

The Ulster County Traffic Safety Board would like to remind the travelling public that Fall brings many changes that can affect traffic safety. Ulster County roadways continue to experience a high rate of serious injury and fatal crashes. In 2022, there were a total of 5,205 crashes on Ulster County roadways; 197 of those crashes involved serious injuries and 14 were fatal.

Please keep the following facts in mind as you and your family travel throughout the Hudson Valley this fall:

- Daylight Savings Time ends on November 5th; once again, the sun will set before 5:00pm! Drivers can have trouble adjusting to the new sleep schedule and may be drowsy. Be aware and use caution.
- Collisions between deer and vehicles have been observed to increase by as much as 16% in the week after the time change. About 2.1 million deer-vehicle collisions happen in the U.S. annually. In 2022, Ulster County motorists saw 920 automobile collisions with animals and deer.
- Deer activity rises dramatically during the months of October and November as hunting and mating season begins. Animals are particularly active at sunrise and sunset, which is when crashes are most likely to occur.
- As it gets darker earlier and nights become longer, motorists, pedestrians and cyclists should remember to 'See and Be Seen!'
 - Pedestrians should never assume that a driver has seen them
 - Establish eye contact or adjust your activity to make sure drivers are aware of your presence
 - Wear light-colored clothing and add reflective material to increase visibility – especially when walking at night
 - Drivers should expect pedestrians and bikes at any time and place, avoid distractions like cell phone use, and obey speed limits.
 - Regardless of the right-of-way, the driver is required by law to take great care to avoid striking a pedestrian or cyclist.
- Fall is harvest season in the Hudson Valley. Remember that our rural landscapes are working landscapes, which means that we should expect

slow moving farm vehicles entering and existing the highway. Be patient and pass with care.

- Ulster County is beautiful in the fall and will be host to many visitors. Remember that not everyone is familiar with local roads – please be a patient and courteous driver and use caution on our winding rural roads.
- Leaves and debris are likely to be on the highway – when wet, leaves can be as slippery as snow and ice. It's also illegal under NYS Vehicle and Traffic Law to move any debris, including yard waste and snow, onto the highway.

Slow Down – Use Caution – Be Alert

The life you save could be your own!

The purpose of the Ulster County Traffic Safety Board is to advance traffic and transportation safety – including pedestrian and nonmotorized transport – through study, advocacy and public education, prioritizing safety concerns based on relative risk to people using major modes of transportation such as walking, cycling and/or other nonmotorized and motorized transport.

The TSB typically meets on the first Monday of each month at 6:00pm in the Ulster County Legislative Chambers in Kingston. Meetings are open to the public and every meeting begins with an opportunity for public comment where citizens are encouraged to voice their concerns regarding traffic safety. Meeting agendas are available on the web at <https://ulstercountyny.gov/traffic-safety-board>.