



Ulster County Traffic Safety Board Draft 2024 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 Executive and Ulster County Legislature documenting the activities of the Ulster County Traffic Safety Board during the 2024 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.

Ulster County Traffic Safety Board Members (as of January 2025):

- Eric Kight, NYC Department of Environmental Protection, Chairperson
- David Corrigan, NYSDOT Resident Engineer (Ulster Co. Residency), Vice Chair
- Lou Klepner, Citizen, Town of Saugerties
- 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 to the Mid-Hudson Transportation Supervisor's Association
- Chief Egidio Tinti, City of Kingston Police Department
- Sgt. Robert Vedder, Ulster County Sheriff's Office (recommended; appointment pending Legislative approval)
- Lt. James A., Seyfarth, Town of Ulster Police Department
- Marc Cassidy, Town of Rosendale Town Board

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. Staff support is also provided by the Ulster County Planning Department, Ulster County Transportation Council, the Ulster County Safety Department, and the SUNY Ulster Traffic Safety Education Coordinator (vacant). The TSB reports directly to the Ulster County Legislature Laws, Rules and Government Services Committee. Other advisory roles to the board include the 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>

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
- Requesting and Conducting Engineering Speed Studies
- Requesting a Speed Feedback Device
- Requesting Traffic Enforcement
- Reporting a Maintenance Concern
- Requesting a Planning Study
- Road Closures ArcGIS Dashboard
- Fatal and Serious Injury Dashboard
- Road Closure Location Dashboard

A county email address – UlsterTSB@co.ulster.ny.us – was created and posted on the webpage along with the Coordinator’s telephone number. The public is encouraged to submit inquiries regarding traffic safety; general inquiries from the public have increased in frequency since this information was published in early 2022.

Rules for Governing.

The TSB conducted a review of rules created by neighboring TSBs and used them to develop its own rules, which were approved on September 11, 2023. The rules are referred to as “Bylaws” and are posted on the TSB website under the “Documents” page.¹

Meetings

TSB meetings are typically held on the first Monday of every month in the Ulster County Legislative Chambers between 6:00 and 8:00pm unless otherwise noted. During 2024, the TSB convened on the following dates:

- | | |
|--------------------|---------------------|
| • February 5, 2024 | • September 9, 2024 |
| • April 4, 2024 | • October 7, 2024 |
| • May 6, 2024 | • December 2, 2024 |
| • June 3, 2024 | |

Meeting Agendas and the previous meeting minutes are posted on the TSB website at least 3 days prior to the next scheduled meeting; audio recordings of all meetings are also made available. 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.

¹https://ulstercountyny.gov/sites/default/files/documents/TSB/Final%20Ulster%20County%20Traffic%20Safety%20Board%20Bylaws_September%2011%2C%202023.pdf

Officers

At the February 2024 TSB meeting Eric Kight was re-elected to serve as Chair of the TSB; David Corrigan was re-elected Vice Chair; Brian Slack was nominated and elected to serve the position of Secretary. Terms are for 1 year.

Ulster County Crash Statistics²

Beginning in 2020, the United States began to experience a significant spike in nationwide severe and fatal traffic crashes due primarily to changes in travel patterns and traffic conditions as well as driver behaviors brought about by the COVID pandemic. A review of traffic crash data for Ulster County during the period October 2020 – September 2024 revealed a trend that appears to show a continued increase in crashes across most travel modes and crash types. Future analyses will endeavor to develop an adjusted 5 year trend analysis beginning with FFY 2020 as a baseline in an effort to closely monitor variances from this historic period of severe and fatal traffic crashes.

