



# 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

### **DRAFT May 5, 2025 Minutes**

Location: Ulster County Legislative Chambers

Approved \_\_\_\_\_

<b><u>Members In Attendance:</u></b>	<b><u>Absent</u></b>
Eric Kight, NYCDEP, Chair	Brendan Masterson, UC DPW
Giovanna Russo, MHV School Transp. Supervisors Assoc	Steven Rice, Trails Adv. Committee
James Andrew Seyfarth, Town of Ulster Police Department	
Brian Slack, Coordinator of Traffic Safety (Board Member Ex Officio) Ulster County Transportation Council	
Egido Tinti, City of Kingston Chief of Police	
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 Sheriff's Dept	
David Corrigan NYSDOT, Vice Chair	
Tom Polk, Bicycle Program Dir, Kingston/Ulster YMCA	
<b><u>Nonvoting Members</u></b>	
Adam Deitz, Ulster County DPW	
<b><u>Guests</u></b>	
Nick Mercurio, Town of Rosendale	

## **I. Welcome and Introductions**

## **II. Approval of the April 7, 2025 Draft Meeting Minutes**

Motion to approve made by Mr. Corrigan; second by Ms. Quinn. Motion carried.

## **III. Public Comments**

*Ms. Quinn submitted a written public comment provided to her from Ezra Lynn. E. Lynn complained about an encounter with KPD in the early morning hours of April 2<sup>nd</sup> near Cemetery Lane in Kingston; they complained that the KPD vehicle passed too close to them and at an unsafe speed while they were walking. Chief Tinti asked that the complaint be forwarded directly to him so he could investigate further.*

## **IV. Member Updates**

*Officer Seyfarth, Town of Ulster PD, reported that the Town's Governor's Traffic Safety Committee grant application was submitted successfully. He further noted that there has been a significant increase in parking lot crashes. While most are generally not serious in nature, the frequency is significant – several per day. Similarly, local DWI arrests have been up 25% during the first quarter (30 already this calendar year); the trend had previously been in decline for several years.*

*Chief Tinti, City of Kingston PD noted that the new Kingston Traffic Patrol is making many stops, as many as 30-35 stops per shift.*

*Tom Polk mentioned that Scenic Hudson is sponsoring a scenic ride along the Brick Yard section of the Empire State Trail along with a bicycle maintenance clinic.*

*Brian Slack provided several updates for the Ulster County Transportation Council. The update to the Transportation Improvement Program for the period 2026-2030 is underway; while bridge projects will be added to the program, no additional new projects on the local system will be added at this time due to a lack of sufficient funds. NYSDOT will be adding new mobility/safety projects, the descriptions of which are forthcoming and a public meeting will be scheduled in June, date TBD. The public engagement component of the Long Range Transportation Plan is also underway; members of the public can learn more at <https://uctc.ulstercountyny.gov/mobility-2050/>. Christopher Seeger has been hired as the new Senior Transportation Planner.*

*Sgt. Vedder indicated that the Ulster County Sheriff's Office has submitted a GTSC grant.*

*Adam Deitz on behalf of Brendan Masterson had no updates for Ulster County DPW.*

*Mr. Corrigan reported that some signage was adjusted on the state right of way near Lower St. James Street in Rosendale to improve sightlines. He inquired regarding guidance for NYS Bicycle Routes on state highways; the Bike/Ped Coordinator indicated that in uncurbed area a 4' paved should and in curbed area a 5' shoulder is suggested; maintenance is also supposed to be a priority (sweeping) and he stressed that it is made an annual priority by the residency; State Rtes 28 and 32 are included among the NYS Bicycle Routes in Ulster County. These are the only guidelines provided to the residency by the regional bike/ped coordinator. He also indicated that Region 8 has submitted Advance Detail Plans for crosswalks on all 4 quadrants at Grant Avenue and 9W in Town of Ulster; the slip-ramp from 9W southbound to Grant Ave will also be eliminated; adaptive signal technology is also under design for this corridor.*

*Marc Cassidy, Town of Rosendale, reported that the Chief of Police reported that the condition of state roads throughout the town are in bad condition and will follow-up to the region in writing. Speeding especially by trucks on the state routes has also been excessive. He inquired about how overweight truck limits are enforced; Sgt. Vedder indicated that a commercial vehicle traffic enforcer, typically from the NYS Police, would be qualified to perform that enforcement effort, which requires very specialized training. If called, they will gladly provide localized enforcement. He continued that crosswalks in Rosendale require new painting. He also submitted an inquiry regarding the ongoing safety investigations being conducted by Region 8 NYSDOT; Slack reported that he submitted an inquiry to the Deputy Director; they responded that those investigations are nearing completion.*

