

Ulster County Traffic Safety Board

April 4, 2022 Meeting Summary

Approved June 6, 2022

Members In Attendance:

Eric Kight, Chair, NYCDEP

Brian Slack, Coordinator

Diane Beitel, Ulster County Safety

Brandon Schiller, Ulster County Sheriff's Dept.

Giovanna Russo, MHV School Transportation Supervisors Assoc.

Chief Joseph Sinagra

David Corrigan, Resident Engineer, NYSDOT Region 8

Brendan Masterson, Commissioner, Ulster County DPW

Tom Polk, Bicycle Program Dir, Kingston/Ulster YMCA, pending appointee

Rose Mary Quinn, City of Kingston, pending appointee

Lou Klepner, Town of Saugerties, pending appointee

Guests

John Grosbohlín, City of Kingston resident

Nick Mercurio, Town of Rosendale Resident

Tanya Garment, City of Kingston resident

Kevin Smith, Woodstock Land Conservancy/Ulster County Trails Advisory Committee

Meeting Summary

I. Welcome and Introductions

II. Public Comments

Nick Mercurio inquired as to how bike/ped issues and considerations will be addressed by the committee. Slack reiterated that the Ulster County Charter outlines the purpose of the TSB which is to address safety among all modes of transportation, including bike/ped and the Ulster County Executive and members of the Legislature have indicated a desire to see more representatives from the bike/ped community represented on the TSB, which has been

occurring. Chairman Kight stressed that the focus is the “Three E’s: Education, Enforcement and Engineering”.

Rosemary Quinn indicated that there is another public meeting underway regarding the proposed Golden Hill housing development and members of the public may be attending that meeting to provide public input. Slack indicated that if given proper advance notice he will consider the possibility of rescheduling.

Rosemary further inquired as to what specific actions the TSB will be taking going forward beyond advocacy. Slack indicated that the Ulster County Charter is clear regarding the make up and purpose of the TSB. Capacity of the TSB will continue to be limited without a designated staff person; in light of that, the effectiveness of the TSB can be maximized through coordination of existing resources, be there county, local, state or not-for-profit organizations. Rosemary concluded by stressing a need to focus on the most vulnerable users of the transportation system.

Kevin Smith responded by stressing the growth of bicycling during the pandemic and the benefits that it has had as a major driver of tourism in Ulster County and anticipated that trend to continue.

General comments from Lou Klepner and John Grossbohlin regarding the regulation of eBikes was raised; Slack referenced a recent white paper produced by Cornell University as well as action by the Kingston Complete Streets Advisory Committee regarding recommendations for consistent regulation.

Tanya Garment raised the housing project at Golden Hill and stressed the need for transit access. She second raised the issue of the Broadway bike lane in Kingston and her desire for the City to install bollards or stanchions to restrict access by motorized vehicles on the cycle track portion.

III. Approval of Minutes – March 7, 2022

Motion made by Sinagra; second by Schiller. Carried

IV. Old Business (Open Items)

- a. **2023 GTSC Grant Proposals.**
- b. **Brian asked Rose Mary Quinn to provide some** background given her extensive experience with the GTSC grant process. TSB approval prior to submission has not been required in the past. The Chair of the TSB simply needs to sign off and endorse applications as they come in although a formal review and approval by the TSB is not required. Chairman Kight indicated that this has been the process in the past. Maureen from GTSB indicated that grantees are able to submit through the electronic submission form online; after GTSC approval the grant proposals are then resent to the local TSBs for their approval.

Tom Polk from the Kingston YMCA briefly ran through components of a proposal that he is preparing to submit. The focus areas include bicycle safety education programs throughout Ulster County. Rosemary Quinn also indicated that SUNY Ulster will be submitting their typical safety grant as well during this round.

a. 2022 School Bus Driver of the Year

Gianna Russo indicated two applications were submitted. Kevin Raymond from KCSD had 13 years of experience and Lisa Haynes from NPCSD had 32 years experience; both had outstanding references submitted as part of their applications. Gianna recommended that Ms. Haynes be awarded the title of Ulster County School Bus Driver of the Year given her extensive experience and Mr. Ross as runner-up TSB; members agreed. Slack indicated that he has handled arrangements for the ceremony which is scheduled for April 28th at the Rotunda of the Ulster County Jail.

b. Status of Membership & Appointments

8 appointments are complete; 2 are pending – T. Polk and L. Klepner. 1 vacancy remains and Rosemary Quinn has been recommended to the Ulster County Executive’s Office.

c. 2022 TSB Workplan

No action.

d. Website Content

No action or updates.

e. Public Safety Message No. 2: Opportunities

Motorcycle awareness was identified as a good subject to focus on; Slack will explore possibilities. Rosemary indicated that it runs simultaneously with bicycle awareness. Distracted Driving Awareness is in April.

f. Legalized Cannabis.

Sinagra indicated as follow-up that he will continue to address the issue NYS Cannabis Industry Association to coordinate and advocate for legal clarity regarding the issue.

g. Other Traffic Safety Concerns

Slack will coordinate a field visit for the I587 roundabout and crosswalk to review design.

V. New Business

h. National Roadway Safety Strategy – Maureen Kozakiewicz, Highway Safety Program Representative, Governor’s Traffic Safety Committee.

Maureen’s presentation is available online at

https://ulstercountyny.gov/sites/default/files/documents/TSB/TSB_04042022_Presentation_NRSS.pdf

Brief discussion of the topics presented ensued among members.

**VI. Member Updates, News & Announcements
Planning**

Slack gave a brief update from the UCTC and Planning Departments; UCTC will be updating its Transportation Improvement Program as soon as guidance is issued from NYSDOT. No new projects will be added to the TIP during this update cycle but the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law does create several

new discretionary funding opportunities. New planning projects to be initiated during the spring/summer period include a corridor management plan for 9W in the Town of Ulster and a railroad safety examination of the area around CSX corridor in the City of Kingston.

The annual Unified Planning Work Plan was adopted; two upcoming safety studies that will occur include a rail road safety study in City of Kingston and a corridor management plan in the 9W portion in the Town of Ulster.

Ulster DPW

No updates

Town/Village Saugerties

No updates

NYC DEP

Trout season opened April 1; be aware of excess roadside parking occurring. Boiceville Bridge reconstruction updates will be provided at the next meeting.

NYS DOT

US 209 paving will begin in June from the NYS Trooper barracks to Rte 32 incl. some intersections

City of Kingston

No updates.

Mid Hudson Pupil Transportation Providers

No Updates

Kingston YMCA

No Updates

VII. Adjourn

bcs