



Ulster County Traffic Safety Board

April 10, 2023 Minutes

Approved May 1, 2023

<u>Members In Attendance:</u>	<u>Absent</u>
David Corrigan NYSDOT, Vice Chair	Brendan Masterson, Ulster County DPW Commissioner(excused)
Lou Klepner, Town of Saugerties	Tom Polk, Bicycle Program Dir, Kingston/Ulster YMCA(excused)
Rosemary Quinn, Upstate Regional Rep, Families for Safe Streets/City of Kingston resident	Eric Kight, NYCDEP, Chair(excused)
Steven Rice, Trails Adv. Committee	Joseph Sinagra, Town/Village of Saugerties Chief of Police
Giovanna Russo, MHV School Transp. Supervisors Assoc.	
Lt. Ernie Osterhoudt, City of Kingston Police Department	
Robert Lucchesi, Town/Village of New Paltz Chief of Police	
<i>Sgt. Robert Vedder, Ulster County Sherriff's Dept. (appointment pending approval)</i>	
<u>Advisory Members</u>	
Brian Slack, Coordinator of Traffic Safety	
David Staas, UCTC	
Dennis Doyle, Director, UCTC/Planning	
<u>Guests</u>	
Ella Ray Kondrat	
Tanya Garment	
Phil Earner, Legislator, District No. 6	
Guest Speaker: Eric Paulding, Investigator, Ulster County Collision Reconstruction Team, Ulster County District Attorney's Office	

I. Welcome and Introductions

In the absence of Chairman Kight, Vice Chair David Corrigan assumed the role of Chair.

II. Approval of Minutes – February 6, 2023

Motion made by Rice, Second by Vedder. None opposed; motion carried.

III. Public Comments

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

Tanya Garment, City of Kingston, indicated that there have been three bike/car crashes in the Town of Saugerties in the past ~30 days. One crash resulted in the ticketing of the 15 year old bicyclist's parents for failure to signal. Ms Garment inquired as to the legality of such a charge (against the parents); Chief Sinagra was not present to address the question. Ms. Garment wondered if there was a system for tracking the location and frequency of such crashes, particularly in the absence of any



news report on the subject; Slack indicated this question will be addressed later on the agenda. Ms. Garment indicated that there is little to no education in the local schools regarding safety and aspects of the VTL. Brief comment from Quinn, Kondrat followed.

Legislator Earner provided the TSB with an update regarding recent Legislative action germane to traffic safety. These items included: a review of Resolution 209 (complete streets policy) that is occurring simultaneously with the TSB's; development of a bicycle/pedestrian bill of rights; equity in bicycle/pedestrian safety; fostering better coordination between the TSB and Trails Adv. Committee; Legislative transportation listening sessions scheduled throughout the county.

IV. Member Updates

Dave Staas provided UCTC updates: UCTC has commenced a railroad safety study examining at-grade crossings primarily in Kingston as well as trespass avoidance; Rte 9W Mobility Plan is underway and the Existing Conditions report will be made available in the next 7-10 days. UCTC received a sub-allocation of Carbon Reduction Funds of \$200k/year; these funds can be used toward new or existing transportation alternative projects. Ulster County Planning Project O&W railtrail project has commenced which will provide a paved nonmotorized access from Washington Ave in Kingston to the O&W trail in Hurley. Dennis Doyle added that annual traffic counts will be initiated soon; Shandaken Rail Trail project is also under development and currently selecting a design consultant. Questions from R. Quinn regarding the need for a safe and accessible crossing at the O&W trailhead ensued; D. Doyle indicated that various treatments to cross Washington were not deemed feasible by the NYSDOT and the Planning Depts engineers and the public will be directed to the nearest signalized intersection at Schwenk Drive. to cross. Quinn, Klepner stressed the need for further consideration and to add this topic to the TSB agenda as an issue for further/ongoing discussion. Corrigan indicated that NYSDOT has been very much reviewing a variety of ongoing developments and proposals along the Washington Ave corridor and is developing a solution although at this time no final plan or design has been formulated; those discussions are occurring with Main Office.

Action: request to continue discussing issues of concern on the Washington Avenue corridor at future TSB meetings.

R. Quinn representing Families for Safe Streets visited the Capital advocating for the Complete Streets law and Sammy's Law – both of which allow city's to reduce speed limits below the traditional 30pmh threshold. Sammy's Law allows NYC to do this; the new statewide complete streets law also allows smaller cities to do a similar reduction but adds the clause to require 'speed engineering studies' which is not required in NYC. Discussions are also occurring with NYSDMV regarding how data and crash reports are handled; DMV is taking the discussion seriously.

