

Ulster County Traffic Safety Board

Draft 2022 Annual Report

As required under Article XL Section A-40.1 (C) of the Administrative Code of the Ulster County Charter, the following Annual Report is provided to the Ulster County Legislature and Ulster County Executive documenting the activities of the Ulster County Traffic Safety Board during the 2022 calendar year.

Purpose

As defined under Article XL § C-120 of the Ulster County Charter, the purpose of the Ulster County Traffic Safety Board (TSB) is to advance traffic and transportation safety, including pedestrian and nonmotorized transport, through study, advocacy and public education in accord with the provisions of the New York State Vehicle and Traffic Law and local law and perform other duties that may be assigned to it by the County Executive and the Legislature. The Board shall further prioritize safety concerns based on relative risk to people using major modes of transportation such as walking, cycling and/or other nonmotorized and motorized transport.

Membership

The TSB is comprised of 12 members, each with background and interest in the pursuit of traffic safety. Eric Kight was re-elected to serve as Chair of the TSB in 2023; David Corrigan was elected to serve as Vice Chair. The position of Secretary remains vacant.

Ulster County Traffic Safety Board Members (updated January 2023):

- Eric Kight, NYC Department of Environmental Protection, Chairperson
- David Corrigan, Acting NYSDOT Resident Engineer (Ulster Co. Residency), Vice Chair
- Lou Klepner, Citizen, Town of Saugerties
- Chief Robert Lucchesi, Town of New Paltz Police Department
- Brendan Masterson, PE, Ulster County Commissioner of Public Works
- Tom Polk, Bicycle Safety Coordinator, YMCA of Kingston
- Rosemary Quinn, Kingston Resident and Upstate Regional Representative for Families for Safe Streets
- Steven Rice, Citizen, Town of Accord
- Giovanna Russo, Liaison Hudson Valley Association for Pupil Transportation
- Chief Joseph A Sinagra, Town and Village of Saugerties Police Department
- Chief Egidio Tinti, City of Kingston Police Department
- Sgt. Robert Vedder, Ulster County Sheriff's Office (recommended; appointment pending Legislative approval)

The TSB is supported by Brian Slack, Principal Transportation Planner for the Ulster County Transportation Council, who was appointed as Coordinator of Traffic Safety in November 2021, replacing Diane Beitzl, Ulster County Safety Officer, who stepped down after over 10 years of service to the TSB. Staff support is also provided by the Ulster County Planning Department, Ulster County Transportation Council, and the Ulster County Safety Department. The TSB reports directly to the Ulster County Legislature Laws, Rules and Government Services Committee. Other advisory roles to the board include Ulster County Trails Advisory Committee, and the City of Kingston Complete Streets Advisory Committee.

Webpage

The TSB maintains a webpage on the Ulster County website at the following address:

<https://ulstercountyny.gov/traffic-safety-board>

Prepared by the Coordinator of Traffic Safety

Approved by Ulster TSB _____ 2023

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Information including meeting notices, minutes and agendas are posted regularly. Additional information regarding membership, News and Events, as well as useful Traffic Safety Resources have been developed to provide valuable information for interested members of the public. Topics include:

- Speed Limits and Requesting Reduction of Posted Speeds on Area Roads
- Engineering Speed Studies
- Requesting a Speed Feedback Device
- Requesting Traffic Enforcement
- Traffic Data
- Reporting a Maintenance Concern
- Request a Planning Study

The TSB Coordinator's email and telephone number are available on the webpage and the public is encouraged to submit inquiries regarding traffic safety. General inquiries from the public have increased in frequency since this information was published.

Meetings

The TSB scheduled meetings are on the first Monday of every month in the Ulster County Legislative Chambers Between 6:00 and 8:00pm unless otherwise noted. During 2022, the TSB convened on the following dates:

- January 10, 2022
- March 7, 2022
- April 4, 2022
- June 6, 2022
- August 1, 2022
- October 3, 2022
- November 7, 2022

Meeting Agendas and the previous meeting minutes are posted on the TSB website at least 3 days prior to the next scheduled meeting. *The Meeting Agenda includes a standing item of member updates.* whereby TSB members provide useful and important traffic safety related news, activities and bulletins.

Members of the public are encouraged to attend TSB meetings and are offered an opportunity for public comment at the beginning of every meeting.

Activities

The following is a summary of activities accomplished during the 2022 calendar year:

Appointments. The TSB membership roster fell out of date during the pandemic; in early 2022 the TSB was reconstituted and included reappointment of existing members interested in continuing their service to the TSB and outreach to identify and appoint new members representing a diversity of expertise and concerns.

