



ULSTER COUNTY TRAFFIC SAFETY BOARD

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<https://ulstercountyny.gov/traffic-safety-board>



Jen Metzger
County Executive

Eric Kight
Chairperson

Ulster County Traffic Safety Board

April 7, 2025 Minutes

Location: Ulster County Legislative Chambers

Approved May 5, 2025

<u>Members In Attendance:</u>	<u>Absent</u>
Eric Kight, NYCDEP, Chair	Brendan Masterson, Ulster County DPW Commissioner
Giovanna Russo, MHV School Transp. Supervisors Assoc	David Corrigan NYSDOT, Vice Chair
James Andrew Seyfarth, Town of Ulster Police Department	Tom Polk, Bicycle Program Dir, Kingston/Ulster YMCA
Brian Slack, Coordinator of Traffic Safety (Board Member Ex Officio)	
Egido Tinti, City of Kingston Chief of Police	
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	
Lou Klepner, Chair, Town of Saugerties Transportation Advisory Committee	
Sgt. Robert Vedder, Ulster County Sherriff's Dept	
<u>Guests</u>	
Meg Carey, Glenford	Russ Bonk, CMRR
Susan and Stuart Auchincloss, Woodstock	Phil Cosme, CMRR
Lee Kalish, Stone Ridge	Helen Chase, Ashokan Scenic Byway/CMRR
James Munson, Hurley	Betsy Blair, Hurley
Kevin Bliss, Woodstock Complete Streets Adv. Committee	Larry Roth, U&DRR
Mary Smith, Woodstock Complete Streets Adv. Committee	[illegible], Glenford
[inaudible] Woodstock	Irwin Rosenthal
[inaudible] Kingston	Jody Hickey, Kingston
Grace Murphy, Woodstock Complete Streets Adv. Committee	

I. Welcome and Introductions

II. Approval of the March 3, 2025 Draft Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve both meeting minutes by Steven Rice, second by Robert Vedder; motion carried.

III. Public Comments

Meg Carey, Town of Hurley resident, spoke in support of trails and Catskill Mountain Rail Road (CMRR).

Stewart Auchincloss, Town of Woodstock resident, spoke in favor of the draft Kingston Ashokan Non-Motorized Route Recommendation resolution.

Lee Kalish spoke in favor of the draft Kingston Ashokan Non-Motorized Route Recommendation resolution.

Irwin Rosenthal, Woodstock resident, spoke in favor of the draft Kingston Ashokan Non-Motorized Route Recommendation resolution.

Russ Bonk, CMRR, spoke in favor of the CMRR.

Larry Roth, CMRR, spoke in favor of the CMRR and took issue with elements of the draft Kingston Ashokan Non-Motorized Route Recommendation resolution.

James Munson, Town of Hurley resident, spoke in favor of the draft Kingston Ashokan Non-Motorized Route Recommendation resolution.

Betsy Blair, Town of Hurley resident/Town of Hurley Safety Committee, spoke in favor of the draft Kingston Ashokan Non-Motorized Route Recommendation resolution.

Kevin Bliss, Town of Woodstock resident, spoke in favor of the draft Kingston Ashokan Non-Motorized Route Recommendation resolution.

Mary Smith, Town of Woodstock resident, spoke in favor of the draft Kingston Ashokan Non-Motorized Route Recommendation resolution.

Helen Chase, Ashokan resident, spoke in favor of the CMRR.

Phil Cosme, Kingston resident, spoke in favor of the CMRR.

IV. Member Updates

Mr. Kight provided updates regarding NYCDEP activities; the drainage project mentioned for Tebelt Ln has been postponed. Reservoir Rd Dividing Weir Bridge will have lane closures while SCUBA inspections take place.

Mr. Klepner reported that the Town of Saugerties submitted an Expression of Interest to UCTC for use of federal aid for a side path on Rte. 9W.

