

# Safety & Mobility Policy Advisory Committee

## MEETING SUMMARY

February 28, 2024  
 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.  
 Via Microsoft Teams

### MEMBERS:

- Steve Bates, OTA
- Kevin Campbell, AAA
- Ed Chamberland, ACEC
- Marie Dodds, AAA
- Jason Fender, TFT Const.
- Stratos Flanders, Knife River
- John Gambatese, OSU
- Walt Gamble, AGC
- Mark Gibson, OTA
- Erik Havig, ODOT
- John Hickey, APAO
- Jana Jarvis, OTA
- David Kim, Chair
- Evan Sether, OSP
- Erik Zander, OTA

### RESOURCES:

- Tamira Clark, ODOT
- Donnell Fowler, ODOT
- Christy Jordan, ODOT
- Angela Kargel, ODOT
- Mike Kimlinger, ODOT
- Justin Moderie, ODOT
- Audrey Lawson, ODOT
- Mac Lynde, ODOT
- Tova Peltz, ODOT
- Amy Ramsdell, ODOT
- Katie Scott, ODOT

### GUESTS:

None

### FACILITATOR:

- Bill Gross, Mobility Program

AGENDA TOPIC	DISCUSSION HIGHLIGHTS AND OUTCOME
<p><b>Introductions, Roll Call, Meeting Notes &amp; Agenda Review</b>            Bill Gross and Donnell Fowler</p>	<p>Bill Gross took roll call. Draft minutes from the <a href="#">December 20, 2023</a> meeting were also approved. Donnell Fowler facilitated the meeting in place of David Kim, who had a schedule conflict due to a senior leadership meeting. She reviewed the agenda and noted that Christi McDaniel-Wilson was out today and her two agenda items will be rescheduled to the next meeting (Vulnerable Road User Assessment and the OTA/ODOT/OSU Roundabout Truck Access Study update).</p>

<p><b>Work Zone Safety Technical Work Group Updates</b> Mike Kimlinger</p>	<p>Mike Kimlinger said the work zone safety technical work group focused much of its recent efforts on the Work Zone Safety Symposium and the Work Zone Safety Billboard Contest for high school students. Mike said the contest was promoted on an <a href="#">ODOT web page</a> which showcases the winning designs. Mike said the second contest is underway now. Judging will take place in March with a deadline of April for providing the artwork from the winning entries to the billboard companies. Mike said they had 83 individual submissions for the first contest, and they hope to get a similar level of response for the second contest.</p> <p>Ed Chamberland added it was great to see the winners highlighted at the Safety Symposium and to hear them articulate the concepts that they had designed.</p> <p>John Gambatese commented that the contest was wonderful and perhaps shows what ODOT could do in other aspects of its work related to work zones or mobility to attract a younger generation.</p> <p>Justin Moderie asked if there will be crowd voting planned on social media among high school students to help publicize the contest. John Hickey said that sounds like an interesting idea, but is concerned about adding too much administrative burden into the process. John Hickey added that he has been in touch with a reporter who wants to do an article on the contest, and ODOT Communications is working on a video as well, which will be showcased at the next symposium.</p> <p>Walt Gamble commented that this is a great opportunity to introduce students to ODOT and the road construction industry.</p>
<p><b>Work Zone Safety Symposium Debrief</b> John Hickey</p>	<p>John Hickey said this year's event involved 10 vendor booths, 306 registrations with about 280-290 actual attendees. He said the attendance was better than last year's event. Overall, he said the event was logistically smoother than last year as well.</p> <p>John Hickey said one potential change is to have the event last 2/3 of a day, rather than a full day (e.g. have one more session following lunch). Otherwise, he said the feedback received so far has been positive. Justin Moderie added that he received good feedback from his Washington state counterpart.</p> <p>In looking ahead to next year, John Hickey said February 20<sup>th</sup> is the date that's available for the Salem Convention Center. John said he wants to plan back-to-back events again with their paving conference on one day, followed by the work zone safety symposium the next day which helps with attendance.</p> <p>Donnell thanked John Hickey for his help in organizing the symposium and everyone else who supported the effort.</p>
<p><b>ODOT Updates</b> Donnell Fowler</p>	<p>Donnell Fowler provided the following general updates about the agency:</p>

- ODOT provided briefings to the legislature on its budget challenges. She said the Delivery and Operations Division Administrator Mac Lynde has done a great job in articulating the challenges and impacts to the division.
- ODOT Audit Services' 2024/2025 Audit Plan includes an audit of project delivery impacts as it relates to the Mobility Program. She said the audit will consider the impacts of projects being reviewed by the Mobility Advisory Committee in terms of staff time, scope adjustments, and impacts to budget and schedule. She said they are excited about the audit since it will be an opportunity to showcase a lot of the great changes that they have put in place with the program. She said Audit Services is projecting to have a report back to ODOT management in late summer, and that David Kim will share those impacts with the SMPAC as well.
- Donnell said David Kim asked her to convey to the committee that he was very impressed with the attendance at the Safety Symposium and the AGC Conference.