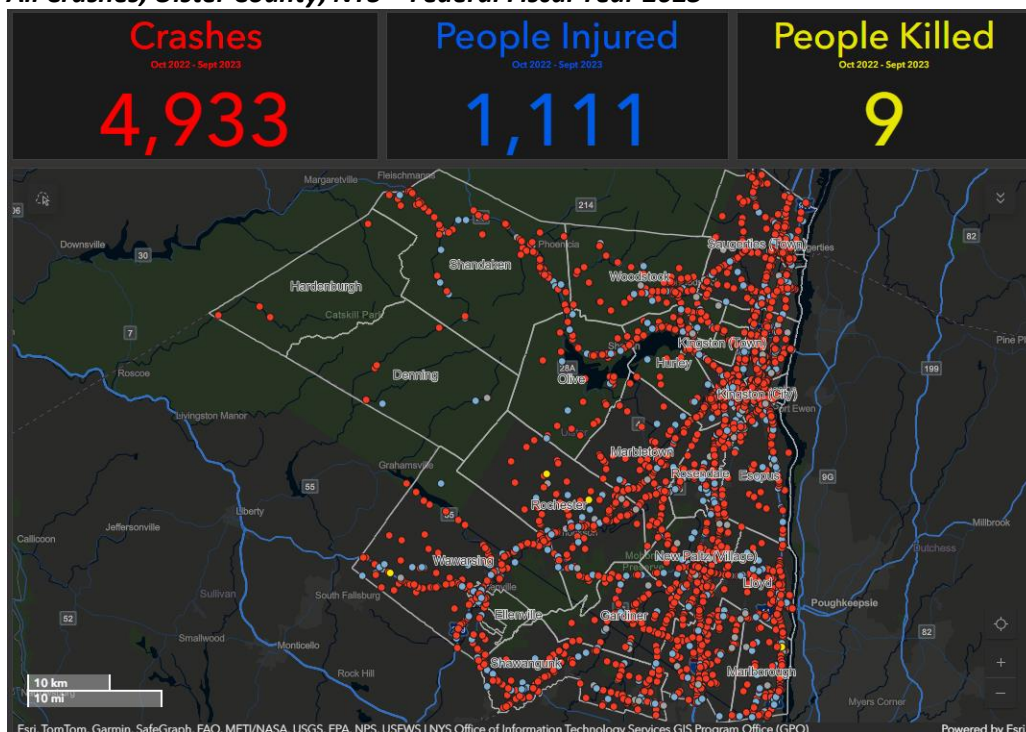
2020	2021	2022	2023	2024 Preliminary
Total Crashes: 4,331 People Injured: 823 People Killed: 19	Total Crashes: 4,646 People Injured: 811 People Killed: 14	Total Crashes: 5,205 People Injured: 952 People Killed: 14	Total Crashes: 4,999 People Injured: 906 People Killed: 14	Total Crashes: 4,267 People Injured: 745 People Killed: 17
Bicycle Related Crashes: 20 People Injured: 15 People Killed: 2	Bicycle Related Crashes: 20 People Injured: 17 People Killed: 2	Bicycle Related Crashes: 22 People Injured: 21 People Killed: 0	Bicycle Related Crashes: 36 People Injured: 31 People Killed: 0	Bicycle Related Crashes: 36 People Injured: 31 People Killed: 0
Pedestrian Related Crashes: 33 People Injured: 30 People Killed: 3	Pedestrian Related Crashes: 32 People Injured: 27 People Killed: 2	Pedestrian Related Crashes: 37 People Injured: 37 People Killed: 0	Pedestrian Related Crashes: 57 People Injured: 54 People Killed: 1	Pedestrian Related Crashes: 50 People Injured: 44 People Killed: 3
Motorcycle Crashes: 98 People Injured: 73 People Killed: 3	Motorcycle Crashes: 75 People Injured: 56 People Killed: 2	Motorcycle Crashes: 91 People Injured: 69 People Killed: 3	Motorcycle Crashes: 60 People Injured: 44 People Killed: 2	Motorcycle Crashes: 82 People Injured: 59 People Killed: 5

² Information derived from NYS Department of Motor Vehicles crash statistics and developed by the NYS Governor's Traffic Safety Committee Crash Analyst Liaison.

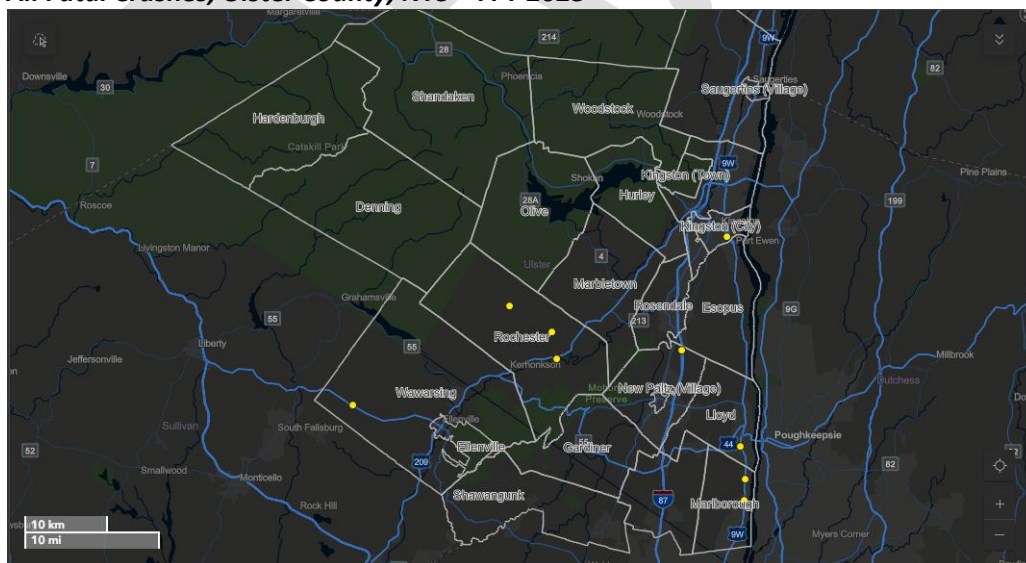
Governor's Traffic Safety Committee (GTSC) County Crash Dashboards

Since 2021, the NYS GTSC has provided public safety agencies with access to individual traffic crash dashboards that pull data from the NYSDMV "MV104" crash forms and geo-references the information utilizing a query tool. The following crash statistics were pulled from the dashboard for Ulster County in FFY 2023 (the most recent full year of crash data available).

