



ULSTER COUNTY TRAFFIC SAFETY BOARD

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Jen Metzger
County Executive

Eric Kight
Chairperson

Ulster County Traffic Safety Board

September 11, 2023 Minutes

Location: Ulster County Legislative Chambers

Approved October 2, 2023

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

I. Welcome and Introductions

Chair Kight requested to begin the meeting with a moment of silence in honor of the anniversary of the 9/11/2001 terrorist attacks.

II. Approval of the August 7, 2023 Meeting Minutes

Mr. Kight requested a motion for approval. Mr. Slack indicated that a minor edit was made correcting a misspelling of Leg. Erner's name. Motion made by Mr. Polk; second by Mr. Rice. All in favor/none opposed. Motion carried.

III. Public Comments

IV. Member Updates

Mr. Kight noted that NYC DEP is working hard for hurricane preparedness in the event that significant weather arrives. Equipment maintenance, drainage limb removal, culvert maintenance, etc. Mr. Polk asked about a black pavement marking and

arrows that he has observed in the vicinity of routes 28A and 42. Eric was not aware of these specific markings but will investigate, but black is not an industry standard for pavement indications.

Mr. Slack provided brief updates from UCTC and Planning; he indicated that public inquiries regarding maintenance of the Midtown Linear Park should be submitted to City of Kingston, which will be maintaining the facility through cooperative agreement. Other concerns regarding homelessness and other safety concerns should continue to be brought to the attention of both the city and the county, as it will be a cooperative effort to ensure that the facility is in good condition. Kingston Rail Trail is not yet complete; county is awaiting delivery of bridge materials. No further updates regarding ongoing planning studies (refer to previous August meeting minutes).

Mr. Klepner indicated that the Town of Woodstock Complete Streets Committee will be conducting 'walking audits' of areas around Tinker Street in Woodstock through October using a small AARP grant; participation has been strong.

No updates from Chief Tinti, with the exception of event coordination. Mr. Polk offered his thanks to the Chief for his officer's assistance during the Tour de Kingston; 4 officers on bicycle were great additions to the event. Ulster County Sherriff's Dept also provided assistance that was appreciated. Chief Tinti indicated that 10 new bicycles have been added to Kingston PD's bicycle fleet; one KPD pedal assist is down for maintenance due to a minor crash.

Mr. Paulding was in attendance from the Ulster County's District Attorney's Office; he is the coordinator of the county-wide crash team. He offered his assistance if the TSB had any questions or issues of concerns that required the DA's attention he would be happy to assist.

Ms. Russo had no updates but repeated her concern that there appears to be an increase in school-bus related crashes both locally and across the state. Mr. Slack indicated that the NYSDMV CLEAR system does not code for school bus; commercial passenger vehicles also get coded into those crashes; therefore it requires more significant analysis to determine if there is truly an increase in crashes.

Mr. Rice indicated that he brought the draft proposal in support of the Idaho Stop to the Ulster County Trails Advisory Committee for consideration. Otherwise, continued maintenance response after storm events is a significant undertaking.

Mr. Polk indicated that the annual Tour de Kingston was a great success; thanks to the 25 volunteers plus the KPD and Sheriff's Department for their assistance.

Mr. Corrigan indicated that Rte 28 work is under contract with Callahan Industries from Kenco to Hickory BBQ. Work will be filled in place after milling, so the public shouldn't expect to be driving on a milled surface; all work is expected to be completed by the end of October at the latest. NYSDOT is conducting its hazardous tree assessment throughout Ulster County; hazardous trees will be taken down in mid to late October. New AVL GPS units will be added to plow trucks; trucks will also include forward-facing cameras; eventually the cameras may be available for live streaming to the public. Washington Avenue U&D crossing has been completed; while not a NYSDOT project, it did take place on the NYSDOT right of way and traffic control was closely monitored by NYSDOT. No significant backups occurred.

