



ULSTER COUNTY TRAFFIC SAFETY BOARD

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Jen Metzger
County Executive

Eric Kight
Chairperson

Ulster County Traffic Safety Board

September 9, 2024 Minutes

Location: Ulster County Legislative Chambers

Approved October 7, 2024

Members In Attendance:	Absent
Egido Tinti, City of Kingston Chief of Police	Brendan Masterson, Ulster County DPW Commissioner
Giovanna Russo, MHV School Transp. Supervisors Assoc	Sgt. Robert Vedder, Ulster County Sherriff's Dept.
Brian Slack, Coordinator of Traffic Safety (Board Member Ex Officio)	Joseph Sinagra, NYS Assoc. of Chiefs of Police Traffic Safety Board
Eric Kight, NYCDEP, Chair	David Corrigan NYSDOT, Vice Chair
Rosemary Quinn, Upstate Regional Rep, Families for Safe Streets/NYS Safe Streets Coalition/City of Kingston resident	
Steven Rice, Trails Adv. Committee	
Tom Polk, Bicycle Program Dir, Kingston/Ulster YMCA	
Lou Klepner, Chair, Town of Saugerties Transportation Advisory Committee	
Advisory Members	
Eric Paulding, Ulster County District Attorney's Office Accident Investigation Team	
Dennis Doyle, Ulster County Planning Department	
David Staas, Ulster County Transportation Council	
Guests	
Tanya Garment	
Stephen O'Shea	
Greg McCollough, Ulster County Legislature, Dist. 6	

I. Welcome and Introductions

II. Approval of the June 03, 2024 Draft Meeting Minutes

Motion made by Chief Tinti; second by Mr. Rice. All in favor; none opposed. Motion carried.

III. Public Comments

Mr. Stephen O'Shea requested feedback on the use of "speedbumps" for traffic calming. TSB members provided their opinions and expertise on their use and alternatives to their use. He mentioned the crosswalk in New Paltz at Oakwood Ter. and Main St. as an ongoing concern.

Ms. Tanya Garment spoke about the City of Kingston's draft revisions to local law that would revise the process and method for justifying street design standards during construction projects; she urged other communities to consider design

standards of local streets. She further mentioned the FHWA Safe Streets for All grant opportunity to pursue street design demonstration projects.

IV. Member Updates

Gianna Russo reminded the public that school is open and watch for buses. She inquired regarding a county back to school safety message; Mr. Slack referenced the Ulster County Executive's Safe Start to School program.

David Staas provided UCTC updates regarding its Safe Streets for All grant application, which was submitted in August 2024. The purpose of the grant proposal is to develop a county-wide road safety plan. Questions and discussion regarding transportation safety demonstration projects ensued. Mr. Staas indicated that the Kingston Rail Road Crossing Safety Study is nearly complete. The Ulster County Fatal and Serious Injury Crash Dashboard was updated over the summer to include a full 5 years of data (2018-2022). Mr. Staas concluded that he will be taking a new job at the Genesee Transportation Council in Rochester, NY; his last day of employment will be September 20th; UCTC will post his position for refill. Mr. Slack indicated that the Rte 9W Mobility Plan is behind schedule; the draft final recommendation report should be open to public comment by October 2024. He further summarized a series of meetings hosted by Mayor Tim Rogers to discuss traffic safety on Main Street and SR 208; NYS DOT Region 8 will be responding to concerns raised. Mr. Staas added that the county will be creating an online dashboard to provide results of the county's radar speed feedback devices; this is an ongoing effort; in the interim, until an automated system is developed, the public can request reports directly from either Ulster County DPW or UCTC.

Chief Tinti indicated that the City was a participant in the Safe Start to School initiative with officers out during the beginning and end of the school days. Bicycle patrols will cease for the year this fall; pedal assist bicycles have been a 'game changer' for his department. 7 officers have been certified as bicycle officers this year. Ms. Quinn asked when and where officers have been deployed on bikes; Chief Tinti indicated that Broadway, Linear Park Trail and the Kingston Plaza have been the focus areas, but they have the ability to go everywhere. He also indicated that the ORACLE team has been effective in improving safety on the Linear Park.

Eric Paulding, crash investigator for the Ulster County DA indicated that the county has won a NYS Div. of Criminal Justice grant of \$190,000 to secure new equipment for the Ulster County Crash Investigation team. Ms. Quinn inquired about the charges filed against the perpetrator in the Jan. 23 hit-and-run that left SUNY New Paltz student Raymond Rattray dead on the side of state Route 208; second-degree manslaughter and leaving the scene of an incident without reporting a death had occurred were the charges filed. Mr. Paulding indicated that it was a NYS State Police investigation and his office was not involved, but he would investigate further.

