



ULSTER COUNTY TRAFFIC SAFETY BOARD

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Jen Metzger
County Executive

Eric Kight
Chairperson

Ulster County Traffic Safety Board

DRAFT March 3, 2025 Minutes

Location: Ulster County Legislative Chambers

Approved _____

<u>Members In Attendance:</u>	<u>Absent</u>
Eric Kight, NYCDEP, Chair	
Giovanna Russo, MHV School Transp. Supervisors Assoc	
James Andrew Seyfarth, Town of Ulster Police Department	
Brian Slack, Coordinator of Traffic Safety (Board Member Ex Officio)	
Egido Tinti, City of Kingston Chief of Police	
Brendan Masterson, Ulster County DPW Commissioner	
David Corrigan NYSDOT, Vice Chair	
Steven Rice, Trails Adv. Committee	
Rosemary Quinn, Upstate Regional Rep, Families for Safe Streets/NYS Safe Streets Coalition/City of Kingston resident	
Marc Cassidy, Town of Rosendale	
Tom Polk, Bicycle Program Dir, Kingston/Ulster YMCA	
Lou Klepner, Chair, Town of Saugerties Transportation Advisory Committee	
Sgt. Robert Vedder, Ulster County Sherriff's Dept	
<u>Advisory Members</u>	
<u>Guests</u>	
Kevin Smith, Ulster County Trails Advisory Committee, Woodstock Land Conservancy	
Tanya Garment, City of Kingston	
Ella Kondrat, Kingston Complete Streets Advisory Council	

I. Welcome and Introductions

II. Approval of the January 6, 2025 Draft Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve both meeting minutes by Steven Rice, second by David Corrigan; motion carried.

III. Public Comments

Ms. Garment stressed the need to provide more support for transportation projects at the local level and from the planning department given the uncertainty of federal aid and support, particularly to recover from the planning efforts that were highly focused on the automobile during the mid-20th Century.

Mr. Smith addressed the draft resolution on the agenda that, if approved, would provide support to developing a trail on the county owned portion of the U&D corridor between Kingston and Hurley. He offered his strong support of the resolution and encouraged members to support and adopt it.

Ms. Kondrat addressed the board and provided a statement that she previously delivered to the Kingston Common Council regarding the death of 77 year old Gary White, a pedestrian who was struck and killed by a motor vehicle on Broadway in Kingston on December 27, 2024. She indicated that she was concerned regarding how the case was handled and reported by the City. Among those concerns were the multiple apparent inaccuracies associated with the report of his death, such as: it was stated that Mr. White was not in a crosswalk but in fact he was crossing at a legal, unmarked crosswalk near his residence; there were inaccuracies in the police report regarding the weather conditions; and the incident itself was not reported publicly for nearly a week; the driver was not ticketed; and witnesses were not contacted by KPD.

IV. Member Updates

TSB members are asked to provide brief updates regarding traffic safety issues of concern, including maintenance needs, events, departmental news or other relevant topics.

Mr. Kight reported of an ongoing drainage issue near Route 28A and Huckleberry and Tibelt Lns that is creating a hazard. The repair may likely require a temporary closure and detour to address the issue; no final plan has been determined at this time.

Ms. Russo had no updates to report

Mr. Seyfarth had no updates for Town of Ulster

Sgt. Vedder had no updates to report from the Sheriff's Office.

Mr. Slack indicated that the UCTC is updating the Long Range Transportation Plan and will issue a press release and survey. He was asked to provide an overview of transportation priorities to the Office of Senator Gillibrand regarding the next reauthorization of the surface transportation act; he emphasized a continued emphasis on investments that promote safety. He indicated that the 2024 Safe Streets for All grant application was denied; the UCTC will wait to see if there is another call for proposals issues another round in 2025; if not, UCTC will fund the study on its own.

Chief Tinti, City of Kingston, announced that a traffic safety unit has been created and will be deployed typically during the workday. They are generally averaging 20-30 stops per 8 hour shift. 2/3rd of the time they are issuing tickets and 1/3 are warnings. They are being very proactive and acting on complaints but are also keeping close track of where the tickets are being issued. Their main focus is vehicle enforcement but they have the discretion to address other V&TL infractions as they see fit. The officers will also receive further training in crash investigation, drug recognition, and other areas to improve the unit's effectiveness.

Commissioner Masterson had no updates to report.

NYSDOT. Mr. Corrigan indicated that NYSDOT has found success with direct liquid application of salt brine on a pilot area on Rte 28; less salt use was achieved with similar level of service. Crews have been out at night to address pavement issues and will begin transitioning more to daylight hours this spring. Extra equipment has been procured to address the deteriorating pavement through focused patchwork. A small piece of Rte 52 near the Orange County line in Shawangunk will receive paving; that is the only known paving project at this time. There will also be some pavement friction work performed on 9W in Kingston and Port Ewen. Pavement work on Rte 28 between Hickory Pit to Rte 375 is scheduled for 2026.

