



AGENDA COVER MEMO

Memorandum Date: December 20, 2024

Order Date: January 14, 2025

TO: Board of County Commissioners

DEPARTMENT: Public Works

PRESENTED BY: Cassidy Mills, Transportation Planning Supervisor

AGENDA ITEM TITLE: ORDER/ In the Matter of Confirming the Appointment of Two New Transportation Advisory Committee Members

I. MOTION

Move to adopt the Board Order confirming the appointment of Sara Meyer and Harper Thompson to the Transportation Advisory Committee.

II. AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

The Board is being asked to appoint two new members to the Transportation Advisory Committee (TrAC). The appointments are for District 3: South Eugene; and Member-at-Large.

III. BACKGROUND/IMPLICATIONS OF ACTION

A. Board Action and Other History

In July of 2024, a recruitment effort was launched to identify a Member-at-Large to serve on the Transportation Advisory Committee (TrAC), following an existing member's resignation. Two applications were received and one candidate, Ms. Sara Meyer, was interviewed in October, as her application materials stood out as an asset to the TrAC. Per her application, "as a Seismic Field Technician for the Oregon Hazards Lab at UO, I regularly travel throughout Oregon to maintain the state's seismic monitoring network. My role affords me abundant familiarity with Lane County's outlying communities and transportation corridors."

Shortly after Ms. Meyer's interview, the representative for Commissioner Triege's District 3 reached her term limit per the TrAC bylaws and excused herself from consideration for an additional term.

In consideration that Ms. Meyer resides in Commissioner Trieger’s district, the Commissioner reviewed the application materials submitted for the At-Large position and selected her to serve as the new District 3 representative. As such, staff resumed recruitment efforts for an At-Large position and received one application from Mr. Harper Thompson.

Staff interviewed Mr. Thompson and were impressed by his commitment to civil service and passion for transportation access. Mr. Thompson is a student at Lane Community College, located on a county road, and holds a perspective that will be unique to the TrAC, as a young person navigating our transportation system.

B. Policy Issues

None

C. Board Goals

Appointment of two vacant TrAC positions supports Lane County’s Strategic Plan, “Robust Infrastructure” Strategic Priority, and the three supporting Strategic Initiatives, including: Safe Transportation; Facility Maintenance & Management; and New Facility Development. Additional membership of the TrAC will help to meet this priority by supporting the Board and staff with timely and helpful recommendations regarding Lane County’s transportation system.

D. Financial and/or Resource Considerations

None.

E. Health Implications

Transportation	There is a nexus between transportation and health outcomes. Transportation has a direct influence on factors such as safety; air quality; physical activity; and access to goods and services that support healthful living.
	The Transportation Advisory Committee plays a key role in informing staff of the transportation needs and priorities of the public, which informs decision making and resource allocation.

F. Analysis

Lane Manual 3.595 notes the following primary responsibility of the TrAC:

“Acts as a forum for public input into the County’s transportation system and serves as a liaison group in representing transportation concerns of the community to the

Board and representing Board decisions to the community.”

The adopted bylaws note that TrAC membership consists of five members appointed by individual Commissioners and two at-large members appointed by the Board. The bylaws inform the term limits of each committee member, stating that members appointed to represent a Commissioners’ district shall serve the same term of office as the commissioner making the appointment.

Adoption of the recommended Board Order (attached) will bring the TrAC to full membership.

G. Alternatives/Options

1. Approve Board Order appointing Sara Meyer and Harper Thompson to the Transportation Advisory Committee.
2. Direct staff to revise Board Order to identify a different appointee.
3. Do not adopt Board Order and provide staff with further direction.

IV. RECOMMENDATION

- V. Staff recommends approval of the attached Board Order appointing Sara Meyer and Harper Thompson to the Transportation Advisory Committee.

VI. TIMING/IMPLEMENTATION

Upon approval of the Board Order, Sara Meyer and Harper Thompson will begin their terms on the Transportation Advisory Committee on January 22, 2025 and end on December 31, 2029.

VII. FOLLOW-UP

None.

