



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

August 7, 2023 Minutes

Location: Ulster County Legislative Chambers

Approved September 11, 2023

<u>Members In Attendance:</u>	<u>Absent</u>
Egido Tinti, City of Kingston Chief of Police	
Lou Klepner, Town of Saugerties	Eric Kight, NYCDEP, Chair
Tom Polk, Bicycle Program Dir, Kingston/Ulster YMCA	Sgt. Robert Vedder, Ulster County Sheriff's Dept.
Rosemary Quinn, Upstate Regional Rep, Families for Safe Streets/City of Kingston resident	Joseph Sinagra, Town/Village of Saugerties Chief of Police
Steven Rice, Trails Adv. Committee	David Corrigan NYSDOT, Vice Chair
Giovanna Russo, MHV School Transp. Supervisors Assoc.	Robert Lucchesi, Town/Village of New Paltz Chief of Police
Brendan Masterson, Ulster County DPW Commissioner	
<u>Advisory Members</u>	
Brian Slack, Coordinator of Traffic Safety	
<u>Guests</u>	
Ella Kondrat, Kingston Complete Streets Advisory Council	Phil Erner, Ulster County Legislature

I. Welcome and Introductions

With the absence of Chair and Vice Chair, Slack requested permission to act as Chair for the evening. Motion made by Klepner; second by Polk. All in favor/none opposed. Motion carried

II. Approval of the May 1, 2023 Meeting Minutes

[item was postponed awaiting additional board members to arrive; item taken back up after Public Comments with the confirmation of quorum].

Slack requested a motion for approval. Motion made by Polk; second by Klepner. All in favor/none opposed. Motion carried.

III. Public Comments

Legislator Erner provided brief updates from the Legislature. The Legislature will be introducing a rule to require all committee meetings to be electronically recorded in the future. The UCTSB has been recording and posting meetings since April 2023. Resolution No. 426 creating a transit riders advisory board is being brought to committee which, if approved could potentially coordinate with the TSB as well as trail advisory boards. Leg. Erner is also working with constituents to update the County Bicycle and Pedestrian Policy. Correspondence has similarly been submitted to NYSDOT outlining continued concerns regarding the Rte 28/Washington Ave corridor in Kingston and Ulster. He concluded by referencing the 2003 UCTC Bicycle Pedestrian Primer, which was a supplement to the first iteration of the UCTC Long

Range Transportation Plan, available online at <https://ulstercountyny.gov/sites/default/files/documents/bikeped.pdf>. He concluded that the public continues to prioritize bicycle and pedestrian accommodations as a policy.

IV. Member Updates

Rosemary Quinn mentioned that a petition regarding safety on the Washington Avenue corridor in Kingston will be prepared; discussion will also be requested with the NYSDOT to develop safety improvements on Washington Ave at the terminus of the Kingston (O&W) Rail Trail. Another effort underway has been to call attention to Rte 28 in Boiceville; a petition has been started by Cynthia Nikitin with assistance from Onteora CSD students to call attention to safety issues at this location as well. This petition is available at https://www.change.org/p/make-nys-route-28-safe-for-ashokan-rail-trail-visitors?source_location=search.

Tom Polk announced that the Tour de Kingston will be next month and encouraged participation as either a participant or volunteer. Tour has several levels and will be held Sunday September 10th.

Brendan Masterson provided several Ulster County DPW updates. Union Center is currently closed for an emergency embankment project. A number of paving projects will also be completed prior to the end of the season.

Lou Klepner indicated that the Town of Woodstock received an AARP grant to conduct walking audits on Tannery Brook, 375, Rock City Rd and elsewhere. The purpose of the audits is to identify mobility challenges in the built environment for pedestrians. In Saugerties, an effort is underway to address safety issues on Kings Highway regarding rail road crossings. Issues regarding pedestrian access related to new residential development near Glasco Trmpk will likely need to be addressed in the future.

Slack indicated that Kristen Wilson has been hired as the Deputy Director of Planning. Rte 9W Mobility Plan has closed the public survey at the end of July with 72 responses; the responses have confirmed many of the assumptions that the planning team had regarding corridor conditions and public perceptions of safety and mobility through the corridor. A summary will be published by Labor Day and the development of draft recommendations will be underway in September. UCTC is also conducting a railroad safety study in the City of Kingston; data collection will be underway in September.

