



# 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

### October 2, 2023 Draft Minutes

Location: Ulster County Legislative Chambers

Approved November 6, 2023

<u>Members In Attendance:</u>	<u>Absent</u>
Eric Kight, NYCDEP, Chair	David Corrigan NYSDOT, Vice Chair
Egido Tinti, City of Kingston Chief of Police	Brendan Masterson, Ulster County DPW Commissioner
Tom Polk, Bicycle Program Dir, Kingston/Ulster YMCA	Lou Klepner, Town of Saugerties
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.	
Sgt. Robert Vedder, Ulster County Sherriff's Dept.	
Robert Lucchesi, Town/Village of New Paltz Chief of Police	
Joseph Sinagra, Governor's Traffic Safety Board Law Enforcement Liaison	
<u>Advisory Members</u>	
Brian Slack, Coordinator of Traffic Safety	
Rhonda Barangan, SUNY Ulster Traffic Safety Education Coordinator	
Eric Paulding, Ulster County DA's Office	
<u>Guests</u>	
Tanya Garment	Ted Griesse
John Grossbohlen	Phil Erner, Ulster County Legislature District 6
Kevin Smith	Ezra Lynn

## **I. Welcome and Introductions**

## **II. Approval of the September 11, 2023 Meeting Minutes**

*Mr. Kight requested a motion for discussion. Motion made by Mr. Sinagra; second by Mr. Polk. Mr. Rice requested an edit on page 2 deleting the statement "was provided" under his discussion of Idaho Stop. Slack agreed. All in favor; none opposed. Motion carried.*

## **III. Public Comments**

*Ezra Lynn spoke regarding an incident that he and his fiancé and their coworkers experienced while traveling on the Midtown Linear Park. On the evening of September 25, his fiancé had left his shift at Hannaford and headed home around 9:30pm. On his way home near Albany Ave, KPD was observed stopping two teenage girls stopped on bicycles. Mr. Lynn's*

*fiancé was also stopped. They were all told they were in violation of city ordinance and they were in violation of the law; they were conducting enhanced enforcement to address concern regarding opioid overdose issues; additional Hannaford coworkers later followed, who were also stopped, searched and ticketed. Several of the citizens that were stopped indicated their confusion considering that they had travelled the corridor after dark many times before without incident and considered it to be the safest route of travel. Mr. Lynn was happy to be given the opportunity to address the Traffic Safety Board and stressed his disappointment with having to come here in the first place. Working late nights and early mornings is a considerable burden in and of itself and should not be cause for being stopped by KPD.*

*Chief Tinti responded directly to Mr. Lynn and emphatically apologized to him and everyone else involved. He indicated that the ticketing resulted from a miscommunication to his officers; additional patrols had been requested due to the significant increase in loitering, drug use, and overdoses occurring on the trail. He clarified the KPD policy to the TSB and to his officers that traveling would be permitted on the trail but not loitering. He indicated that he would speak with City of Kingston Corporate Council to ensure that any charged would be dismissed.*

*Tanya Garment commented that the issue brought forth by Mr. Lynn highlights the issue of safety of people who do not own a vehicle as they travel. Other travelers attempting to get to work in areas throughout the county do not necessarily have public transit or have well lit areas in which to travel. Bus stops and areas are not well marked or maintained either, leaving people in the dark and in the cold. She indicated that transit agencies can join the National Association of City Transportation Officials, which could offer some direction to UCAT regarding best practices in these areas. She concluded by stating that we do not have very sophisticated leadership at UCAT or people with experience outside of Ulster County's limited system.*

*Slack responded that he would pass on these comments to UCAT and that a new deputy director has been hired with transportation planning experience in addition to the existing deputy director of finance.*

*Legislator Phil Erner thanked the TSB for their recent resolution in support of the Idaho Stop; he will seek support from the county legislature. He raised other traffic safety legislation including a proposed local law regarding safe crossing at county rail trails and requested the TSB provide input on the draft law [editor's note: the latest iteration of Resolution 551.2 can be found at <https://legislature.ulstercountyny.gov/legislature/2023/resolution-no-5512>]. Leg. Erner further requested the TSB to help identify potential 'problem spots' associated with injury or fatality on local roads that they may be aware of in Ulster County. Regarding the Safe Systems Approach, if the TSB has recommendations that the county legislature should be aware of, he would welcome them. He concurred with Ms. Garment's previous comments regarding the safety of transit users and stressed that a safer system would also have the benefit of encouraging more use of public transit. He additionally thanked Mr. Lynn and Chief Tinti for their previous comments and urged the county administration to clarify the policy regarding the use of the trail. He finally requested an update regarding the update to the county complete streets policy.*

*Slack requested clarification on the Draft Resolution 551; Leg. Erner indicated that it has been postponed in committee; Slack will put it before the TSB for consideration.*

**Action Item:** Add Resolution 551.2 to the November TSB agenda.

*General discussion ensued; Rosemary Quinn indicated that the name "Linear Park" is a cause for public confusion considering that the Midtown Linear Park is a trail corridor; she indicated a desire to rename the space in an effort to clarify its use. Slack indicated that he would pass the comment on to the Director and Deputy Director of Planning.*

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

*Mr. Kight indicated that NYC Department of Environmental Protection is working on a joint paving project with Ulster County DPW; focusing on 28A to begin. All DEP roads require attention and the agency is working on a long-term capital project to address them. DPW will also assist DEP to re-mill and pave the Ashokan Dividing Weir Bridge. Budgets are presently being restricted across all NYC agencies due to the costs associated with the ongoing migrant crisis.*