**QR Code/Near Miss Work Zone Reporting Data**

Justin Moderie

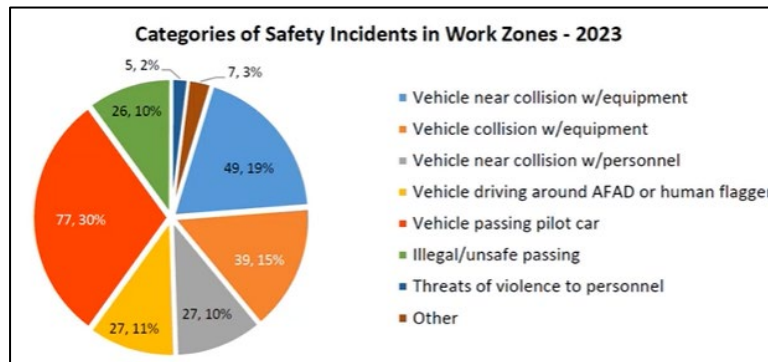
Justin Moderie shared a Work Zone Safety Incident Report, that collects data from ODOT's QR Code form used by work crews to report incidents in the field.

Some statistics shared for 2023:

- 257 total incidents reported
- 220 near misses
- 37 incidents resulting in employee injury or damage to property
- 21.4 average safety incidents per month

Justin said the system is still not widely used out in the field so the report really shows just partial data. However, he said it is powerful data that shows we have a significant safety problem.

Justin also showed the following breakdown by incidents:



	<p>Justin said the data is not necessarily clean, but the point is to describe problems in general terms. Just said ODOT Region 5 has really embraced the use of the QR code report, but other Regions aren't yet using it as broadly. He said we need to expand the use of the reporting tool so we can engage with OSP and other interested parties about automated work zone speed enforcement. He said one challenge within ODOT is that QR codes have become more common for other uses, so they need to make sure this one stands out with its safety importance.</p> <p>Justin also said he has been involved in some discussions about smart work zone technologies. He said one current challenge is that the work zones indicated on TripCheck's website map may not very accurate. He said there are some transmitter technologies that can help pinpoint the actual work zones and alert drivers as they approach.</p> <p>Justin asked Mark Gibson and Jana Jarvis if they knew if the navigation platforms used by trucks utilize this kind of alerting technology. Jana Jarvis offered to poll OTA's members and provide that information back to Justin. Justin said some of the issues they have with trucks and work zones is excessive speed and gravel/debris blowing in worker's faces. Jana added that it would be interesting to see if the data can identify out-of-state truckers speeding through work zones.</p> <p>Walt Gamble commented that while many work zone incidents might involve trucks, it's not always the truck that is necessarily responsible due to their large size. Jana added that people don't understand how much room a truck needs to stop.</p> <p>John Gambatese commented that one of the studies that OSU is working on now for ODOT is collecting and analyzing the data provided by Josiah Rolden. John said he could share that information at a later meeting.</p> <p>John Hickey commented that the QR code form is very important data but should be looked at a high level since it is only showing reported incidents.</p> <p>Christy Jordan commented on the QR code data and said Region 2 does a lot of accommodating oversized freight through work zones. She suggested looking at the data to see if accommodating oversize freight might be a factor in the incidents.</p>
<p><b>Member Updates (Roundtable)</b> All</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Donnell Fowler:</b> Donnell reminded the committee that an internal task force is looking at the Mobility Advisory Charter for potential improvements. The task force has been looking at issues such as diversity and inclusion, travel lane width impacts, and bike/ped membership. She said the task force developed a draft white paper with recommendations that has been submitted to Tova Peltz for review. Once the task force hears back from management, the next step is to form an implementation team, which will likely engage with SMPAC and MAC members.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Marie Dodds:</b> AAA just released a new study on deadly crashes involving roadside workers and emergency responders. The study found roadside workers and emergency responders are struck and killed nearly four times more often than reported. She said the study documented 123 roadside assistance providers and roadside workers who were killed in the U.S. between 2015 and 2021 – which she said is 4 times the estimated 34 deaths listed in national crash data due to inconsistent reporting. The full study is available at the following link: <a href="#">Roadside Assistance Providers Fatally Struck by Vehicles at the Roadside: Incidence and Characteristics - AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety</a></li> <li>• <b>Jana Jarvis:</b> On April 27<sup>th</sup>, Jana said OTA is hosting its annual <a href="#">Truck Driving Championship event</a> at the FedEx Freight facility in Portland. She invited SMPAC members to attend, and she said they also need about 60 judges. She said to let her know if anyone is interested. Jana also said OTA is holding its Spring Safety Conference at the Graduate Hotel in Eugene on May 1<sup>st</sup> through May 3<sup>rd</sup>. Donnell said she will share the event link with David Kim and see if there is interest and awareness in ODOT.</li> <li>• <b>Mark Gibson:</b> Mark said the latest American Transportation Research Institute (ATRI) study found that Oregon is still the most expensive state for operating a truck (\$37K per year), which he said is more than twice the national average. Jana added that the number of miles run by trucks in Oregon this last year are down from the previous year. She said the industry has been in a bit of a recession for about the last 18 months.</li> <li>• <b>Walt Gamble:</b> Walt suggested that John Gambatese's OSU students might be good candidates to help with judging at the Truck Driving Championship event.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Final Comments</b> Donnell Fowler</p>	<p>Donnell thanked everyone for attending the meeting. She said the next meeting is April 24, 2024 at 10am. She asked anyone with agenda item requests to let Bill Gross know so we can get them on the agenda planner.</p> <p>Action Items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Justin Moderie to follow with Jana with specifics for polling OTA members for truck navigation platforms and work zone alerting technology.</li> <li>• Donnell Fowler to share the OTA Truck Driving Championship event information link with David Kim.</li> </ul>