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Meeting notes:

- **Roll Call and Introductions:** Shelly and Pat conducted a roll call and introductions, with participants sharing their names, affiliations, and locations. A quorum was achieved with 13 members.
- **Public Comment:** None
- **Membership Announcement:** Pat announced that Cara **Jockumsen** from the WA Department of Licensing has stepped away from ATSC to focus on the Young Driver Safety project. We will seek a replacement with similar expertise.
- **Approval of Meeting Minutes:** No corrections; they will be published as presented.
- **Traffic Safety Summit Highlights:** Shelly shared highlights from the Traffic Safety Summit.
  - **David Jones Award:** David Jones received a Traffic Safety Champion award at the Traffic Safety Summit for his extensive work in promoting safety, bicycle safety, and legislative advocacy. Shelly expressed her admiration for David's contributions.
  - **Yakima Group Recognition:** Portia's group from Yakima was recognized for their efforts in upgrading and implementing safety systems. The group, including members from AI, UW, and local WSDOT offices, has been working on deploying sensors and improving safety data collection. Portia shared their excitement about the recognition and the progress of their projects.
  - **Summit Participation:** The Traffic Safety Summit had over 400 attendees, with engaging conversations and workshops. Shelly highlighted the importance of the summit in fostering discussions among public works, city transportation departments, and other stakeholders to implement the safe system approach effectively.
- **Fatal Case Review Bill Update:** Mark McKechnie provided an update on a proposed bill to update the statute related to fatal case reviews, aiming to expand the scope to include all types of fatal crashes and improve data collection.
- [Active Transportation User Traffic Fatalities - Washington Traffic Safety Commission](#)

- **Statute Changes:** The bill proposes changes to RCW chapter 43.59, including removing outdated language, explicitly stating the role of the Traffic Safety Commission in receiving crash reports, and improving data collection data collection by explicitly stating the Commission's role in collecting law enforcement, licensing, emergency medical, medical examiner, and hospital records. This aims to provide a comprehensive understanding of crash factors and improve fatal case reviews.
  - **Impact on Active Transportation:** While expanding the scope to all fatal crashes, the bill ensures that active transportation fatalities remain a focus, with reports still being provided to the Active Transportation Safety Council (ATSAC).
- **Bike Walk Roll Summit Topics:** Barb Chamberlain alerted members she would be sending a survey to solicit input for topics at the fall summit in Wenatchee. discussed potential topics for the upcoming Bike Walk Roll Summit and encouraged participants to provide feedback on a survey to prioritize their suggestions.
- **2024 Active Transportation User Fatalities Data:** Max Roberts of WTSC presented data on 2024 active transportation user fatalities, highlighting trends, demographics, high-risk behaviors, and the prevalence of methamphetamine among fatalities.
- [Active Transportation User Traffic Fatalities - Washington Traffic Safety Commission](#)
- [Vehicle height compounds dangers of speed for pedestrians](#)
  - **Fatalities Overview:** There were 168 active transportation user fatalities in 2024, a slight decrease from 2023 but still the second highest in the past 10 years. Pedestrians and pedal cyclists were the primary groups affected.
  - **Demographic Breakdown:** 69% were males and 31% were females. The majority of fatalities were white (63%), followed by Hispanic (12%), Black (7%), American Indian and Alaska Native (6%), and Asian or Pacific Islander (5%).
  - **High-Risk Behaviors:** High-risk behaviors associated with fatalities, include impaired driving (11%), distracted driving (15%), and speeding (6%). Max noted a significant increase in fatalities involving distracted drivers and a doubling of fatalities involving speeding drivers from 2022 to 2024.

- **Methamphetamine Prevalence:** Nearly one in three fatalities had methamphetamine in their system. He emphasized the need for targeted messaging and educational efforts for this vulnerable population.
  - **Fatality Locations:** 67% of fatalities occurred on the road, not in a marked crosswalk or at an intersection. 70% of fatalities occurred in dark conditions, with a concentration in the evening hours and during the fall and winter months. Most fatalities occur on roads of posted speeds of 25 mph.
- **Liability and Safety Planning:** John Milton, Risk Manager at WSDOT discussed the challenges of safety planning and liability, emphasizing the importance of careful language and prioritization in developing safety lists to manage risk. He emphasized the need to confer with your organization's legal team to choose a balanced approach.
  - **Liability Challenges:**
  - **Federal Statutes:** John mentioned federal statutes (23 USC 148 and 407) that provide some immunity for states in disclosing safety data. He explained that these statutes help states manage the duty to correct identified safety issues within a reasonable timeframe.
  - **Prioritization and Documentation:** John advised on the importance of prioritizing safety issues that can be reasonably addressed and documenting the decision-making process. He stressed the need for clear intent and purpose in safety planning to manage legal risks effectively.
- This paper refers to guidelines for drafting documents and communications strategies: [Guidelines For Drafting Liability Neutral Transportation Engineering Documents And Communication Strategies \( 2020\)](#)
- **Safe Systems Approach Refresher:** Shelly provided a refresher on the safe systems approach, discussing its core principles and elements, and encouraging participants to consider how they can integrate these concepts into their work. During discussion, participants shared these links:
- [How Helsinki cut its traffic deaths to zero - Fast Company](#)
- [States rethink practice of setting speed limits](#)

- **Next Meeting in Spokane:** Pat reminded participants about the next meeting in Spokane, encouraging those who can attend in person to connect with Jesse for logistics and assuring a hybrid option for those who cannot.

Follow-up tasks:

- **Fatal Case Review Update:** Ensure an updated copy of the fatal case review (FCR) is provided separately for review. (Shelly)
- **Fatal Case Review Statute Change:** Share the proposed changes to the fatal case review statute with the active transportation safety council to ensure they are aware and understand the implications. (Mark McKechnie)
- **Survey for Bike Walk Roll Summit:** Complete the survey regarding topics for the upcoming Bike Walk Roll Summit to help prioritize the topics. (All Members)
- **Data Presentation Slides:** Share the slides and the dashboard link from the data presentation with Pat for distribution to the team. (Max Roberts)
- **Crash Data Report:** Include variables associated with the safe system approach in the crash data report to help frame recommendations. (Max Roberts)
- **Encampment Removal Correlation:** Investigate the correlation between encampment removals and the reduction in fatality numbers in certain counties. (Max Roberts)
- **Safe System Approach:** Collaborate with Charlotte and John to bring in additional data points to get a more comprehensive picture for the safe system approach report. (Shelly, Max Roberts)

Meeting adjourned at 12:30 pm by Shelly Baldwin with thanks for member participation.