*Rhonda Barangan of SUNY Ulster announced that Ulster County's education grant of over \$99,000 was approved by the Governor's Traffic Safety Board. She has recently completed her car seat fitting training; car safety seats are available for families in need. Traffic safety education programs will continue to be developed by her department at the council.*

*Mr. Slack provided an update from Ulster County Planning; the Kingston Rail Trail project has been delayed due to supply chain delivery issues affecting bridge components; until a component that meets NYSDOT specifications can be found, the project will continue to be delayed. NYSDOT announced the Transportation Alternatives Program/Congestion Mitigation-Aire Quality/Carbon Reduction Program Call for projects has been issued. \$5m max on project proposals; projects that provide alternatives to motorized transportation or reduce carbon consumption are eligible. Ulster County Planning will consult with municipal partners to determine if there are feasible projects that it could apply for. NYSDOT is updating its transportation plan – Plan 2050 – and is soliciting public input. UCTC Traffic Monitoring Program counts will begin shortly; 91 locations have been scheduled for counting with initial counts beginning in the City of Kingston to support the UCTC rail safety work that is ongoing.*

*Chief Lucchesi indicated that the Brookside Road overpass over Int. 87 has been problematic for local traffic detours and excessive speed; the town received a GTSC grant for child safety seats and police traffic services, which will be effective Oct. 1.*

*Mr. Sinagra announced that he has begun working as the Law Enforcement Liaison for the GTSC; as part of that job he will assist the GTSC with safety grant administration and disseminating information to grant applicants. The issue of oral fluid testing, or field testing for drug use (other than alcohol) among impaired operators, will be continue to be explored by GTSC as well.*

*Chief Tinti added that a vendor has been solicited for movable speed feedback (radar) devices; a number have been ordered that can be moved to different locations. These are fixed mounted devices that can be used in addition to the trailer device. Data collected from these devices can be used to supplement traffic data used for transportation studies.*

*Ms. Russo attended the most recent Mid Hudson School Transportation Supervisor's Association; it was brought to her attention that some school bus drivers in the Highland CSD have been experiencing unsafe/illegal passing of buses when lights are deployed; these locations are on 9W and 299 (multiple locations). Slack indicated that he would send communication to local and state law enforcement agencies alerting them regarding the concern.*

*Mr. Rice indicated that the resolution in support of the Idaho Stop legislation will also be taken up by the Ulster County Trails Advisory Committee.*

*Ms. Quinn reported that Families for Safe Streets (F4SS) has developed a package of legislative actions that they're going to prioritize for this fall, including a NYC speed reduction initiative as well as a focus on the complete streets maintenance portion of bills that have been considered by the NYS Legislature in the past. In terms of bicycle legislation, F4SS will be supporting the Idaho Stop in NYS; there's some deliberation as to whether the 3 foot safe passing rule should be attached to this legislation. Another proposal under consideration is attaching an engine governor to the automobiles of repeat traffic safety offenders (which would automatically limit speed). NYSDMV is also taking seriously addressing speeding infractions more severely; this may not require new legislation.*

## **V. Old Business (Open Items)**

### **a. Final Draft Ulster County TSB Bylaws –**

*Mr. Slack indicated that the approved Bylaws have been posted under the 'Documents' page at <https://ulstercountyny.gov/traffic-safety-board/documents>. This business item will be closed.*

### **b. Ulster County Bicycle and Pedestrian Policy –**

*No updates*

### **c. Public Education Subcommittee**

*Mr. Slack indicated that the subcommittee met twice; a public education web resource page will be developed; other updates follow under New Business.*

### **d. Bicycle Gardens – Quinn/Russo**

*Quinn and Russo will meet with the Newburgh contact to learn more about this initiative and present information to the TSB.*

### **e. Overview of the "Idaho Stop" legislation and state/national context – L. Klepner.**

*Resolution posted under the "Documents" page at <https://ulstercountyny.gov/traffic-safety-board/documents>; this business item will be closed.*

### **f. O&W Rail Trail & Washington Avenue**

*No updates.*

**VI. New Business**

**a. Fall Public Safety Message**

*Slack circulated a draft safety message to board members for input; the Education Subcommittee has provided preliminary input. General comments and suggestions ensued; Mr. Slack emphasized that this message should focus primarily on the issue of changing seasons, earlier sunsets and the risks involved therein; the TSB can issue other notices at the appropriate times to highlight other seasonal issues. Slack noted the suggestions and indicated that he would like to issue the final iteration next week through the Ulster County Executive's Office.*

**Action:** Board to provide final comment by 10/4/23; Slack to publish through the Ulster County Executive's Office the week of 10/9.

**b. Education and Outreach Proposal to UCTC**

*Mr. Slack indicated that the Education Subcommittee recommends that the TSB request the UCTC for funds to develop a brand for the TSB that can be used as a template for branding traffic safety messages going forward. UCTC has funds set aside for this purpose. If approved by the UCTC, Slack will develop a scope of work and solicitation to find a qualified firm to work with and will pursue this through the Ulster County Purchasing Department. Initial concepts that would be pursued would be "Ulster County: Safety Begins with U" but would be open to variations.*

**Action:** Slack to report back to the TSB regarding progress.

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**VII. Other Business**

None

**VIII. Adjourn**