



OREGON

MARION COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

# Work Session Summary Minutes

## Marion County Safety Corridor #2

August 5, 2025. 1:30 PM

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

### ATTENDANCE:

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

**Board's Office:** Matt Lawyer, Toni Whitler, Heather Inyama, and Alvin Klausen.

**Legal Counsel:** Cody Hawkins, and Steve Elzinga.

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

**Public Works:** Brian Nicholas, Lani Radtke, and Carl Lund.

Commissioner Danielle Bethell called the meeting to order at 1:34 p.m.

### **Discussion**

- Reviewed crash data for several potential safety corridors in Marion County:
  - Focusing on fatal and serious injury crashes from 2018 to 2025.
- Considered six roads as options for safety corridors:
  - River Road North.
  - Hazelgreen Road.
  - Silverton Road.
  - Cascade Highway.
  - Cordon Road.
  - Howell Prairie Road.
- Cordon Road has a higher rate of fatal and serious injury crashes compared to the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) expected rate:
  - Making it a logical candidate for safety corridor designation.
- Impact of safety corridor designation on funding opportunities, including indirect benefits such as stronger cases for grants and legislative funding.
- Limitations of available funding, especially for large-scale improvements on Cordon Road:
  - May need direct legislative action as costs are estimated at \$50-70 million.
- Cordon Road needs medians to prevent head-on collisions.
- Silverton Road needs intersection and pedestrian safety enhancements.
- Jurisdictional boundaries and the potential to designate segments of roads as safety corridors, with flexibility in defining the start and end points.
- Consider doubling fines and increased enforcement:
  - Community engagement and education is important.
- Designating a safety corridor helps prioritize the area for:
  - Engineering.
  - Enforcement.

- Education.
  - Emergency services.
  - Enhance the ability to secure funding.
- A pedestrian safety plan on Silverton Road, particularly in areas with high pedestrian activity and crash rates.

### **Other**

- Impact of new developments and increased traffic on Cordon Road.
- Median placement and agricultural concerns regarding farm equipment access.
- Clear pavement markings and signage at intersections to improve driver behavior.
- Legal flexibility in defining "segments" for safety corridor designation and the number of segments allowed.
- Creative corridor boundaries and potential to extend corridors to maximize impact.

### **Next Steps**

- Develop a comprehensive plan for the Cordon-Silverton Road safety corridor:
  - Engineering.
  - Enforcement.
  - Education.
  - Community engagement.
- Form a multidisciplinary team to collaborate on the safety corridor plan:
  - Engineering.
  - Sheriff's office.
  - Emergency services.
  - Education.
- Analysis to ensure that no feasibility impediments exist in the proposed segments.
- Prepare a board order to formally designate the safety corridor.
- Bring recommendations for specific improvements and updates to the board.
- Develop a separate pedestrian safety plan for the Silverton Road corridor:
  - Focus on high-risk areas and potential interventions.
- Continue seeking funding for improvements in both Cordon and Silverton Roads.
- Monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of implemented measures:
  - Including enforcement and community engagement efforts.

**Adjourned** – time: 2:32 p.m.

**Minutes by:** Mary Vityukova

**Reviewed by:** Gary L. White