VIII. ATTACHMENTS

Board Order

Exhibit A – Application from Sara Meyer (page 2 which contains personal information has been removed)

Exhibit B – Application from Harper Thompson (page 2 which contains personal information has been removed)

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF LANE COUNTY, OREGON

ORDER NO.

In the Matter of Confirming the
Appointment of Two New Transportation
Advisory Committee Members

WHEREAS, there is a vacancy for a representative for Commissioner Trieger's South Eugene District on the Transportation Advisory Committee; and

WHEREAS, there is a vacancy for an At-Large representative on the Transportation Advisory Committee; and

WHEREAS, Lane Manual 3.506 (2)(e) provides for appointments to non-mandated advisory committees by the Board of County Commissioners; and

WHEREAS, applicant Sara Meyer meets the minimum requirements for appointment as Chair Trieger's representative on the Transportation Advisory Committee; and

WHEREAS, applicant Harper Thompson meets the minimum requirements for appointment as an At-Large representative on the Transportation Advisory Committee; and

WHEREAS, the necessary procedures of Lane Manual 3.506 (2) have been complied with; and

NOW, THEREFORE, the Board of County Commissioners of Lane County **ORDERS** as follows:

1. The public record reflect that Sara Meyer and Harper Thompson have been appointed to the Transportation Advisory Committee *for the term indicated*:

<u>Appointee</u>	<u>Representing</u>	<u>Term Begins</u>	<u>Term Ends</u>
Sara Meyer	District 3, South Eugene	January 14, 2025	December 31, 2029
Harper Thompson	At-Large	January 14, 2025	December 31, 2029

ADOPTED this ____ day of _____, 2025.

David Loveall, Chair
Lane County Board of Commissioners



Lane County
CITIZEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE
APPLICATION

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APPLICANT'S NAME AND CITY: Sara Meyer, Eugene, OR	DATE: 8/15/2024
NAME OF ADVISORY COMMITTEE: Transportation Advisory Committee	PLEASE CHECK ONE: ☒ New Applicant ☐ Application for Reappointment

1. Give a brief description of the experience or training that qualifies you for membership on this advisory committee (If you wish, you may attach a resume or other pertinent material.)

As a Seismic Field Technician for the Oregon Hazards Lab at UO, I regularly travel throughout Oregon to maintain the state's seismic monitoring network. My role affords me abundant familiarity with Lane County's outlying communities and transportation corridors.

2. Why do you want to become a member of this committee, and what specific contributions do you hope to make?

My professional familiarity with the county's geography make me uniquely suited to understand the context of public comments from county residents. I am looking to contribute substantial regional knowledge to the committee for the benefit of Lane County.

3. List the community concerns related to this committee that you would like to see addressed if you are appointed.

While I've lived in Eugene for over 7 years now and feel that I'm starting to understand the transportation-related issues facing Lane County, I feel the TrAC responsibility is serving as the collection point for community concerns at large and working with other TrAC committee members to prioritize short-term and long-term goals. I'm a strong supporter and user of public transit, and would make it my priority as committee member to expand accessibility however possible to county residents.

4. Briefly describe your present or past involvement in relevant community groups. (Having no previous involvement will not disqualify you for appointment.)

Attendance at several Southeast Neighbors neighborhood association meetings.

5. Lane County is committed to reflecting diverse cultures on its boards/committees and does not discriminate against any person on the basis of gender, race, color, national origin, religion, disability, or age in employment or in admission, treatment, or participation in its programs, services, and activities. If selected, how would you contribute to this effort?

I would like to reach out to various BIPOC and LGBTQIA community groups, religious institutions of all kinds, and elderly and disabled care facilities to ask for input on how the county could improve transportation strategies to serve diverse potential needs.

6. Are you currently serving on any Advisory Boards or Committees? If so, which ones?

N/A

7. Are you employed by, have any business, contractual arrangements or family connections with programs having contractual agreements with the County or that might be within the purview of the committee on which you are seeking appointment? (If there is a change in your circumstances, please advise the staff for the committee within 30 days.)

☐ No ☒ Yes Specify: My lab at UO partners with Lane County Sheriff's Office to host wildfire monitoring equipment at several LCSO communication tower facilities.