V. Old Business (Open Items)

a. Final Draft Rules for Conduct – Slack

Mr. Slack circulated a final draft of the document and provided background; the final draft draws heavily from the Ulster County Charter and Dutchess County TSB rules. Minor revisions included inclusion of gender neutral language; emphasized that votes would be by majority vote; title would be. A motion was made by Mr. Polk to adopt the final draft bylaws; second by Mr. Rice. All in favor; none opposed. Motion carried. The approved bylaws will be posted on the TSB "Documents" page.

a. Ulster County Bicycle and Pedestrian Policy – no updates

Mr. Slack will inquire with the Deputy County Executive regarding a way forward for updating the county bicycle and pedestrian policy.

b. Public Education Subcommittee – Slack

The committee – consisting of R. Quinn, T. Polk, R. Lucchesi, R. Barangan, S. Rice and B. Slack – met in August. Dennis Doyle also joined the discussion. Short term issues included drafting and releasing a back to school safety message, which

Slack completed. Also the need to update the website to include a “Traffic Safety Education Resources” page was suggested. Information to provide on the page included key contact information, documents, and other relevant resources.

The subcommittee agreed that the county should develop a local traffic safety campaign. Brief discussion of possible messages ensued; Mr. Slack encouraged the group to think about developing a “brand” that could be consistent across any chosen message before focusing on the appropriate messages, which could be rolled out on a regular basis once a brand or format was developed; existing supporting documents such as the NYS Highway Safety Strategic Plan could be used to identify appropriate messages.

Ms Quinn came up with some possible messages for further development, including:
25 – The Speed of Life
Safety: It’s About ‘U’-lster

Next meeting is scheduled for September 27 at 10am in the Planning Department.

c. O&W Rail Trail & Washington Avenue

No updates

d. Bicycle Gardens – Quinn/Russo

Ms. Russo is in contact with the Newburgh project coordinator and will schedule a visit to Newburgh’s bicycle garden at a future date and will provide more information at that time.

VI. New Business

a. Overview of the “Idaho Stop” legislation and draft resolution – L. Klepner.

Mr. Klepner provided an overview of the “Idaho Stop” legislation, its purpose and benefits. Where enacted, the legislation has proven to lower bicycle/automobile collisions; there presently is a bill in the NYS Legislature being considered; the legislation would amend NYS VTL to allow bicyclists to treat stop signs and stop signals as yield when safe and prudent. Ms. Russo asked if any other county has passed such a resolution; it was not known at this time. Could other counties be informed so that they could follow the Ulster TSB model (if approved). Slack agreed that this could be sent to the GTSC regional contact Jim Knapp. The resolution should also be posted to the website to act as a reference and resource for other TSBs; Slack agreed to post it under the “Documents” page of the TSB.

Mr. Rice indicated that he had one minor ‘quibble’ regarding the following whereas:

Whereas the New York City Police Department wrote 35,000 moving violations to cyclists in 2019—more than for trucks which figured in 43 of that year’s 220 road deaths.

While likely true, it did not appear to be directly relevant to the Ulster County context and suggested that it be removed. Mr. Klepner was in support of the revision.

Mr. Polk reviewed the draft NYS bills and indicated that the law would place if in a collision in an intersection, would be prima facie evidence that the cyclist failed to stop, placing liability on the cyclist in the event of a collision. He also observed that the 30 day implementation period did not seem practical or feasible. Ms. Russo wondered if rules in other counties differed significantly from rules in the US and NYS and, if so, how would the evolving changes in regulations be publicized. General conjecture from board members ensued; no known publication

No further discussion. Motion made by Mr. Polk to adopt the resolution with one revision as noted; second by Mr. Rice. All in favor; none opposed. Motion approved.

Mr. Slack will provide a ‘clean’ re-formatted copy on TSB letterhead and post on the website, followed by a brief note to Ulster County leaders regarding the approved resolution.

VII. Other Business

Mr. Slack added to his UCTC update that the UCTC Traffic Count program will commence this fall with tube counters as well as limited pole-mounted deployment of Miovision cameras; focus will begin in City of Kingston in order to provide data for ongoing rail safety studies. He added that UCTC will host on Thursday the statewide in-person meeting of the NYS Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations "Bicycle/Pedestrian Working Group" which included representatives from NYSDOT and MPOs from across NYS. The meeting will conclude with a presentation of the Broadway project and associated improvements followed by a walking tour; panelists include John Schultheis, Engineer City of Kingston and Kristen Wilson, former Grants Manager for the City of Kingston.

Mr. Kight recommended that the TSB consider a traffic safety press release for October including meeting dates and location as well as some seasonally-appropriate safety messages, incl. watch for animals, time change safety tips, be safe/be seen, etc.

VIII. Adjourn

Next meeting October 2, 2023. Meeting adjourned ~7:10pm