



## **Ulster County Traffic Safety Board**

**May 1, 2023 Draft Minutes**

Approved June 5, 2023

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

### **I. Welcome and Introductions**

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

### **II. Approval of Minutes – April 10, 2023**

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

### **III. Public Comments**

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

*Ella Kondrat spoke in support of a safe crossing on Washington Avenue at the future site of the O&W rail trail. Ella also submitted a request for clarification regarding an incident raised at the April 10 meeting whereby a child's parents were ticketed in Saugerties after a child on ebike was involved in a crash on 9W near Simmons Plaza. Chief Sinagra responded that the cyclist admitted to not using hand signals; the vehicle operator was also ticketed. The child was under 15 years of age, did not possess a driver's license; ticket was issued to parents (under care and custody assoc. w/ NYSVTL). Request for the crash report at the next meeting was made and agreed to. Kondrat further requested*



*additional information pertaining to other crashes in Saugerties; Chief Sinagra offered an open invitation to members of the public to request and discuss information regarding traffic safety and related information in Saugerties at any time.*

*Steve Rice asked if there was a law regarding debris on the highway (grass clippings); Slack referred him to the [News and Events](#) section of the TSB website that included a press release on the subject. Chief Tinti added that it's VTL Sec. 1219.*

*Tanya Garment commented regarding the O&W Rail Trail project underway by the Ulster County Planning Department; she offered concerns regarding the final design and that the location of the trailhead may put visitors travelling by foot or bicycle in danger. Other nearby intersections and roadways in the area also have incomplete or inadequate facilities for bicyclists and pedestrians. She also requested an update on the 9W corridor project underway by UCTC.*

#### **IV. Member Updates**

*NYS DOT: Dave Corrigan bridge on 44/55 over Wallkill River has been receiving complaints due to uneven pavement; dip in pavement is being addressed. Town of Plattekill – Plattekill Ardonia Rd. intersection with US 44/55 – intersection geometry is being examined for potential realignment to improve safety.*

*Tom Polk announced that YMCA youth programs are up and running and GTSC grant request for 2024 has been submitted.*

*Steve Rice provide O&W rail trail updates and also offered that he would be happy to act as liaison between the Ulster County Trails Advisory Committee as needed.*

*Gianna Russo provided a report on the 2023 School Bus Driver of the Year ceremony and thanked all of those involved; gifts will be made to the awardees from the Transpo. Supervisors Association.*

*Rose Quinn provided update on NYS legislation addressing the expansion of the complete streets & Sammy's Law package; Families for Safe Streets has been active at the NYS capital advocating for improvements to the legislation. While a first phase of the complete streets bill was signed into law additional language needs to be improved particularly regarding the ability for municipalities to reduce speed limits to 25mph. The bill included a 'speed study' requirement just prior to signature; this requirement is deemed by some to be a burdensome and unnecessary component that will hinder the reduction of local speed limits.*

*Lou Klepner conducted research regarding a fatal pedestrian crash on 9W that occurred in 2019 and requested that the TSB submit a formal comment to the UCTC pertaining to its ongoing 9W corridor management plan (CMP) documents; Slack noted that the planning study is draft and ongoing; the comment was noted and indicated that he would address it as the CMP project manager. Klepner stressed that he felt that TSB should make formal, written statements and pattern of recommendations in the future. Polk and Corrigan requested that Klepner prepare a written statement for the TSB to review if a formal motion is to be considered. He further indicated a desire to provide dedicated admin. staff support to the TSB.*



**Action:** Klepner to prepare a written statement for the TSB to review if a formal motion is to be considered

Slack provided UCTC updates; the Rte 9w CMP public outreach component will begin in the weeks ahead; this will be a 'participate at your own pace' pre-recorded presentation followed by a series of survey tools. The survey will be advertised through direct email; Slack accepted recommendations from TSB regarding other means of publicity. Slack also reported that UCTC organized a walk through of Main St. New Paltz with village & NYSDOT officials to discuss possible improvements to traffic safety.

Chief Tinti indicated that KPD is purchasing 10 new bikes for officers; ebikes are also being researched for possible deployment. Officers would be out every day.

Chief Sinagra indicated that SPD will be hosting bike patrol training for area police departments. Saugerties is considering an ebike legislative proposal as well that's presently being reviewed.

## **V. Old Business**

- a. 2023 Annual Report
  1. Slack submitted the Final 2023 Annual Report to the County Executive and Legislature
- b. Ulster County Bicycle and Pedestrian Policy – response from C.E.
  1. County staff are actively working to address this issue
- c. Crash Data & School Bus Safety Analysis
  1. Dave Staas presented the 'beta test' GIS crash dashboard  
<https://ulstercounty.maps.arcgis.com/apps/dashboards/6994b9dc780f4b249738cec4ffbd4c59>
- d. 2023 School Bus Driver of the Year Award
  1. Thanks provided by Slack
- e. 2024 Governor's Traffic Safety Committee Grants
  1. Deadline was today May 1; local awards will need to be approved by the Chair electronically
- f. Public Education Subcommittee
  1. No action; volunteers have been noted
- g. O&W Rail Trail & Washington Avenue – All
  1. Klepner indicated that along with this location other sites in Ulster County should be examined on a continual basis as needed, particularly those locations that may have had loss of life or injury. A "portfolio" could be kept on these locations. Rosemary Quinn indicated that a pedestrian activated traffic signal should be installed at the location due to the number of individuals crossing, the fatality, and the volume of traffic. Slack indicated that improvements to Washington Ave are outside the scope of the trail project and would have to be addressed through a separate initiative. Phil Earner expressed interest in conducting a demonstration project (temporary road diet) at the location. Further discussion ensued. Slack indicated that NYSDOT is the jurisdictional owner of this segment of Washington Ave; it's within the City of Kingston; a rail road crossing project is also presently under design by Catskill Mountain RR. Next steps might be to reach out to the regional traffic engineer Gerald Charleston and Lance MacMillan,



Region 8 Regional Director to discuss future safety improvements. NYSDOT also is always searching for opportunities through the permitting and local land use review process to impose improvements on the land owners. Slack agreed that keeping an open docket of areas of concern throughout the county would be a productive method to continue the discussion going forward.

#### **VI. New Business**

- a. Draft Rules for Operation
  - i. Members were provided Dutchess Co. "Constitution". Slack proposed that the TSB use these as a basis for its own Rules for Operation; general discussion ensued.

Action: Slack to prepare a draft for Ulster TSB review based on the Dutchess template

#### **VII. Other Business**

- a. Ulster County Traffic Safety Education Coordinator
  - 1. Slack indicated that Rhonda Barangan has been hired by UCCC to fill the position of Ulster County Traffic Safety Education Coordinator; that individual serves on the TSB ex officio and has been added to the distribution list; Miss Barangan will be relocating to the area from Florida late spring/early summer.

#### **VIII. Adjourn**

*Next meeting will be held 6/5/23.*