



## **Ulster County Traffic Safety Board**

**February 6, 2023 Minutes**

Approved April 10, 2023

<b><u>Members In Attendance:</u></b>	<b><u>Absent</u></b>
Tom Polk, Bicycle Program Dir, Kingston/Ulster YMCA	Brendan Masterson, Ulster County DPW Commissioner(excused)
Lou Klepner, Town of Saugerties	Rosemary Quinn, Upstate Regional Rep, Families for Safe Streets/City of Kingston resident(excused)
Eric Kight, NYCDEP, Chair	
Joseph Sinagra, Town/Village of Saugerties Chief of Police	
Steven Rice, Trails Adv. Committee	
Giovanna Russo, MHV School Transp, Supervisors Assoc.	
Egidio Tinti, City of Kingston Chief of Police	
Robert Lucchesi, Town/Village of New Paltz Chief of Police	
<i>Sgt. Robert Vedder, Ulster County Sherriff's Dept.</i>	
David Corrigan NYSDOT	
<b><u>Advisory Members</u></b>	
Brian Slack, Coordinator of Traffic Safety	
<b><u>Guests</u></b>	
Phil Earner, Legislator, District No. 6	
Ella Ray Kondrat	
Nick Mercurio	
Kevin Smith, Woodstock Land Conservancy	

### **I. Welcome and Introductions**

### **II. Approval of Minutes – January 9, 2023**

*Correction noted by Slack regarding Rosemary Quinn's affiliation as Upstate Reg. Rep, Families for Safe Streets. Motion made by Klepner, second by Sinagra. Carried*

### **III. Public Comments**

***Guests are welcome to address the Board; please limit comments to 5 minutes or less.***

*No public comments submitted*

### **IV. Member Updates**

*Eric Kight of the NYSDEP indicated guide rail repairs and replacements ongoing.*

*Slack of the UCTC mentioned first round of USDOT Safe Streets for All awards announced; no awards in Mid-Hudson but Ulster will continue to work to develop the necessary materials for competitive applications to future solicitations.*



*Chief Lucchesi met with the local bike committee that indicated ongoing concerns regarding crosswalks on Main; Slack and Corrigan will follow-up with the Mayor to consider a site visit. Update regarding Rte 299 Shoulder Project was also requested; Corrigan indicated that Advance Detailed Plans have been submitted to NYSDOT; right of way acquisition is still ongoing; construction obligation is scheduled on the UCTC Transportation Improvement Program for Oct. 2023.*

*Chief Sinagra indicated ticketing and enforcement of crosswalk laws is ongoing; National Data Service deployed over 40 traffic cameras throughout the town recently on behalf of an engineering consultant Creighton Manning for a traffic study; permitting is required and they were removed. Tractor trailer became stuck on Platte Clove Mtn Rd despite it being closed.*

*No updates from Chief Tinti City of Kingston*

*Sgt. Vedder indicated Port Ewen as a hot spot for enforcement by Sheriff's Dept.*

*Dave Corrigan indicated upcoming roadwork on Rte 213 in Rosendale at the Thruway overpass; detour will be required. Reconstruction of Toc Avenue in Highland will begin this spring; detour plans will be forthcoming. Review of retro-reflectivity of all NYSDOT stop signs is ongoing.*

*Lou Klepner indicated sight lines through vegetation removal on Glasgow Trnpg. Speed limit reduction request on Mill Hill Rd (212) is ongoing. Woodstock is considering a 'flagged' bike route through part of the town. Slack recommended that the town contact the NYSDOT Bike/Ped Coordinator for assistance.*

*Giovanna Russo indicated that the annual School Bus Driver of the Year award ceremony is scheduled for April 27<sup>th</sup> 11:00am. Slack will make those reservations.*

*Steve Rice indicated that the Open Space Institute has announced a planning effort to address the remaining gaps in the Ulster County trail network, linking the O&W, Shawangunk Ridge carriage trails, U&D and Hudson Valley trail rights of way. TSB may want to be aware of potential impacts on intersecting streets.*

## **V. Old Business (Open Items)**

### **a. Ulster County Bicycle and Pedestrian Policy – Polk/Klepner**

- i. Letter is in regard to Resolution 299 of 2009 Establishing a Bicycle and Pedestrian Policy. Slack recommended approval with 1 minor edit; Lou Klepner made a motion; second by Tom Polk. All in favor. Motion carried.

