



Travel Information Council
1500 Liberty St. SE, Suite 150
Salem, OR 97302

MINUTES
Historical Marker Committee
Tuesday, August 5, 2025
Hybrid Meeting

Members Participating: David Porter, Chair; Kelly Cannon-Miller, Vice-Chair (virtual); Katie Bush(virtual); Nancy DeSouza (virtual); Kimberly Gorman (virtual); Dave Hedberg (virtual); Sarah Jalving (virtual); Robert Olguin; (virtual); Amy Platt (virtual).

Excused: Bob Garcia

TIC Staff Participating: Beth Dehn (virtual), Jessica Carbone

Call to Order/Introductions: The meeting was called to order by Cannon-Miller at 1:11 p.m.

Public Comment: None

Approval of the Minutes: *DeSouza made a motion to accept May 6, 2025 minutes as presented. Jalving seconded. 6-0 Vote. Porter-yes; Cannon-Miller- yes DeSouza – yes; Platt- yes; Hedberg-yes; Gorman-yes. Bush – abstained; Jalving - abstained.*

Elections

A. Officers:

Jalving made a motion to elect Kelly Cannon-Miller as Chair of the Historical Marker Committee and Katie Bush as Vice Chair. Hedberg seconded. 8-0 Vote. Porter-yes; Cannon-Miller- yes; Bush – yes; DeSouza – yes; Platt- yes; Hedberg-yes; Gorman-yes; Jalving - yes.

B. Committee:

Jalving made a motion to approve Kelly Cannon-Miller and Bob Garcia for another three-year term as committee members and approve Robert Olguin from advisory committee member to three-year term voting committee member. Hedberg seconded. 8-0 Vote. *Porter-yes; Cannon-Miller- yes; Bush – yes; DeSouza – yes; Platt- yes; Hedberg-yes; Gorman-yes; Jalving - yes.*

TIC Family of Signs: Dehn reviewed the three different types of markers currently used in the program. There are 54 routed markers. These markers can cost between \$3,000 - \$5,000 dollars (\$2,000 - \$4,000 hard costs), hold about 140 words of text, and have an average lifespan of 25 years. The second type is graphic or “modern” marker. There are 43 of these markers in the program. The graphic markers cost \$8,000, hold approximately 180 – 300 words and four photos, and have an average lifespan of about 30 years. The last type is a pedestal marker. There are 12 of these in the program. The pedestal costs

\$3,900, holds 180- 300 words and four photos, and has an average of about 30 years. Dehn shared her considerations when selecting what kind of mark to use in a project or replacement and also the pros and cons that come with each design.

Current Marker Projects:

- A. **Peter Skene Ogden at Ogden Wayside:** Platt shared her draft text of the Deschutes Railroad War to replace the Peter Skene Ogden marker. The committee expressed a positive opinion of the new text. Cannon-Miller said that she visited the site and said all the existing signage is aged. Erin Bennett, Interpretive Ranger with Oregon State Parks (OPRD) has scheduled all existing interpretive signage to be removed. Dehn noted that OPRD is supportive of this marker project shifting topics to cover the railroads. Cannon-Miller said she felt the story of the railroad arriving was more important to the history of central Oregon than why the location was named after Peter Skene Ogden. With the removal of the existing OPRD interpretation, it was recommended to replace the current routed maker with a graphic “modern” marker to include images and more content. Platt asked for feedback on what to include from her sidebar notes and how to represent the Tribes. Cannon-Miller will look for photos. Platt will tighten the text.
- B. **First Coastal Expeditions/Ona Beach:** Dehn said that she had the basic structure but asked for assistance to complete the draft. Jalving and Bush volunteered to discuss the draft later.
- C. **Sandy River Bridge/Columbia River Highway:** Dehn shared her revision of text drafted by Bob Hadlow and Tara Lingley making the focus of the marker the entry point to the first scenic highway in the United States. Platt asked if the text should include that the road was built to get the public to Multnomah Falls and how many kinds of people came together to create the group who not only helped design it but helped fund the project. Platt said she felt that the group should be mentioned. Platt said she would look at the current text and make suggestions.
- D. **Boone’s Landing:** Dehn presented the new draft text drafted by Charlotte Lehan. Dehn asked the committee for feedback. Dehn also mentioned she has had no luck connecting with The Confederated Tribes of the Grande Ronde to consult on the text. Jalving offered to make introductions with Briecce Edwards if needed.
- E. **Salem Began Here:** Dehn shared the research notes for this project to show the current sources that have been identified. The challenge of interpreting the village of Chemeketa pre-Willamette Mission era is that little documentation exists. Kimberly Fitzgerald with the City of Salem reached out to Robert Kentta, former Cultural Resource Director for CTSI for additional sources. He confirmed there is little to work with. Fitzgerald is considering the idea of including an artistic representation of elder knowledge of Chemeketa. The committee discussed the idea, noting it’s a great way to increase source material if the Tribes choose to share this type of knowledge. Hedberg encouraged shared authority and suggested Fitzgerald present the opportunity and see if there is interest. Platt noted it would be great to see the Klamath Trail included in the sign.