Mr. Slack indicated that the UCTC will submit an application to USDOT for a systemic road safety plan through the Safe Streets for All program. The UCTC is updating the Transportation Improvement Program; if federal aid remains after needs of the existing program are addressed, those funds may be released for use on the local highway system. UCTC awaits the NYSDOT Region 8 program of projects for Ulster County. Mr. Slack also announced that the UCTC Long Range Transportation Plan update is underway; a survey has been created to gather input, accessible at <https://participate.ulstercountyny.gov/mobility-2050>. Ms. Quinn inquired as to whether a municipality should apply or should they defer to the UCTC for the county-wide plan proposal. Mr. Slack indicated that the FHWA guidance itself encourages regional/MPO applications; however, UCTC would not discourage local municipalities from submitting applications.

No updates provided by the Ulster County Sheriff's Office.

Chief Tinti indicated that the new traffic unit continues to be deployed successfully.

No updates from the Trails Advisory Committee

Mr. Cassidy informed the TSB that the Rosendale Town Board has prepared a resolution to limit the speed on Rt. 32 from Madeline Ave N to Washington Ave; suggested reduction would be from 40mph to 30mph. He also indicated that NYSDOT study of Rte 32 is underway and he has observed activity by NYSDOT staff in the area. Slack will submit an inquiry to NYSDOT for an update. Mr. Cassidy also indicated that Dave Corrigan provided a site visit to show the town where sidewalk improvements would be made along the NYSDOT right of way. He concluded with some questions regarding speed enforcement cameras.

Ms. Quinn announced that she will begin a communications position with the NYS Bicycle Coalition. League of American Cyclists met with Congressman Ryan's office regarding viability of existing federal aid projects. Ms. Quinn inquired as to the arrest associated with the fatality of Christine Torasco, who was killed while riding her bicycle on December 27, 2022. Chief Tiniti indicated that a sealed indictment was issued by the Ulster County Attorney's Office and CoK made the arrest. Families for Safe Streets has encouraged Senator Hinchey to co-sponsor a bill authorizing use of speed limiter technology on cars for repeat offenders. A similar law has been passed by the State of Virginia. Town of Esopus and City of Kingston have both submitted speed reduction requests on the Wurts St. Bridge, reducing to 25 mph. Ms. Quinn also announced that she will be participating in Critical Mass bike rides this year. Bicycle lights and other safety materials are also available for distribution by Safe Pass Ulster through donations from O'Connor and Partners and Manetti and Manetti lawfirms.

Officer Seyfarth indicated that the Town of Ulster has trained professionals on staff authorized to provide child safety seat inspections to the public.

V. Old Business (Open Items)

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

One application for the 2025 School Bus Driver of the Year was received; the nomination was for Mary Dutka driving for the Highland Central School District with over 30 years of non-accident experience; the award ceremony will be on April 24 at 11am.

Slack made a motion that Mary Dutka be awarded the 2025 School Bus Driver of the Year Award; second by Mr. Rice. All in favor.

There were no applications for the Charlie Schaller Award; Chairman Kight requested the deadline be extended 1 week.

b. Ulster County Bicycle and Pedestrian Policy

The TSB voted in March to create a subcommittee to review the current policy and propose revisions; volunteers include Neil Bettez, Lou Klepner, Rose Quinn, Steven Rice.

c. Education and Outreach Activities

No updates

d. Reappointments

TSB members Polk and Rice are stepping down, creating 2 vacancies; Quinn and Klepner have requested reappointment; County Executive's Office will be addressing those in April.

e. Draft 2025 Annual Report delivered April 1

No further action

f. County and Local NYSDOT Traffic Safety Requests

NYSDOT has ongoing safety studies of Rte 32 Rosendale and Main Street New Paltz. These do not include speed limit reduction requests. Mr. Slack will follow-up with NYSDOT to request an update regarding pending status of these activities.

VI. New Business

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

i. Revisions were provided and accepted; revised draft available at

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1vHpPozFLouZrU9fPqMvnnEAoIet8aPcX1_M3m3aeSo/edit?usp=sharing

Motion for discussion made by Mr. Cassidy; second by Ms. Quinn. Mr. Klepner provided explanation; general discussion ensued. Mr. Klepner called the question; second by Ms. Quinn. All in favor; none opposed; Slack and Kight abstained. 8 in favor – Motion carried.

VII. Other Business

Governor's Traffic Safety Board grants are due in May.

VIII. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn made by Mr. Slack; second by [inaudible]. All in favor.