



Ulster County Traffic Safety Board

October 3, 2022 Meeting Summary

Approved November 1, 2022

Members In Attendance:

Tom Polk, Bicycle Program Dir, Kingston/Ulster YMCA

Lou Klepner, Town of Saugerties

Eric Kight, Chair

Joseph Sinagra, Saugerties Chief of Police

Steven Rice

Giovanna Russo, MHV School Transp, Supervisors Assoc.

Ernie Ostorhoudt, on behalf of Egidio Tinti, City of Kingston
Chief of Police

Brendan Masterson, Ulster County DPW Commissioner

Rosemary Quinn

Advisory Members

Brian Slack, Coordinator

Guests

John Grosbohlín, City of Kingston resident

Kevin Smith, Town of Woodstock resident

Absent

Sgt. Brandon Schiller, Ulster County
Sheriff's Dept (excused)

David Corrigan (excused)

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Meeting Summary

I. Welcome and Introductions

Chairman Kight opened the meeting and welcomed attendees. Slack confirmed a quorum with 9 of 11 members present with one vacancy.

II. Public Comments

No public comments.

III. Approval of Minutes – June 6, 2022

Motion to approve made by J. Sinagra; Second by S. Rice. Motion carried

IV. Old Business (Open Items)

a. Status of Membership & Appointments

Slack reported that the Steven Rice and Rosemary Quinn appointments are being forwarded to the Legislature for approval. One vacancy remains due to the retirement of J.P. Gramoglia; prior to stepping down, Ulster County Executive Pat Ryan appointed New Paltz Chief of Police Lucchesi to fill the remaining vacancy. Chairperson Kight indicated that Ulster Chief of Police Berardi did indicate that he would identify an officer from the Town of Ulster Chief of Police to replace Gramoglia; Rosemary Quinn asked why the TSB is limited to 12 members; Slack explained that the County Charter directs the County Executive to make appointments and Chief Lucchesi was among a list of individuals recommended by the TSB during a prior solicitation, therefore no further appointments could be made at this time. In the event that another vacancy opens the TSB can consider new recommendations. Slack indicated that the Ulster



County Legislature is exploring revisions to the Charter; members requested that a recommendation be made by the Coordinator to request an increase in members from 12 to 15. Rosemary indicated that there are a number of stakeholders that should be represented at the table that may be excluded due to the limited number of seats. Slack will submit that recommendation to the Charter Commission to increase the number of members.

General discussion ensued regarding opportunities or efforts to increase public awareness of meetings and increase participation in the TSB. Slack took suggestions from members as to how the TSB could improve awareness.

b. Public Safety Information Campaign

i. City of Kingston Road Hero

Slack indicated that the Kingston public safety campaign (“Be a Road Hero”) is underway; the UCTC has paid for the placement of Road Hero bus wraps on 3 UCAT buses this fall which will remain for 6 months. Slack also indicated that he has requested Emily Flynn, City of Kingston Wellness Coordinator, to present at a future TSB meeting and that the City is presently development a ‘warning citation’ for motorists who are in violation of certain aspects of City code that pertain to road, bicycle or pedestrian safety. More information will be presented at a later point in time as this is presently under development.

Chairman Kight asked Chief Sinagra to update on its recent crosswalk safety enforcement blitz. Sinagra indicated that it was very successful and 50 warning citations w/ info. packet were issued, primarily to individuals from ‘out of town.’ TSB members asked for a more detailed presentation on this effort at a future meeting; Chief Sinagra welcomed the opportunity. The methodology was developed from a NJ program; the TSB would also like to share this info. with other police departments. Saugerties has used Governor’s Traffic Safety Committee grants to fund the effort.

ii. Fall TSB Safety Message

October is Pedestrian Safety Awareness Month; Slack provided a media packet published by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration; this has been forwarded to the County Executive’s office for social media publication. Slack opened the floor to suggestions for other subjects to issue TSB press releases on. National Walk Bike and Roll to School Day is approaching; Lights and Bikes or See and Be Seen or Make it Bright at Night could be tied into the current campaign. Members indicated that combining any public notice with supplying lights, vests or other similar incentives would be great, too, particularly if the police could provide them to members of the public on the road after dark. Various graphics to accompany the page were suggested by members; Slack will seek to use dynamic graphics as they are available. Illegal use of snowmobiles, ATVs and other motorized vehicles on public roadways is another topic that could be addressed.

c. Website Content

Draft web content for a ‘Speed Resource Web Page’ was circulated by Slack for comment. The basic narrative will be updated with graphics once it’s ready to be uploaded to the website. Slack will circulate the narrative to members for further input and will seek to publish the page by the next TSB meeting.

d. 2022 TSB Workplan



No updates. Deferred to next meeting.

e. School Bus Cameras

Dutchess County has engaged with a private firm buspatrol.com to deploy school bus cameras on stop bars throughout the county. This private firm pays for the equipment and issues the ticket to violators and collects a portion of the fine to fund the operation. Slack was asked to forward this information to Ulster County legislative members for their information. Bill Johnson, Dutchess County TSB Coordinator, may be able to provide more information on the subject at a future meeting; Slack indicated that the cameras have probably only been operational for a short period of time so they may still be in a preliminary period.