Tom Polk had no updates; Mr. Slack asked if he had an update from the Tour de Kingston; he indicated that it was a successful event despite the forecasted rain.

Steven Rice attended the ribbon cutting for the O&W trail in the Town of Accord, Open Space Institute will continue to make connections from Ulster County to the PA border. He was told that motorized vehicles/all terrain vehicles have inflicted serious vandalism and damage to the trail surface on this rural section of rail trail. Some towns do not have penalties; he will ask the Ulster County Trails Advisory Committee to explore legal avenues to impose penalties as well as to increase enforcement if possible.

Rosemary Quinn provided a legislative priorities from Families for Safe Streets; these include: the Complete Streets Maintenance Package; the Safe Passing rule (3 ft when passing bicycles, pedestrians and mobility devices); Idaho "Stop as Yield" for bicycles; speed limiter technology on automobiles for repeat offenders; and NYS Equity Act which would seek to reduce VMT over time through encouragement of alternatives to single occupancy vehicle travel. Ms. Quinn also spoke to the Town of Esopus Town Board about reducing the 40 mph speed limit on Old US Rte 9W between Wurts Street and 9W, which would align the speed with the City of Kingston segment which is 30mph.

Lou Klepner indicated the Saugerties Complete Streets Committee will be following up with NYS DOT for a debrief regarding their unsuccessful TAP grant application.

Eric Kight indicated that NYC Dept. of Environmental Protection is busy conducting routine end of year road maintenance including ditch cleaning and brush removal. He also reminded the TSB that there were a number of fatalities in DEP territory outside of Ulster County over the summer, including a plane crash and flooding-related fatalities.

V. Old Business (Open Items)

- a. Ulster County Bicycle and Pedestrian Policy
 - i. Pending UCTC Safe Streets for All FHWA grant application will likely have a ‘policy’ component to it that may require the county to pass a “vision zero” or similar policy statement; therefore Slack prefers to wait to take further action on this item until grant announcements are made.
- b. Ulster County Public Education Campaign– Slack
 - i. The Ulster County Executive’s Office will leverage the success of the Safe Start to Summer program and transition to a “Safe Start to School” program that will feature back to school traffic safety messaging and will be forwarded to all schools in electronic format.
- c. UCTC Public Safety Campaign RFP
 - i. UCTC issued an RFP for consultant services to conduct a public traffic safety education campaign; two proposals were received; Ulster County elected to reject those proposals due to insufficiencies. UCTC will determine next steps.
- d. Public Safety Messages – Kight
 - i. Mr. Kight will attempt to schedule a public service announcement with Radio Kingston this fall.
- e. Reflective Materials to DSS Clients – Slack
 - i. 50 vests and reflective materials including snap bracelets and flashlights, were provided to DSS in August. An informative brochure in English and Spanish was also included. UCAT provided the reflective materials.

VI. New Business

- a. Reappointments – Slack
 - i. Everyone’s 3 year term is up at the end of December. Slack asked members to contact him with their desire to serve another 3 year term. All appointments are made by the Ulster County Executive and approved by the Ulster County Legislature. **Action:** members should respond to Mr. Slack with their intention regarding another 3 year term.
- b. Needs of Vulnerable Road Users – L. Klepner
 - i. Mr. Klepner suggested that the TSB recommend that the County add an active transportation planner or similar position to its staff. Discussion ensued. Chairman Kight asked Mr. Klepner to provide for the next meeting a written summary or proposal of what he’s asking the TSB to consider; Mr. Klepner agreed. Item tabled until next meeting. **No action.**
- c. Support for Villages Seeking Reductions in Speed Limits – R. Quinn
 - i. Ms. Quinn requested that the item be tabled due to time. She referenced a guidance sheet developed in coordination with the NYS Safe Streets Coalition to assist municipalities with speed reduction. **Action:** Ms. Quinn to provide summary sheet prior to next meeting. **Item tabled.**
- d. NYS Comptroller’s Report [Moving in the Wrong Direction: Traffic Fatalities are Growing in New York State](#) – R. Quinn
 - i. Ms. Quinn requested that the item be tabled to provide TSB members more time to review. **Item tabled.**

VII. Other Business

No other business

VIII. Adjourn

Slack made a motion to adjourn; second from Polk. All in favor; none opposed. Meeting adjourned at 7:55pm.

The next meeting of the Ulster County Traffic Safety Board is tentatively scheduled for October 7, 2024.