



ULSTER COUNTY TRAFFIC SAFETY BOARD

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Jen Metzger
County Executive

Eric Kight
Chairperson

Ulster County Traffic Safety Board

March 4, 2024 Minutes

Location: Ulster County Legislative Chambers

Approved May 6, 2024

Members In Attendance:	Absent
Eric Kight, NYCDEP, Chair	Egido Tinti, City of Kingston Chief of Police
Giovanna Russo, MHV School Transp. Supervisors Assoc	Brendan Masterson, Ulster County DPW Commissioner
Rosemary Quinn, Upstate Regional Rep, Families for Safe Streets/NYS Safe Streets Coalition/City of Kingston resident	Lou Klepner, Town of Saugerties
Steven Rice, Trails Adv. Committee	Tom Polk, Bicycle Program Dir, Kingston/Ulster YMCA
David Corrigan NYSDOT, Vice Chair	Robert Lucchesi, Town/Village of New Paltz Chief of Police
Joseph Sinagra, NYS Assoc. of Chiefs of Police Traffic Safety Board	Sgt. Robert Vedder, Ulster County Sherriff's Dept.
Brian Slack, Coordinator of Traffic Safety (Board Member Ex Officio)	
Advisory Members	
Eric Paulding, Ulster County District Attorney's Office Accident Investigation Team	
Guests	
Kevin Smith	

I. Welcome and Introductions

II. Approval of the February 05, 2024 Draft Meeting Minutes

Motion made by Mr. Sinagra; Second by Mr. Rice. All in favor.

III. Public Comments

No public comments.

IV. Member Updates

Eric Kight, NYCDEP reminded board members that the purpose of this agenda item is for traffic safety related updates specific to their agency or community; board members should not be raising new agenda items during member updates, which should be reserved for "Other Business." Spring weather has allowed the DEP to begin spring road maintenance. No other issues to report

Ms. Russo had no updates

Ms. Quinn had no updates.

Mr. Rice had no updates

Mr. Corrigan encouraged members to submit input regarding any maintenance needs on the NYSDOT system as the annual maintenance season opens. He indicated that he's received a Project Scoping Report for an extensive ADA project at sites throughout Ulster County addressing sidewalks and access ramps. The work would likely commence in 2025.

Mr. Slack announced that the FHWA has released its third round of the Safe Streets for All grant opportunity; these are both implementation and planning grants. The UCTC will apply for a planning grant to update its Road Safety Plan from 2019 and has assisted the City of Kingston with an implementation grant application. Mr. Slack also reported that he participated on the NYSDOT Region 8 Transportation Alternatives Program application review committee and reviewed and scored applications from Orange, Putnam, Rockland and Westchester Counties. While he did not conduct scoring of Ulster County applications, he was able to view and comment on them; 6 were submitted and each looked competitive. Two ongoing safety plans – the Rte 9W Mobility Plan and the Kingston RR Safety Plan – should be ready for review this spring. The UCTC has approved its 2024/25 Unified Planning Work Program; this year's program will increase the funding for a traffic safety education campaign from \$25,000 to \$100,000; Brian will prepare a scope of work for this effort with issuance in the spring 2024; this will be a much broader scope of work than originally envisioned. UCTC staff attended a presentation on the Vulnerable Road User Safety Assessment as part of the NYS Strategic Highway Safety Plan. He will consider providing a 10-15 min. video summary of the Assessment at a future TSB meeting.

Mr. Sinagra had no updates.

V. Old Business (Open Items)

- a. Ulster County Bicycle and Pedestrian Policy – Office of the County Executive
 - i. County staff continue to prepare a draft policy for consideration by the County Executive
- b. Public Awareness Campaign– Slack
 - i. Scope of work is being expanded and re-written for broader deliverables
- c. Winter Public Safety Message – Slack
 - i. Mr. Kight has developed a winter safety message broadcast on Radio Kingston; a spring PSA has also been requested by the station; discussion ensued regarding possible subjects, including:
 - 1. Increase in pedestrian/bicycle activity with warmer weather
 - 2. Increase visibility.
 - 3. General “rules of the road” reminder messages for pedestrians and other users of the road
 - a. Walking against traffic; biking with traffic

Action: Mr. Slack to provide the [NYSAMPO Pedestrian Safety Fact Sheet](#) to help inform the development of the next radio message

- d. 2024 School Bus Driver of the Year & Charlie Schaller Awards – All
 - i. Charlie Schaller Award application form was updated and revised; TSB should submit final comments on the form itself by 3/8/24; Mr. Slack will be forwarded to distribution lists, including schools.
 - ii. School Bus Driver of the Year award deadline is 4/1; application has been sent to school contacts; Mr. Slack will arrange a zoom meeting with the Executive Committee to discuss applicants.