**Action:** Slack will apply content to TSB letterhead and submit to listed officials.

### **b. Crash Data Analysis – Lou Klepner**

- i. Lou provided an overview of a potential methodology/approach that the TSB could use to review bike/ped serious injury and fatal crashes on a routine basis. Slack requested that Lou provide the proposal in writing for the full TSB to review



and consider. Slack suggested that the process be incorporated into the TSB's bylaws, which have not yet been created.

**Action:** [Lou to provide outline](#) to Slack to forward to the full TSB for further review and discussion; No further action necessary at this time.

- c. Results of City of Kingston "Be a Road Hero" Public Safety Information Campaign – Slack

- i. Slack proposed forming a sub-committee of the TSB to address the issue of continuing traffic safety education and public outreach for all of Ulster County utilizing UCTC funds.

**Action:** Slack requested potential volunteers for subcommittee; further discussion at future meetings to occur regarding subcommittee.

- d. UCTC data investigations – ongoing

**Action:** No updates at this time; UCTC staff will provide updates at a future meeting

## **VI. New Business**

- a. Chapter A, Article XL of the Administrative Code <https://ecode360.com/10624880>
  - i. Slack was recently made aware of the Administrative Code of the Ulster County Charter by Legislative staff; he reviewed sections of the Admin code relevant to the TSB. TSB is responsible for the following:

- Making meeting minutes available to the Legislature (done/ongoing)
      - 1. Regarding minutes, Slack will move away from providing full meeting summaries in lieu of minutes; meeting audio recordings will also be posted online for the public to review.
    - Development of rules for conduct
    - Preparation and delivery of annual report to the Legislature

**Action:** Slack will begin working on these items to ensure compliance with the Administrative Code

ii.

- b. Election of Officers

*Article XL of the Administrative Code: The Traffic Safety Board shall elect annually a Chairman, Vice Chairman, and a Secretary from its members as provided in Article 43 of the Vehicle and Traffic Law. Nominations will be accepted for the following positions:*

- i. Chair – Chairman Eric Kight volunteering for 2023
      - 1. Nomination made by Giovanna Russo; second Sinagra; all in favor. Motion carried.



- ii. Vice Chair – Board member David Corrigan volunteering for 2023
  1. Nomination made Lou Klepner; second by Polk. All in favor; Motion carried.
- iii. Secretary –
  1. Vacant/seeking volunteer. Item tabled.

## **VII. Other Business**

- i. At the request of a board member, Slack spoke with Ulster County attorneys to provide clarification in regard to potential liability associated with board decisions. In summary:
  - The first and most important point is that the TSB is an advisory board. There is no “duty to act” [regarding a traffic safety deficiency] because there is no act to do – the TSB has no power or authority in this regard. At best, we would advise a responsible agency to investigate a traffic safety issue of concern. That’s the extent of our responsibility as a TSB.
  - Also there is qualified immunity for government officials acting in good faith performing the duties of their job – but again, this primarily applies to the agencies, not individuals on an advisory board.
  - Finally, Ulster County Local Law Section 18 Public Officers Law – this is a county law that indemnifies and holds-harmless public officers when carrying out the business of the county. In the event that litigation were to occur, the county would assume legal responsibility on the board’s behalf.
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- ii. Slack provided link to the 2023 update of the Governor’s Traffic Safety Committee Highway Safety Strategic Plan
- iii. Giovanna Russo requested that we discuss the Charlie Schaller Award at the March meeting.

## **VIII. Adjourn**

*Next meeting will be held 3/6/23.*