Mr. Rice raised a traffic safety concern of the Catskill Mountain Railroad. During excursion trains, the CMRR uses a “leapfrog” vehicle to get ahead of the train and manage traffic of intersections through the rail corridor in the city. He’s observed these staff have travelled at hasty speeds through the Kingston Plaza in order to arrive in front of the train in time. Mr. Rice would like the county to review the CMRR’s procedures and safety plan. Mr. Masterson will review what the CMRR is required to do as part of its permit with the county. Mr. Corrigan indicated that there is FRA and NYSDOT safety oversight involved as well.

Mr. Polk had nothing to report.

Mr. Cassidy introduced himself as a new member of the TSB. He is a born and raised Rosendale resident, a Main St. Rosendale resident, has been involved in local traffic safety issues and has a passion for traffic safety in general.

Ms. Quinn indicated that she would be visiting the state capital with Families for Safe Streets to discuss ‘speed limiter device’ technology for repeat offenders. She also mentioned that the NYS Bike Coalition will be meeting with Congressman Ryan to discuss a 3 ft passing rule and the Idaho “stop as yield” issue.

Mr. Klepner had no updates.

V. Old Business (Open Items)

a. 2025 School Bus Driver of the Year and Charlie Schaller Awards

Gianna reported that no applications have been received; the event is scheduled for April 24; Slack has uploaded the application and forwarded it to school boards. Deadline is April 1. Review of applications and selection will occur on the April 7 TSB meeting. Recognition of former awardees will also occur as well as recognition of an Eagle Scout project completed by Ethan Gregor. The Charlie Schaller award will follow a similar process for notification.

b. Ulster County Bicycle and Pedestrian Policy

No progress has been made on this item; Slack requested that it be removed from the agenda. He also suggested that if the TSB would like an update to the policy, then the TSB should pursue that and provide recommendations to the County Executive. Mr. Kight suggested a subcommittee be formed to research the topic; Ms. Quinn asked if non-board members could volunteer. Motion was made by Klepner to create a subcommittee to review this policy; second by Quinn. Brief discussion; all in favor; none opposed.

Action: Slack to notify the TSB and request volunteers.

c. Education and Outreach Activities.

Slack had no major updates; he indicated a desire to purchase and distribute vests again; Quinn indicated that she has a supply of vests from OConnor and Partners that would also be distributed to area hotels and other locations. Sgt. Vedder indicated that Sheriff’s Dept. would be purchasing vests as well for distribution in the field. Quinn also indicated that she has a small number of bicycle lights for distribution as well.

d. Reappointments.

Slack reported that these are ongoing; as previously mentioned, 4 vacancies will exist on April 1; Mr. Rice and Mr. Polk are stepping down; Ms. Quinn and Mr. Klepner indicated a desire to serve another term. Applications have been submitted; vacancies will be filled by the Ulster County Executive in a timely manner; current members whose terms have expired can continue to serve until their replacements are made.

e. Support for Villages Seeking Reductions in Speed Limits.

Ms. Quinn to provide a link to Mr. Slack

VI. New Business

a. Draft 2025 Annual Report due March 31

Slack circulated and summarized the draft 2025 report and requested input and revisions by March 17 and will submit to the County Executive and Chair of the Legislature with any revisions thereafter.

Action: Mr. Slack to submit the report after receiving comments and conducting revisions as necessary.

b. Ulster County Executive's Office Recent Traffic Safety Initiatives

- Letter was submitted to NYSDOT Region 8 re: Rte 32 Rosendale; Region 8 responded confirming that a safety study would be performed by NYSDOT. Region 8 will communicate directly with Town of Rosendale.

Action: no action; for information purposes only

- County Executive will pursue action by the NYS Legislature to allow for radar speed enforcement and automated ticketing in rural areas. Mr. Cassidy outlined concerns by the town board.

Action: no action; for information purposes only

c. Kingston Ashokan Non-Motorized Route Recommendation – L. Klepner

Refer to Mr. Klepner's proposed resolution for consideration at

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1vHpPozFLouZrU9fPqMvnnEAoIet8aPcX1_M3m3aeSo/edit?tab=t.0

Mr. Klepner offered a motion to adopt the resolution. No second. Mr. Slack requested a motion for discussion; second by Ms. Quinn. Slack and Masterson indicated that they will abstain due to employment with Ulster County. Mr. Masterson clarified that the trail committee is focusing on the segment between Basin Rd and 28A; there is an existing policy to address the section between Kingston and 28A. Klepner indicated that the resolution has a broader scope than the U&D Committee's responsibilities; the resolution's purpose is to support and encourage the development of a trail through the entire area between Kingston and Basin Road. Discussion ensued. Mr. Klepner requested that members provide suggestions and revisions to the wording of the resolution by March 17.

Action: Mr. Slack moved to postpone the item to April 7; second by Chairman Kight. All in favor. Motion carried. Comments and revisions from board members should be provided by March 17.

VII. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn made by Mr. Slack; second by Mr. Polk. All in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 8:06pm.