



STATE OF WASHINGTON

WASHINGTON TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMISSION

621 8th Avenue SE, Suite 409, PO Box 40944, Olympia, Washington 98504-0944 (360) 725-9860

Access Commission Meeting recordings at

<https://wtsc.wa.gov/meetings/commission-meetings/>

The meeting recording, along with the Action Item or Motion items documented below constitute the full minutes of the meeting.

TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMISSION QUARTERLY MEETING

Date:	July 21, 2022
Chair:	Teresa Berntsen, Director, Department of Licensing
Call to Order:	10:02 a.m.
Adjourn:	11:45 a.m.

Agenda Item:	Approval of Meeting Minutes	Lead: All Commissioners
Minutes to be approved: The April 21, 2022, minutes were approved as submitted and distributed. A Quorum was not present at this meeting.		
Changes Needed: At past quarterly meetings, Commissioners were required to approve minutes for more than one meeting. This was due to a lack of quorum. Moving forward, Commissioners will approve the minutes as submitted and distributed, or with changes. Formal motions will not be required.		

PUBLIC COMMENT					
Name	Rec'd	Topic	Written	In-Person	Attached
Andrew Austin	7/20/2022	July 19, 2022, fatality in Parkland. Police response. Dangerous highway by design.	X		X
Liz Kaster	7/20/2022	July 19, 2022, fatality in Parkland. Improve safety on most dangerous corridors by reducing speeds, building safe and protected active transportation facilities. Police response.	X		X
Jennifer Halverson-Kuehn	7/21/2022	July 19, 2022, fatality in Parkland. Dangerous roadway. Make roadway safer.		X	
Tom Wallace	7/21/2022	While not speaking on behalf of Chief Batiste, know that the State Patrol takes these incidents very seriously. WSP spent a significant amount of time meeting on strategic planning on how we can enhance our efforts toward reducing fatalities and collisions.		X	

Topics for Future Meetings	Proposed Date/Month	Lead

Meeting Attendees	
Commissioners:	Members of the Public:
Teresa Berntsen, DOL	Dina Swires, WSDOT
Sue Birch, HCA	Warren Stanley, WSDOT
Sam Low, WA Association of Counties	Ryan Peters, NHTSA
George Steele, Judiciary	Sarah Mariani, HCA
Brandi Peetz, Association of Washington Counties	Frederick Wade, DOL
Commissioner Designees:	Haiping Zhang, DOL
Tom Wallace, WSP	Eveline Roy, TZM
Dongho Chang, WSDOT	Tara Tsehlana, TZM
WTSC Staff:	Marsha Masters, TZM
Shelly Baldwin	Dianne Swanson, TZM
Pam Pannkuk	Rebecca Lis, TZM
Geri Nelson	Sheriff Drew Hyer, Garfield County
Mandie Dell	Abigail Potter, WA Trucking
Christina Fremont	Gregory Foster, @CannObserv
Wade Alonzo	Ryan Packer, The Urbanist
Debbie Johnson	Kim Goodman, WASPC
Mark McKechnie	Liz Kaster, City of Tacoma
Jerry Noviello	Jennifer Halverson-Kuehn, Tac Pierce Cty Health
Rainboe Sims-Jones	Marshall Elizer, WSDOT
Edica Esqueda	Jane Totten
Peter Corier	TVW Streaming
Bernie Shah	
Mark Medalen	

* Read into minutes
on 7/21/2022

Nelson, Geri (WTSC)

From: Andrew Austin <andrew.n.austin@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 20, 2022 6:14 PM
To: Nelson, Geri (WTSC)
Subject: Public comment for July 21st meeting

External Email

WTSC commissioners,

The recent comments by trooper Reyer and the lack of action by WSP are maddening, infuriating, and the antithesis of a Target zero vision.

At 13 year old boy was crossing, in a crosswalk with active beacons, 3/4 lanes stopped, one person decided to ignore all of this and plow through the area killing a human soul. Not only did the driver not get as much as a ticket, much less reckless driving or a vehicular manslaughter charge, but trooper Reyer victim blamed the dead boy "all the sudden appeared in front of her." This statement makes zero sense along with the other reported facts in the article below.

This stretch of pacific highway is dangerous by design. Like many roads in our system it prioritized a few seconds over the sanctity of human life. Many many people walking and biking have been killed on this road in the past two decades as Smart Growth America's Dangerous by Design report illustrates. In this case, an innocent child's life was taken.