Text Review: Dehn shared three markers in poor physical condition:

- A. **Aurora:** The committee discussed the opportunity to expand the story beyond the current 35 words and possibly incorporate concepts of a utopian community. Dehn will reach out to city and historical society to begin discussions. The committee will consider who to consult on the topic.
- B. **James Nesmith:** The committee discussed the location of the marker and Nesmith’s complicated history in the Rogue Indian Wars. Dehn shared that the Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua & Siuslaw Indians opposed the text back in 1993. The marker is in a pullout on Hwy 99

that appears to have been created for the marker. Nesmith's burial site is directly behind the sign and may have duplicate language. The group considered his role in Oregon history and considered the current marker project priorities. The committee requested additional background on CTCLUSI's 1993 opposition to the marker and a review of any similar signage near the site in order to continue the conversation at a future meeting.

- C. **Fort Harney:** The committee reviewed images of the condition of the marker, which is leaning. The group discussed that the existing text is highly problematic in that it does not say why the fort was built, which was largely to suppress the native people. A replacement would have to provide that context in consultation with the tribes. Members noted that marker doesn't have much substance over noting a fort was there and is now gone. The group discussed that Harney's name is abundantly represented in the area. The committee also considered the opportunity to utilize the space should a new marker application be brought forward.

Bush motioned to remove the Fort Harney marker. Platt seconded. The committee discussed that a marker could be added to that location in the future but wouldn't be the exact topic of Fort Harney. 8-0 Vote. Porter-yes; Cannon-Miller- yes; Bush – yes; DeSouza – yes; Platt- yes; Hedberg-yes; Gorman-yes; Jalving - yes.

Dedication Update- Oregon Nisei Veterans: Dehn shared that the community group is driving the dedication planning. They have invited several speakers including 4th and 5th generation descendants of each military unit that is represented on the marker. The dedication will be at 11 a.m. on November 11th as part of the Hood River Veterans Day Program hosted by American Legion Post 22. The committee will receive greater detailed information about attending the event in the coming months.

Committee Member Reports/ New Business

- A. **Council Report:** Carbone shared that during the legislative session TIC was pursuing an increase in funding for the rest area program. Because the transportation funding package did not pass, future funding questions remain. The agency will continue to operate at its current level for the next fiscal year. Carbone added that TIC adjusted their operating procedures and will not require a TIC representative on the Marker Committee moving forward, though councilors are welcome to join both heritage committees.
- B. **Porter Appreciation:** The committee appreciated Porter for 21 years of service to TIC; seven as a councilor and 14 on the Historical Marker Committee. Porter was presented with a plaque and recognized for his major marker contributions. Porter shared he enjoyed being with a group so focused on careful writing.
- C. **New Business:** None

Event and Meeting Schedule

November 4, 2025

November 11, 2025: Oregon Nisei Veterans Marker Dedication

February 3, 2026

May 5, 2025

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 2:52 p.m.

Next Meeting: There is a meeting scheduled for Tuesday, November 4, 2025, in Salem at 1:00 p.m.