II. New Business

a. NYS Institute of Traffic Safety Management and Research Data – Rosemary Quinn

R. Quinn tabled the item until the next meeting so that she can prepare more information to present to the board.

b. NYS ebike Legislation and Local Issues of Concern (open discussion)

Slack circulated two resources pertaining to ebike legislation in NYS: [Regulating E Bikes and E Scooters](#) by the Cornell Univ. School of Law and the [Electric Assist Bicycles](#) fact sheet published by the NYS Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations. These pamphlets outline the basic requirements and laws regarding EBikes in NYS. Members recommended that these resources be added to the TSB webpage. Open discussion ensued.

Concerns were raised regarding serious crashes, particularly among youth, using ebikes and escooters. The use of the vehicles has been increasing steadily throughout Ulster County. Local police departments are still considering the best ways to respond to the issue. Particularly in the Hudson Valley where changes in elevation are common, they are providing less able riders with greater opportunities to ride, making them very popular among recreational cyclists.

Slack indicated that an ebike bikeshare program has approached City of Kingston to explore setting up a service; those discussions are ongoing. The Complete Streets Advisory Committee put forth a recommendation to the Kingston Common Council regarding the use of Class 1 and Class 2 ebikes on all city facilities, allowing them to operate on multi-use trails and paths; to his knowledge the Kingston Common Council has not yet enacted a local policy or law. Kevin Smith indicated that the Wallkill Valley Rail Trail only allows Class 1 Pedal Assist on its trail with a 15mph speed limit on the trail; this is also the policy at Mohunk Preserve. The use of ebikes at the Walkway Over the Hudson State Park has become problematic and managers there are hoping that both Dutchess and Ulster Counties will develop uniform policies. Tom Polk noted that even conventional bicycles can speed well beyond 15 mph and Lou Klepner indicated that regulations should address the use and not necessarily the vehicle. Rose Quinn indicated that there are design features that can calm bicycle speeds, like surface materials, curbs, bollards, or chicanes. Eric Kight cautioned that any such changes may increase liability to the facility owner.

Kevin indicated that Dutchess County Legislature is presently considering draft legislation to address the issue. Discussion will continue; Slack will attempt to procure the NYSAMPO ebike fact sheet for distribution.



III. Other Business

Slack indicated that members of the Law Enforcement and Public Safety of the UC Legislature have been added to the email distribution list. Christopher Marx at Ulster County Community College Safety Institute has re-posted the traffic safety community educator position. Chairman Kight indicated that the DEP will be reengineering Rt 28A in the years to come; in doing so, bicycle accommodations have been raised by the DEP as a project goal. More information will be provided at a later time; this project is not yet in design.

IV. Member Updates, News & Announcements

Rosemary Quinn spoke earlier today in Albany on behalf of Families for Safe Streets in support of the Crash Victims Rights Act. Governor Hochul has not signed the complete streets add-on to the law; this is likely due to concerns raised by groups within construction and engineering that are concerned about rising costs and how the bill may impact funds for routine road maintenance. More information on the complete street maintenance, application, and funding portions of the Crash Victim Rights and Safety Act can be found here <https://www.transalt.org/cvrsa>. Repaving and maintenance projects typically do not have to address complete streets requirements that were established by NYS law in 2011; the new update is intended to address those projects.

Eric Kight requested discussion and information on 'blind driveway ahead' signs or 'limited sight distance' advance warning signs. General discussion ensued.

Rose Quinn was featured in an article regarding Ghost Bikes

<https://www.dailyfreeman.com/2022/09/18/ulster-county-ghost-bikes-seek-to-raise-awareness-among-drivers/>.

B. Slack provided updates from the Ulster County Transportation Council. New funding opportunities are available [here](#) including the annual call for planning projects, which will open later in October.

T. Polk indicated 10/15 the YMCA will host a free bike repair clinic from 1-4pm.

V. Adjourn

Meeting adjourned 8:00pm.

bcs