G. Russo prepared and circulated a contact list of Ulster County school bus driver contacts for each district; Slack will forward to members for their information. **34.24**

Steven Rice, Trails Adv. Committee had no updates

Lou Klepner mentioned a recent vehicle/cyclist crash on Rte 212 that he was aware of; minor injuries/hit and run; no further information.

Sheriff's Office had no updates



Lt Osterhoudt, KPD, indicated that there would be an increase in deployment on motor vehicle education regarding proper use of cycle tracks, crosswalks, and appropriate user responsibilities.

NYS DOT mentioned pending Rte 28 pavement from Kenco to Hickory BBQ; local residency budget has been improved with a slight budget increase; 'mastic' sealant will be used on state pavements again, which appears like crack sealant but is a more durable product; hazardous tree removal adjacent to the right of way will also be a priority.

V. Old Business (Open Items)

a. Ulster County Bicycle and Pedestrian Policy.

Letter submitted to County Executive 2/14/23; awaiting response

b. Crash Data Analysis

UCTC is preparing to run its first query of bike/ped crashes in Ulster County and will present the first report to the TSB in an upcoming meeting; an online map viewer will be set up in the future to display these results publicly

c. Public Education Subcommittee

Slack requested volunteers to participate in a public education subcommittee, the purpose of which is to consider methods and approaches to traffic safety education and outreach; Rose Quinn, Steve Rice, Tom Polk, Chief Luccesi all volunteered;

Action: Slack will schedule a kickoff meeting of the subcommittee in the near future

VI. New Business

a. Eric Paulding, Ulster County District Attorney's Office – Presentation and Discussion on the Ulster County Collision Reconstruction Team (CRT)

Detective Paulding provide a comprehensive overview of the purpose of the CRT and when they are deployed. Ulster County is one of the only counties in the region with its own team and will respond to fatal and serious injury crashes when the local authorities request their assistance. General discussion ensued. Detective Paulding offered to provide the TSB with further collaboration at our request.

Action: no further action

b. 2024 School Bus Driver of the Year Nominees

- Two applications were submitted: Tera Faso of the New Paltz District with 13 years experience and Larry Borelli of Ulster BOCES with 11 years experience.
- While the TSB agreed that both nominees were worthy, Ms. Faso's application was selected for the 2023
- Gianna Russo provided Slack with invoices for the awardee plaque and perpetual plaque and requested a modest gift certificate be provided; Slack indicated that the Planning Department has budgeted funds for these purposes and will handle reimbursement.

Action: Slack to process necessary payments; the ceremony will take place on Thursday April 27 at 11am in the Rotunda of the Ulster County Sheriff's Department. TSB members are strongly encouraged to attend the ceremony.



c. 2024 Governor's Traffic Safety Committee Grants

- 2024 Grant Cycle is open; deadline May 1; general discussion ensued regarding previous grants and opportunities going forward
- Application available at <https://trafficsafety.ny.gov/highway-safety-grant-program>

Action: no further action

d. Draft Annual Report – Slack

- County Charter requires an annual report to be submitted to the Legislature; a draft has been prepared for review and comment. No reports were previously submitted to the Legislature therefore the format was developed by the Coordinator. Slack provided the draft annual report to the TSB prior to the meeting and requested discussion and approval.

Motion to approve Corrigan; Seconded by Quinn. None opposed; motion carried.

Action: Slack to put the final Annual Report on TSB letterhead and submit to the Chair of the Legislature and the County Executive and post online

e. School Bus Safety – Russo/Quinn

- Rose and Gianna have been discussing the increase in crashes involving schoolbuses and have reached out to the Governor's Traffic Safety Committee and DMV for assistance with tracking crashes locally. Dave Staas at UCTC has indicated that he has put forth some effort to do the same using the NYSDMV system, but 'school buses' aren't coded differently from commercial buses on the MV-104 crash forms, so the tracking can be difficult.

Action: continue discussion regarding tracking school bus related crashes

VII. Other Business

a. Draft Rules for Conduct

- The Ulster County Charter requires the TSB to prepare Rules of Conduct; none presently exist; Slack circulated the Dutchess County Traffic Safety Board Rules of Conduct for review and consideration.

Action: begin development of draft Rules of Conduct for the TSB

VIII. Adjourn

Next meeting will be held 5/1/23.