8. How did you learn about this vacancy? ☐ Newspaper ☒ Word of mouth ☐ Other:

9. In which County Commissioner District do you reside? please check one:

☐ Unsure ☐ West Lane County ☐ Springfield ☒ South Eugene ☐ North Eugene ☐ East Lane County

**The Board of Commissioners has adopted the following policy on reappointments:*

a. Members of County advisory groups will serve a maximum of two consecutive terms when term lengths are three or more years in length.

b. The deadline for incumbent applications will be the same as the deadline for new applications.

** Unless waived by the Board.*



Lane County
CITIZEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE
APPLICATION

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APPLICANT'S NAME AND CITY: Harper Thompson : Eugene, Oregon	DATE: 11-21-2024
NAME OF ADVISORY COMMITTEE: Transportation Advisory Committee (TRAC)	PLEASE CHECK ONE: ☒ New Applicant ☐ Application for Reappointment

1. Give a brief description of the experience or training that qualifies you for membership on this advisory committee (If you wish, you may attach a resume or other pertinent material.)

I have experience serving on the Coos County Area Transportation District Advisory & Budget Committees, where I contributed to transportation planning and fiscal oversight. As a Board Member on the City of Coos Bay Ad Hoc Livability Committee, I worked to address infrastructure and community improvement initiatives. Additionally, I represented my school district on the city council, connecting students to local services and ensuring their needs are considered in community planning.

2. Why do you want to become a member of this committee, and what specific contributions do you hope to make?

I want to join this committee to bring a fresh perspective to transportation planning in Lane County and to further broaden my understanding of public transit, where it serves a much larger and more diverse populace in terms of ridership. Coming from a rural area of Oregon, I see this as an opportunity to learn and contribute to systems that improve access for all. My key contributions would include advocating for a more accessible transportation system for youth, vulnerable populations, and marginalized communities. Additionally, I bring a commitment to transparency and equity, ensuring all stakeholders have a voice in crafting solutions that meet the needs of our entire community.

3. List the community concerns related to this committee that you would like to see addressed if you are appointed.

1. Advocate on behalf of transit agencies to maintain consistent STIF and other state funding/revenue mechanisms.
2. Prioritize the safety of all riders, ensuring that transit systems are secure and welcoming.
3. Support efforts for transit entities to adopt practices that reduce overall climate impacts.
4. Explore strategies to better appeal to young and college-age riders, making public transportation more accessible and relevant to their needs.

4. Briefly describe your present or past involvement in relevant community groups. (Having no previous involvement will not disqualify you for appointment.)

I am currently the President of Voters of Tomorrow Oregon, leading youth engagement initiatives. I served on the City of Coos Bay Ad Hoc Livability Committee, where I helped improve local infrastructure, and on the Coos County Area Transportation District Advisory & Budget Committees, providing input on transportation planning. Additionally, I served as the school district representative on the Coos Bay City Council, connecting students to local services. These experiences have strengthened my skills in community collaboration, policy development, and advocacy.

5. Lane County is committed to reflecting diverse cultures on its boards/committees and does not discriminate against any person on the basis of gender, race, color, national origin, religion, disability, or age in employment or in admission, treatment, or participation in its programs, services, and activities. If selected, how would you contribute to this effort?

I would contribute to this effort by leveraging my life and professional experiences as a member of a marginalized community. My perspective allows me to identify areas of mistreatment and advocate for solutions that promote diversity, equity, and inclusion. I am committed to ensuring these principles are integrated into all of our work, fostering an environment where everyone feels valued and represented.

6. Are you currently serving on any Advisory Boards or Committees? If so, which ones?

Yes, Coos County Area Transportation District (CCATD) Advisory & Budget Committee's

7. Are you employed by, have any business, contractual arrangements or family connections with programs having contractual agreements with the County or that might be within the purview of the committee on which you are seeking appointment? (If there is a change in your circumstances, please advise the staff for the committee within 30 days.)

☒ No ☐ Yes Specify:

8. How did you learn about this vacancy? ☐ Newspaper ☐ Word of mouth ☒ Other:

9. In which County Commissioner District do you reside? please check one:

☐ Unsure ☐ West Lane County ☐ Springfield ☒ South Eugene ☐ North Eugene ☐ East Lane County

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