If this incident did not even warrant a ticket, our legal system system around the responsibility of driving vehicles is broken.

Lastly, and more immediately, WSP needs to reevaluate how they talk about the loss of human life at the hands of a person driving a car. Trooper Ryer's words add insult to injury to to a family in deep deep grief and send the message that people traveling not in automobiles don't deserve to be safe on our transportation system. I suggest retraining on how to frame and discuss when humans are killed by cars in a way that doesn't blame victims and upholds the values of Target zero.

Respectfully,
Andrew Austin
3617 S 8th

Thirteen-year-old cyclist killed in vehicle collision on Pacific Ave. in Parkland, troopers say
<https://www.thenewstribune.com/news/local/article263644208.html>

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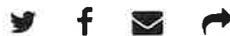
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LOCAL

Thirteen-year-old cyclist killed in vehicle collision on Pacific Ave. in Parkland, troopers say

BY PETER TALBOT

UPDATED JULY 20, 2022 3:25 PM



TheWiseDrive from the Washington Traffic Safety Commission offers statistics about car crashes involving cyclists on roads in a video posted March 3, 2021. BY THEWISEDRIVE



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02:20

A 13-year-old boy crossing Pacific Avenue in Parkland on a bicycle was hit and killed by a vehicle Tuesday afternoon, according to the Washington State Patrol.

The boy has not yet been publicly identified.

Trooper Robert Reyer said the cyclist was using a crosswalk with blinking signals near Pacific Avenue and 134th Street South at about 4:04 p.m. when a 27-year-old Lakewood woman driving north in a Jeep Wrangler went through the crosswalk and struck the boy.

TOP VIDEOS



Witnesses reported that the crosswalk signals were activated. It has signals on both sides of the road and at a center island. When collision investigators inspected the scene, the center signal was not working. Reyer said it was unclear whether it worked when the crash occurred.

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The cause of the crash was the Jeep driver failing to yield to the bicyclist, according to [WSP](#). Troopers said the driver would not face criminal charges for the deadly crash. The driver also did not receive a ticket.

“Charges would only be forwarded if there was a criminal offense, such as being impaired and killing somebody, or driving in a manner that is, basically, reckless,” Reyer said. “We could completely exclude both. There was no impairment, and there was no reckless driving.”

A car ahead of the Jeep had stopped at the crosswalk before the collision, according to troopers, and witnesses reported that other northbound and southbound traffic had stopped. A trooper who was on the scene told Reyer that it was very likely the driver did not see the bicyclist enter the crosswalk because of the car stopped in front of her.