All Crashes, Ulster County, NYS – Federal Fiscal Year 2023



All Fatal Crashes, Ulster County, NYS – FFY 2023



Activities

The following is a summary of activities accomplished during the 2024 calendar year:

Appointments. Two appointments were made during the reporting period; four seats are open to reappointment beginning April 2025.

The TSB continues to maintain 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, 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 applications are filed electronically with the GTSC by the applicant; awards are recommended by the GTSC but require final approval from the Chair of the TSB. Grant awards to Ulster County municipalities and other eligible agencies are shown in the table below; a total of **\$117,051** in grant funding has been awarded for 2025; this is a decrease from \$201,870 during the previous grant cycle:

**New York State Governor's Traffic Safety Committee
2025 Grant Awards**

Agency	Project Title	Approved Amount
Family of Woodstock Inc	Child Passenger Safety Program	\$2,850
Lloyd Town Police Department	Child Passenger Safety Program	\$1,300
Lloyd Town Police Department	Police Traffic Service	\$2,484
Marlborough Town Police Department	Police Traffic Service	\$3,562
New Paltz Town & Village Police Department	Child Passenger Safety Program	\$4,260
New Paltz Town & Village Police Department	Police Traffic Service	\$1,944
Shawangunk Town Police Department	Child Passenger Safety Program	\$3,500
Ulster County Sheriff's Office	Child Passenger Safety Program	\$10,500
Ulster County Sheriff's Office	Police Traffic Service	\$15,650
YMCA of Kingston & Ulster Co	Vulnerable Road User Safety Education of Ulster County	\$71,001
		\$117,051

Source: <https://trafficsafety.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2025/02/2025-grant-awards.pdf>

Public Safety Messages. The TSB will continue to partner with the Ulster County Executive's Office to prepare relevant public safety messages, including advancing and enhancing the "Safe Start" series of messages which focused on topics including daylight savings time, back to school safety, general bike/pedestrian safety, and winter traffic safety measures that the travelling public can take to stay safe on area roadways. Visit <https://participate.ulstercountyny.gov/road-safety> for more information.

Reflective Vests. The TSB requested that the Coordinator, through the UCTC, take action to purchase and distribute reflective vests to Ulster County pedestrians. UCTC was able to procure, package, and

distribute 350 vests in 2024. The TSB specifically emphasized distribution to DSS clients seeking emergency/temporary shelter; 50 packaged vests and other materials were provided directly to DSS for that purpose. Ulster County Area Transit assisted with this procurement and provided a share of vests, reflective wrist bands and flashlights. A “Be Safe, Be Seen” brochure was developed in English and Spanish and included with each vest. Communications staff from the Ulster County Executive’s Office was instrumental in developing the brochure.

Education. With financial support from the Ulster County Transportation Council, \$25,000 has been set aside to support such activities in 2025 utilizing a portion of UCTC’s Federal Highway Administration annual planning grant.

Ulster County Fatal and Serious Injury ArcGIS Dashboard. An interactive mapping ‘dashboard’ was developed by UCTC staff at the request of TSB members. The dashboard pulls 5 years of traffic crash data from NYS DMV data sources and geo-locates the incidents and categories them by mode and severity. The dashboard will continue to be hosted and updated by UCTC into the future. The data range includes crashes for full calendar years 2018 – 2023.

2024 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 2024 award was provided to Sue Miller of the New Paltz Central School District; Sue has 20 years of school bus driving experience operating through all of those years without a preventable/chargeable accident.

Honorable Mention was awarded to Gale Borden, a driver for the Onteora Central School District (driving for First Student); Gale has 42 years of school bus driving experience operating through all of those years without a preventable/chargeable accident.

The School Bus Driver of the Year Award recognizes drivers with exceptional service and safety records and is issued in conjunction with the Ulster County Traffic Safety Board and “Operation Safe Stop.” Operation Safe Stop is a cooperative project in New York State that seeks to promote school bus safety through education and enforcement efforts.

The Charles Schaller Award was also awarded in 2024 after a brief pause. The ‘Charles Schaller Award’ is an annual recognition that recognizes an individual who is dedicated, devoted, and committed to traffic safety. The nominee has demonstrated outstanding service and dedication in protecting and serving the citizens of this county in one or more of the following fields: Traffic Safety, First Responder, Law Enforcement, Highway Official, Transportation Planning and Transportation Education. The 2024 award was provided to Tom Polk in recognition for his work on the Kingston YMCA Bike Program; Honorable Mention was provided to New York State Trooper Joseph Leggio.

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:

- Using the Institute for Traffic Safety Management and Research data portal
- Local road engineering and construction project updates
- Enacting 25 mph speed limits on local roads
- NYS Families for Safe Streets Act and other notable roadway safety advocacy updates
- NYSDOT [Strategic Highway Safety Plan](#) overview and [NYSDOT Roadway Departure Safety Action Plan](#)
- NYS Comptroller's Report [Moving in the Wrong Direction](#) presentation and discussion
- NYSDOT Active Transportation Plan
- ArcGIS Online GTSC Crash Viewer

Goals for 2024

TSB goals for 2025 include the following:

- 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 that content
- 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**