V. Old Business (Open Items)

a. Draft Rules for Conduct – Slack

Slack indicated that all changes made to the Rules have been outlined in track changes; all recommended revisions provided by the TSB at the last meeting have been incorporated to this draft. Changes include a) referring to the rules of conduct as “bylaws” in the title; b) use of gender-neutral language; and c) updating section d.f. regarding Decision Making.

Rose Quinn requested that if there is any mention of a motor vehicle incident, it should be referred to as a “crash” as opposed to “accident;” not sure if that was something that could or should be incorporated into Bylaws. Quinn and Slack both agreed that the Bylaws may not be the most appropriate place to include such language; perhaps a vision statement or on the website at a future point in time.

No further comment was made on the document; Slack will prepare a clean draft for the September meeting and request the board approve it at that time.

a. Overview of the Safe System Approach – Rosemary Quinn

i. <https://visionzeronetwork.org/resources/demystifying-the-safe-system-approach/>

No updates; Quinn did offer that she had a discussion with Mayor Noble, who has agreed to enroll the City as a member of the National Association of City Transportation Officials (NACTO) which will open the city up to technical documents and training opportunities.

b. Ulster County Bicycle and Pedestrian Policy – response from C.E.

Slack provided the response from the County Executive, which was shared on the website. Deputy Executive Amanda La Valle will work with the TSB in the future as well as through the DPW and other committees as the county works to develop an update to the county bike/ped policy. No further updates.

c. Public Education Subcommittee

Slack will set a date; a tentative date was selected during the meeting; Tuesday August 22 at 10am in the Planning Department [note: the meeting was later moved to Wednesday August 23 due to conflict]. Slack briefly discussed his goals for the Subcommittee.

d. O&W Rail Trail & Washington Avenue

No updates.

VI. New Business

- a. of the “Idaho Stop” legislation and state/national context – L. Klepner.
 - i. Background available at <https://www.nhtsa.gov/sites/nhtsa.gov/files/2022-03/Bicyclist-Yield-As-Stop-Fact-Sheet-032422-v3-tag.pdf>

Lou Klepner stated that the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration has endorsed the Idaho Stop. There is currently an effort to integrate the law into official NYS Vehicle and Traffic Law. He provided a model resolution that would provide support to that end. He then provided justification for passing the law, which generally indicated that enabling a cyclist to legally treat a stop sign as a ‘yield’ sign would be easy to implement; the change would decrease conflicts and has been shown to decrease conflicts, crashes and increase overall safety where it has been implemented.

Discussion ensued. Slack indicated that the TSB hasn’t passed a resolution in recent memory but didn’t think there was any reason what it couldn’t. He recommended as a courtesy that the resolution be held until either the Chair or Vice Chair were present. Klepner indicated a desire to move the resolution forward expeditiously. Giovanna Russo asked what section of NYSVTL the resolution pertained to; Klepner provided explanation as shown directly in the resolution; the resolution simply voices the TSB’s support for a change in the NYSVTL.

Quinn indicated that the bills have not received votes yet but are being seriously considered by both the assembly and senate.

Masterson indicated that he’s generally in support of the resolution but wanted some time to review the resolution in greater detail. He also wondered if it might be more powerful if the full County Legislature offered a resolution instead. Slack indicated by passing such a resolution, it is effectively advising and encouraging higher bodies to take action in support. Rice indicated that he would take the same resolution to the Trails Advisory Committee.

Item will be temporarily tabled by 1 month and put forth before the board again in September.

Note: during discussion, Chief Tinti existed the meeting; no quorum was present for a vote.

VII. Other Business

Rosemary Quinn and Giovanna Russo provided background regarding a Bicycle Garden project in Newburgh. Bicycle Gardens are interactive environments in a safe space, like a school or park, that have built signage, paint and other elements that provide young cyclists with training and encouragement for riding bikes safely. Orange County Department of Small Interventions is responsible for the existing garden. Quinn and Russo will do more research and report back to the board with the goal of finding a location to build a similar facility here in Ulster County.

Slack provided background regarding appointments and board membership; no vacancies exist and the board is presently full. Chief Sinagra has resigned from the Town/Village of Saugerties but will continue to be a TSB member until further notice. Charter and Administrative Rules indicate that the Coordinator of Traffic Safety is a board member ex officio and is a voting member during meetings. Given that, there may be 1 too many members on the board; Slack will seek further clarification and await response from Sinagra.

Slack shared several reprinted fact sheets from the NYS Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations available at <https://www.nysmpos.org/fact-sheets>. A limited number of printed copies can be made available for distribution upon request

VIII. Adjourn

7:25 meeting adjourned.