Victor Johnson, Bob Wood and Tom Tramontina

**COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:** Mike Kilkenny

**STAFF PRESENT:** Todd Stephens – City Engineer, Cynthia Roe – City EIT, James Sprague – Transportation Manager, Dan Richardson – Council Representative, and Cindy Keever – Administrative Secretary

**GUESTS PRESENT:** Judy Merrell, Leeann Neal and Analene Pentopoulos

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Vice -Chairman Brown at 7:02 a.m.

2. ROLL CALL OF COMMISSION MEMBERS

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion to approve the March agenda was made by Schwinof and seconded by Tramontina. Motion approved by Brown, Wood, Reineccius and Johnson. Kilkenny absent.

5. PRESENTATIONS/PROCLAMATIONS

None

6. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Leeann Neal described an incident where she was struck by a vehicle while using the crosswalk to cross

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Washington Street, at the 10<sup>th</sup> Street intersection. Driver did not see her. She noted this was not the first time she had had drivers who have not noticed her while she was using the crosswalk. She would like to see more control measures taken at this intersection.

This intersection is off set and difficult to see all the possible movements of pedestrians and vehicles. She would like to see a controlled stop on 10<sup>th</sup> Street, both directions, which would make the intersection a 3-way stop. Another guest in the audience, Pentopoulos, agreed this intersection is dangerous to cross when walking and it's also difficult when driving. She gave examples of problems she has also experienced.

A discussion regarding possible solutions was held. Suggestions were – 1) Creating a 3-way stop, 2) Creating a refuge island on Washington, 3) Adding flashing beacons for pedestrians to trigger when walking across, 4) At least 2 school employees outside watching area when students are present, 5) Remove the tree at the NE corner (Washington Street and E 10<sup>th</sup> Street), near the stop sign, 6) Install a flashing stop sign at the NE corner of Washington Street and 10<sup>th</sup> Street and 7) Additional education of the public – both drivers and pedestrians.

Officer Kellen shared that he believed the designated school zone surrounding the high school was signed incorrectly, deeming it unenforceable by City/State law.

Transportation Manager Sprague responded stating that if that were the case they would look into the sign placement and make corrections as needed, however sign placement for school zones are set by ODOT engineers. He will gather information for the suggestions and will report on his findings at the April meeting.

## **7. STAFF REPORTS**

### **a. TRANSPORTATION DIVISION MANAGER REPORT**

- 1) The Transportation team has been helping at the Wicks Water Treatment plant with a project to protect the building from rock-fall damage during rain events.
- 2) Ongoing ADA work on E 13<sup>th</sup> Steet and Washington Street In preparation for later summer/fall paving.
- 3) Mastic demonstration with CRAFCO starting today. Will test the effectiveness of our area in a maintenance application
- 4) Decorative Eco-Block upgrade project work continues along Dry Hollow Road and E Scenic Drive.
- 5) Finalizing the chip seal projects with Wasco County with tentative dates of the week of June 15<sup>th</sup>.
- 6) Curb painting has begun around town with warmer and dryer weather. This will refresh pavement markings and marked areas.
- 7) The division has opened its recruitment for a Seasonal Maintenance Woker to join the crew for the upcoming season.

### **b. CITY POLICE REPRESENTATIVE REPORT**

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- 1) Traffic patrol continues as time allows.

**c. CITY CODES ENFORCEMENT OFFICER REPORT**

No Representative

**d. CITY ENGINEERS REPORT**

- 1) Award of the Federal Street Plaza contract is scheduled for April of 2026. The goal for the completion of the project is set for October 2026.
- 2) Phase II of the Westside Interceptor Sanitary Sewer Project is slowly progressing. Basalt rock makes for slow progress.
- 3) The First Street Streetscape Project has experienced archeological delays.
- 4) The Sanitary Slip Lining project is proceeding.

**8. CONSENT AGENDA**

It was moved by Schwino and seconded by Tramontina to approve the February minutes. Brown, Reiniccius, Wood and Johnson voted in favor. Kilkenny was absent. The motion carried.

**9. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

- A. This item was discussed under #6 Audience Participation
- B. There was some confusion regarding what was needed for the Walkability Study. Stephens explained that the Community and Economic Development Department is trying to identify handicap accessibility and safety corridor areas around the community.
- C. A detailed presentation was provided by Judy Merrell, who outlined the information she had gathered and emphasized the importance of public education regarding unsafe riding practices on sidewalks. The committee engaged in a detailed discussion with differing viewpoints expressed about the advantages and disadvantages of recommending an ordinance that would prohibit all wheeled vehicles on sidewalks within the downtown core. Wheelchairs and other mobility devices would be exempt from this restriction. The intent of the proposed ordinance is to reduce the risk of collisions between bicyclists and pedestrians.

A motion was made by Schwino to draft an ordinance for submission to the Public Works Director. Upon review and approval, the Director would then forward the recommended ordinance language to the City Manager, who may then submit it to the City Councilors for final consideration. Motion was seconded by Tramontina. Brown voted in favor. Reiniccius, Wood and Johnson opposed. Kilkenny was absent. The motion failed.

**10. ROUNDS TO COLLECT AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING**

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**11. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, meeting adjourned at 8:10a.m.

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Submitted by/  
Cindy Keever, Administrative Secretary  
Public Works Department

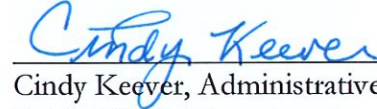
SIGNED:



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Russ Brown, Vice Chairman

ATTEST:



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Cindy Keever, Administrative Secretary  
Public Works Department