



# Work Session Summary Minutes

OREGON

## Safety Corridor Update

February 4, 2025. 1:30 PM

Courthouse Square, 555 Court St. NE, Salem  
5th Floor, Suite 5232, Commissioners Board Room

### ATTENDANCE:

**Commissioners:** Colm Willis, Kevin Cameron, and Danielle Bethell.

**Board's Office:** Chad Ball, Chris Eppley, Toni Whitler, Heather Inyama, Trevor Lane, Alvin Klausen, and Matt Lawyer.

**Legal Counsel:** Steve Elzinga.

**Public Works:** Dennis Mansfield, Carl Lund, Ryan Crowther, Lani Radtke, Brian Nicholas,

**Sheriff's Office:** Mark Ferron, and Nick Hunter.

Commissioner Danielle Bethell called the meeting to order at 2:24 p.m.

### Summary

Progress and future plans for the safety corridor. Key updates included the installation of safety enhancements like wider striping, improved signage, and intersection conflict warning systems. Current projects include McKay Road traffic safety improvements, the Yergen, McKay, Ehlen Roads project, and the Butteville roundabout. Crash data showed a significant reduction in fatal and serious injury crashes post-implementation. The board decided to maintain the safety corridor status through 2029, aligning with construction timelines. Future projects include potential roundabouts at French Prairie and Arbor Grove Road, with site distance and land acquisition considerations.

### Update of Current Projects

- McKay Road traffic safety improvements:
  - American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funded project.
  - Anticipated construction in spring and summer 2025.
- Yergen, McKay, Ehlen Road Project:
  - Speed feedback signs, curve signs, delineators, and shoulder rumble strips.
  - In design phase.
  - Construction planned for 2027 due to federal funding timeline.
- Butteville roundabout project:
  - Funded by congressional directed spending.
  - Project team will present options.
  - Will seek right-of-way acquisition approval at a February 25 work session.

### Future Project Planning

- Roundabouts:
  - Butteville Road and Ehlen Road intersection.

- Case Road intersection.
- French Prairie intersection:
  - Consistent crash patterns related to turns.
- Center Paved Medians:
  - McKay Road:
    - Part of the traffic safety improvements project.
    - A six-foot wide median barrier.
- Possibility of closing Arbor Grove Road access:
  - Safety concerns related to limited sight distance.
  - Further investigation on impacts to the 716 vehicles per day, using access.

### **Crash Analysis & Future Decommission**

- Prior to safety corridor designation, Marion County's fatal crash rate was higher than the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) anticipated rate for that road type.
- Since designation, data shows a decrease in fatal and serious injury crashes:
  - Some non-fatal/non-serious crashes persist.
- Keep the safety corridor designation in place through the completion of construction projects:
  - Instead of decommissioning after the initial 5-year period.

### **HB2154 (2025)**

- Proposed amendments allow counties to enact up to two safety corridors and remove the sunset provision.
- HB3213:
  - Established a pilot program allowing up to 5 counties to designate safety corridors, with a sunset provision.
- Amendments gives the board more flexibility and discretion on how to manage safety corridors:
  - Based on safety needs instead of pilot program constraints.
- Board is supportive of the bill and will provide testimony to advocate for the changes.

### **Discussion**

- Concerns about high volume of traffic bypassing a neighborhood on Jette Court:
  - Creates safety issues for residents.
- Marion County Public Works to investigate speeds, sight distance, and potential mitigation measures on Jette Court

### **Next Steps**

- Follow up with the family on Jette Court regarding traffic concerns.
- Investigate speeds and sight distance on Jette Court, provide recommendations.
- Provide an update on the 5-car pileup.
- Draft testimony in support of HB 2154 for the board to submit

**Adjourned** – time: 8:23 p.m.

**Minutes by:** Mary Vityukova

**Reviewed by:** Gary L. White