Action: Mr. Slack will forward the Charles Schaller Award application form to the TSB distribution list once finalized.

- e. NYS Safe Streets Coalition: Policy on 25MPH Speed Limits – Rosemary Quinn
 - i. Ms. Quinn provided an update on communities that have been trying to pass 25 MPH laws. As New Business, she would like the TSB to consider endorsing the entire Safe Streets for All Package, which she will forward to the TSB for consideration

Action: Ms. Quinn will provide the Safe Streets for All legislative package for consideration at a future meeting

- f. NYS Institute of Traffic Safety Management and Research Data
 - i. No new business; item will be closed

VI. New Business

- a. Draft 2024 Annual Report – Slack
 - i. Mr. Slack provided written copies of the report; no revisions or comments were submitted by members to Mr. Slack. Baring any further comments or revisions, Mr. Slack made a recommending that the draft be approved. Mr. Rice made amotion that the draft be accepted as written; second by Mr. Kight. **All in favor. Motion Carried.**

Action: Mr. Slack will finalize the document, publish on the website, and forward to the County Executive, Legislative Chair, and other public officials.

- b. 2024 GTSC Grant Cycle
 - i. Grant cycle will be announced next week.

VII. Other Business

- At the February meeting of the TSB, Ms. Quinn and Mr. Klepner proposed a change in rules regarding the role and responsibilities of the Secretary. Brief discussion ensued; Mr. Slack instructed members that such details are not typically adopted by Ulster County committees. Further, it is the expectation of the Ulster County Executive and the Ulster County Legislature that the Coordinator of Traffic Safety fulfills responsibilities as detailed in the proposal. Therefore, the proposal should not be considered any further. General discussion ensued regarding the responsibility of the Coordinator, meeting frequency, and process for holding and cancelling meetings.

Action: No action. Slack will clarify the process for setting meeting agendas and calling/cancelling meetings.

- Mr. Rice raised an issue regarding a potential trail safety issue; the Midtown Linear Park trail ends with no direct link to the O&W Connector Trail on Washington Ave. Mr. Rice asked the TSB to consider the implications of not providing clear directions to visitors. Mr. Slack recommended that the Trails Advisory Committee contact the Ulster County Planning Department, which has acted as the Project Manager for both of the existing trails, to address the gap. The City is assumed to be the lead agent to address the gap in between those trails, but the Schwenk Avenue project has been postponed indefinitely due to funding.

Action: Trails Advisory Committee should contact Ulster County Planning staff to discuss possible wayfinding measures

- At the February meeting, Ms. Quinn raised the possibility of creating a Vulnerable Road User Subcommittee. Mr. Slack commented that he did not see a discreet need to establish a stand-alone committee at this time. Kingston, Saugerties, Woodstock, and New Paltz each have stand-alone complete streets or similar committees; Ms. Quinn is coordinating Safe Pass Ulster, Bike Friendly Kingston, and Riders of Ulster Transit Alliance, which has a captive audience online; UCTC attends statewide bike/ped safety meetings with other MPOs and NYSDOT, FHWA, and NY Bike Coalition representatives; given the wide array of existing public and private groups committed to the issue, a subcommittee at the TSB level would seem redundant or unnecessary at this time. Mr. Slack further indicated the need for the TSB to establish a comprehensive education campaign, which should be the focus on the TSB. Ms Quinn indicated that this was a concept that arose from comments made at a previous Safe Pass meeting as a means to bring pedestrian safety concerns to action. Mr. Slack encouraged members of the public to continue to use the mechanisms that are currently in place, including contacting local officials regarding concerns or simply bringing them to the TSB for discussion. Ms. Quinn stressed the urgent need for community members to directly engage with local leaders to provide input regarding these important issues.

Action: No action.

- Chief Robert Lucchesi announced his retirement from the New Paltz Police Department and will be resigning from the Traffic Safety Board.

VIII. Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 7:10pm; next meeting tentatively scheduled for 4/8/24.