TNT Diner

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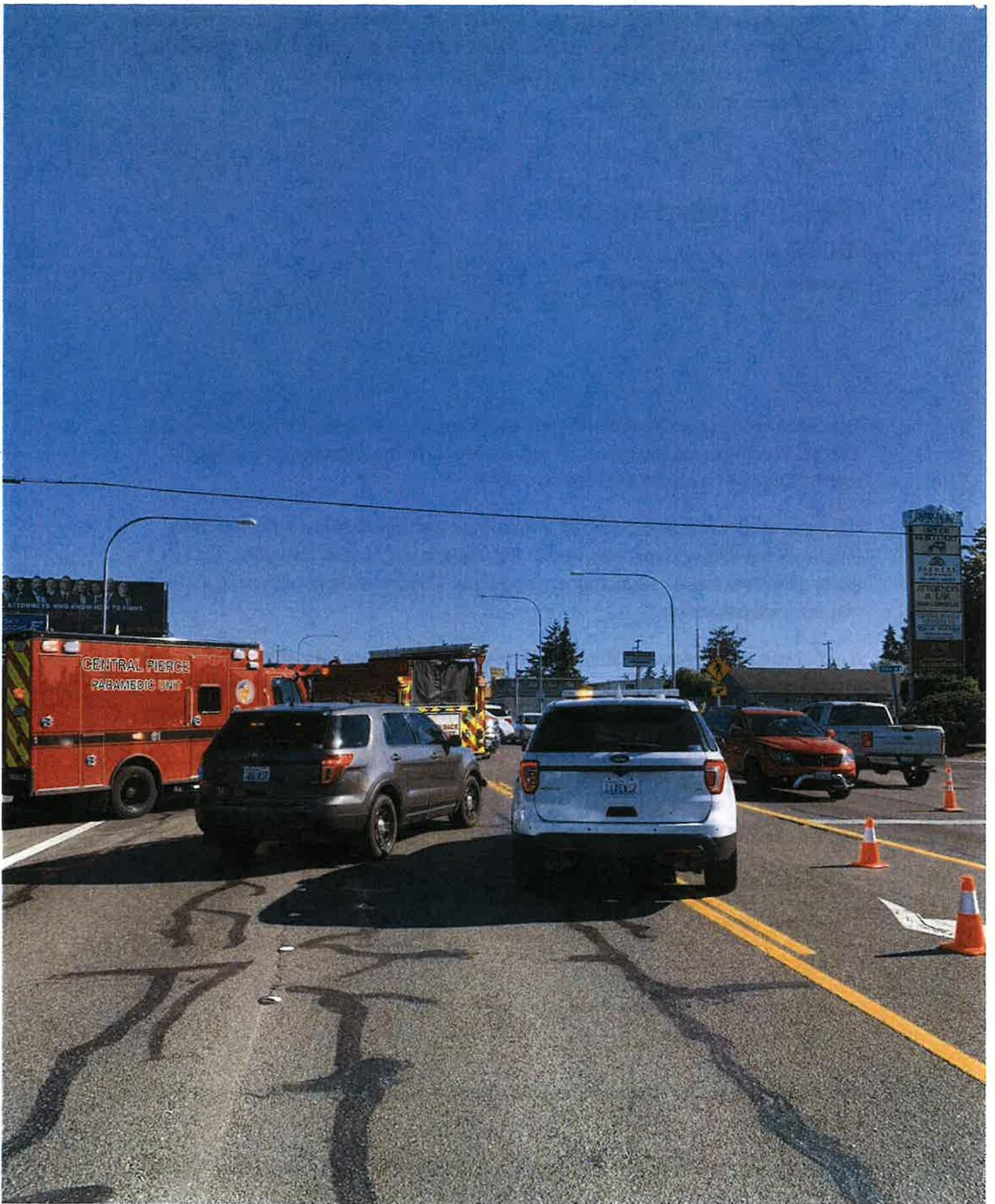
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The roadway was closed for about two-and-a-half hours while crews investigated the incident.

Reyer advised drivers to be very cautious, especially during summer months when more pedestrians, bicyclists and motorcycle riders are out and about.



✱ Read into minutes
7/21/2022.

Nelson, Geri (WTSC)

From: Kaster, Liz <LKaster@cityoftacoma.org>
Sent: Wednesday, July 20, 2022 2:03 PM
To: Nelson, Geri (WTSC)
Subject: Washington Traffic Safety Commission Public Comment: Child Killed Tuesday While Crossing SR7/Pacific Ave

External Email

Hi Geri,

Unfortunately, I'm not able to make it to the Washington Traffic Safety Commission meeting tomorrow to share public comment, but can you please share my email below with the Commission before tomorrow's meeting?

Thank you,

Liz

Dear Washington Traffic Safety Commissioners,

As you meet tomorrow and discuss Target Zero, I want you to be aware of a child who was killed yesterday on State Route 7/Pacific Avenue in Parkland.

On Tuesday afternoon, a 13 year old child was crossing the street on his bicycle at an RRFB with a painted crosswalk when he was struck and killed by a driver.

WSP Trooper & Primary PIO for Thurston & Pierce County Robert Reyer was quoted in the [Tacoma News Tribune](#) article about the crash with the following:

"He all of the sudden appeared in front of her car, and she was unable to stop,"
"Charges would only be forwarded if there was a criminal offense, such as being impaired and killing somebody, or driving in a manner that is, basically, reckless," Reyer said. "We could completely exclude both. There was no impairment, and there was no reckless driving."

I ask you all to take swift action to invest in proven solutions to improve safety along our most dangerous corridors by reducing speeds and building safe & protected active transportation facilities.

I also ask you to address the police/WSP response to collisions when they occur. We cannot continue to blame victims and release drivers of all responsibility – especially when their actions result in injury or death.

I am so grateful that WA state has a Target Zero plan and is working to eliminate fatal & serious injury collisions. But we all need to do better.

Thank you,

Liz Kaster
Senior Planner & Active Transportation Coordinator

City of Tacoma - Public Works Dept.

lkaster@cityoftacoma.org

Pronouns: She/Her/Hers