Today the TSB has one of its most vibrant membership rosters in recent memory, which includes individuals at the highest rank of their profession across a variety of fields including law enforcement,

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engineering, planning, public advocacy and education, as well as several engaged citizen volunteers who apply their collective experiences and expertise to the practice of traffic safety.

Grants. The Governor's Traffic Safety Committee posts an annual call for grant applications every March. The opportunity is disseminated to members, discussed and areas of emphasis are suggested by members for focus (enforcement, education, etc). Pending local grant awards issued by the GTSC require signature from the Chair of the TSB. The following grants were awarded to Ulster County communities under the 2023 GTSC grant cycle:

New York State Governor's Traffic Safety Committee 2023 Grant Awards¹

Agency	Project Title	Approved Amount
Family of Woodstock	Child Passenger Safety Program	\$3,750
Marlborough Town Police Dept	Police Traffic Services	\$3,000
New Paltz Town and Village Police Dept	Child Passenger Safety Program	\$1,800
New Paltz Town and Village Police Dept	Police Traffic Services	\$3,000
Rosendale Town Police Department	Child Passenger Safety Program	\$1,500
Saugerties Town Police Department	Child Passenger Safety Program	\$2,000
Saugerties Town Police Department	Police Traffic Services	\$4,500
Ulster County Community College	Child Passenger Safety Program	\$1,600
Ulster County Community College	Ulster County Traffic and Highway Safety Program	\$49,685
Ulster County Sheriff's Office	Child Passenger Safety Program	\$6,000
Ulster County Sheriff's Office	Police Traffic Services	\$17,710
YMCA of Kingston and Ulster County	Vulnerable Road User Safety Education for Ulster County	\$63,814
		\$158,359

Education. The goal of establishing a consistent public safety messaging program was raised by the Coordinator and supported by members. With financial support from the Ulster County Transportation Council, \$25,000 has been set aside to support such activities utilizing a portion of UCTC's Federal Highway Administration annual planning grant. Specific topics of focus will be developed during 2023.

Workplan. A draft workplan was developed by members to help guide activities and priorities of the TSB. Topics include crash statistical analysis, education, and advocacy for nonmotorized transportation planning; the workplan will remain as draft and be reviewed from time to time for review and update.

Public Safety Messages. 1 press release was issued informing the public of NYS law disallowing the moving of debris (snow, leaves, etc) across public highways. The Coordinator has indicated his willingness to accept and develop new message topics at any time.

School Bus Driver of the Year Award. TSB, in partnership with the Dutchess County TSB, coordinated this annual award after a 2 year pause. The award was provided to Lisa Haynes, a driver for the New Paltz School District for over 32 years, with a runner-up awarded to Kevin Ross, driver in the Kingston

¹ <https://trafficsafety.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2022/09/2023-grant-awards.pdf>

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district for over 13 years. A ceremony was held in the Rotunda of the Ulster County Sheriff's Department with plaque and proclamations issued by the Ulster County Executive and Ulster County Sheriff; colors were presented by the Ulster County Color Guard.

Discussion Topics. The following topics of interest were discussed by the TSB in detail during regular meetings:

- Local engineering and construction project updates
- Legalized Cannabis and Highway Safety
- NYS Families for Safe Streets Act
- New York State Governor's Traffic Safety Committee presentation on the National Roadway Safety Strategy
- Traffic Safety management and Research Data – NYS Institute for Traffic Safety Management and Research
- City of Kingston Road Hero Safety Campaign
- NYS ebike Legislation and local issues of concern
- School Bus Camera deployment and ticketing
- Request to the Ulster County Executive Requesting Review of Ulster County Resolution 229 of 2009 – Establishing a Bicycle and Pedestrian Policy (submitted November 2022)
- MV104 Crash Reporting System – How to Improve Access, Review and Discussion of Local Crash Statistics

Goals for 2023

TSB goals for 2023 include the following:

- Development and adoption of rules for the conduct of the TSB's business
- Continued discussion and development of traffic safety public education and outreach program
- Integration of regular discussions at TSB meetings regarding any bicycle and pedestrian serious injury/fatal crashes that occur on Ulster County roadways
- Development and presentation of detailed traffic safety statistics to provide a data-driven focus to roadway safety measures in Ulster County
- Increasing GTSC grant applications and award capture among all municipalities in Ulster County
- Useful additions to the TSB website and wider visibility of those resources
- Selection of dynamic and informative guest speakers at TSB meetings
- **A measurable decline in traffic-related crashes in Ulster County, particularly those that involve the most vulnerable users of our transportation system**