*Rosemary Quinn reported that Families for Safe Streets, New York Safe Streets Coalition and New York State Bicycle Coalition will head to Albany for "lobby day" and a bus will provide free transportation to and from Kingston. Locals have also done a "Kingston Critical" group bike ride to publicize safe bicycling locally, including advocating for 25 mph speed limits. John Story, Rosemary and others were featured in Prevention Magazine regarding their experience with road fatalities; the publication has a circulation of over 2 million. Rosemary has also been advocating for a lower speed limit on the Wurts Street Bridge; the speed has been posted at 30 on the Kingston side and 40 on the Esopus side; Kingston side was reduced to 25 but Esopus remains 40; the town and city have submitted a request for a lower, uniform speed limit for the entire structure. During 2 events Rose distributed 30 reflective vests.*

*Lou Klepner indicated that the Saugerties Traffic Advisory Council supported a GTSC grant application from the town.*

*Gianna Russo reported that she spoke with Chief Sutton of the New Paltz Police Department; they are planning a community safety event for August 2025; this has become an annual event. Gianna would like to invite New Paltz School District to provide a school bus to the event for school bus safety awareness and invited other TSB members to join her to provide educational materials. Also, Gianna and Erik Kight will be visiting the Highland School Board on May 20<sup>th</sup> to do a presentation for the School Bus Driver of the Year.*

*Eric Kight reported that the NYCDEP is undergoing the Shokan Century multi-billion dollar infrastructure modernization project. DEP will be installing traffic movement counters utilizing video cameras throughout the area around Rtes 28, 28a, Spillway Rd, Rte 375 and Reservoir Rd. The DEP will also be drilling soil borings on June 2 that will close the area for 1 day to pedestrian traffic. Other temporary pedestrian detours may be necessary in the Ashokan promenade area as well.*

## V. Old Business (Open Items)

- a. 2025 School Bus Driver of the Year and Charlie Schaller Awards
  - i. Ceremony held for Mary Dutka on April 24; awards incl. a gift certificate, award certificates, and plaques were distributed.
- b. Ulster County Bicycle and Pedestrian Policy
  - i. Slack to schedule a meeting with volunteers. Legislator Stewart is also investigating the feasibility of an update to county policy. Legislator Levine is also considering a 3 foot passing law for Ulster County; Suffolk County presently has a county-only 3 foot law. Slack will request that members of the Legislature be redirected to the TSB before taking further action.
- c. Education and Outreach Activities
  - i. No updates
- d. Reappointments
  - i. Appointment letters forthcoming from the County Executive's Office
- e. County and Local NYSDOT Traffic Safety Requests
  - i. Updates were requested from NYSDOT Region 8 by Slack; Region 8 reported that they are nearing completion
- f. Kingston Ashokan Non-Motorized Route Recommendation
  - i. Final available at <https://ulstercountyny.gov/traffic-safety-board/documents>
  - ii. Lou Klepner reported that the resolution was distributed to the Legislature and County Executive. It has not been discussed by the U&D Committee to his knowledge as discussion continues. **Item closed.**
- g. Lou Klepner requested an update regarding the Charles Schaller Award, which was not awarded this year. Chairman Kight indicated that there were two applications received; one was withdrawn by the family due to health reasons, the other was deemed to be incomplete by the TSB Executive Committee. Discussion ensued. Klepner requested that the full board carry out the process of evaluating and selecting awardees. The issue was brought to a motion by the Chair that the Charles Schaller Award applications be reviewed by the full TSB in the future. Motion was seconded by Klepner. All in favor – 4. Opposed 6. Motion failed; end of discussion.

## VI. New Business

- a. Traffic Safety Board Reserve Fund – Slack
  - i. A reserve fund in the amount of \$3,598.10 associated with the TSB has been discovered by the Ulster County Commissioner of Finance dating back prior to 2014; Finance has requested that the funds be directed to a specific use. Mr. Slack would like to solicit input therein.
    1. General discussion ensued; apparel, tactical urbanism kit, TSB merch, or a package of items for each municipality were among the ideas discussed. Slack requested members to come to the June meeting with specific ideas or recommendations for use of the funds. A simple resolution from the TSB is all that will be required to authorize Slack to utilize the funds.

## VII. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn made by Mr. Slack; second by Cassidy. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 7:30pm.