



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

DRAFT October 7, 2024 Minutes

Location: Ulster County Legislative Chambers

Approved _____

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

I. Welcome and Introductions

II. Approval of the September 09, 2024 Draft Meeting Minutes

Motion made by Chief Tinti; second by Mr. Polk. All in favor.

III. Public Comments

Mr. Howard Cohen, Town of Woodstock resident, spoke on behalf of the Woodstock Complete Streets Committee regarding the shoulder on Tannery Brook Rd (CR 41) and requested Ulster County perform maintenance on the shoulder to the municipal parking lot and consider improvements. On a separate topic, he raised concern regarding the lack of shoulders on many county and rural roads and the safety concerns that these create for road users, particularly pedestrians. He requested that effort to widen shoulders be made; road widths (fog lines) tend to be drawn right to the edge, providing no area for safe passage/refuge. Clarification regarding policy for lane width and shoulder demarcation would be appreciated. Mr. Cohen submitted photographs illustrating some of the issues that he raised.

IV. Member Updates

TSB members are asked to provide brief updates regarding traffic safety issues of concern, including maintenance needs, events, departmental news or other relevant topics.

NYSDOT. Mr. Corrigan indicated that NYSDOT is undergoing a horizontal curve safety enhancement to reduce roadway departure; 28% are due to roadway departure. The improvements will include additional signage; over 500 additional warning signs on curves will be implemented in Ulster County. Rte 208 paving was nearly complete as of late August with minor work still ongoing through to US 44/55. A chronic “dip” in the road on Rte 32 in Rosendale will be addressed with cooperation from Ulster County DPW.

Mr. Rice announced that the [2024 Ulster County State of the Trails report](#) has been issued by the Ulster County Trails Advisory Committee. The Open Space Institute has presented to the legislature regarding future trail development on the U&D corridor. A key conclusion is the intersection of the road system with the trail system and the need to focus on safety.

Mr. Klepner indicated that the Saugerties Transportation Advisory Committee has been in touch with the Office of Sen. Michelle Hinchey’s office to request a review of the town’s TAP application.

Mr. Polk mentioned that the O+ Festival will feature a number of bike rides in the Kingston; he’ll be leading a 39 mi road ride.

Ms. Quinn noted that Families for Safe Streets will meet with NYSDMV to request that ‘speed limiter’ technology be required for repeat driving infractions. She also noted that the Complete Streets Maintenance Bill before the NYS Legislature would require funding for ‘complete streets’ improvements to be paired with regular road maintenance. NYSDOT appears to be opposed to this type of legislation due to the diversion of funds away from highway maintenance projects. The current investments made by NYSDOT in complete streets is not transparent and difficult to measure at a regional scale; this legislation would begin to address those discrepancies.

Ms. Russo attended the monthly meeting for school bus transportation supervisors; a safety event with school buses was held in Beacon; it would be a great event to replicate in Ulster County in the future. She would also like to try to attend local school board meetings in an effort to publicize the School Bus Driver of the Year award process.

Mr. Slack indicated that the UCTC Rte 9W Mobility Plan Draft Report is complete and now open for public comment through October. The Kingston Rail Road Safety study is nearly complete and should be ready for release in November.

Sgt. Vedder indicated that The Ulster County Sherriff’s Office was awarded its grants from the Governor’s Traffic Safety Committee which will include enhanced enforcement at high risk roads throughout Ulster County.

V. Old Business (Open Items)

a. Ulster County Bicycle and Pedestrian Policy

i. Slack had no updates; he offered the whitepaper developed by Birgitta Cockburn for review by TSB members; this included the results of a policy review tool developed by Smart Growth America.

b. Education and Outreach

i. Slack emphasized the need to continue to promote traffic safety messages for public distribution. He also announced that a strategy for vest distribution will be coordinated with the CE’s office. 300 reflective vests have been purchased for distribution in addition to the 50 already provided to DSS; an emphasis of the County Executive’s Office; UCAT also has its own reflective materials available to riders. Slack will check with the County Executive’s Office about a winter safety message. R. Quinn mentioned flooding as a recurring issue of concern as well in the Hudson Valley.

c. Reappointments

i. Slack indicated that reappointments are underway and the County Executive is accepting applications to fill vacancies on the TSB.

d. Active Transportation Planner Proposal – L. Klepner

i. Mr. Klepner tabled the item.

VI. New Business

a. Support for Villages Seeking Reductions in Speed Limits – R. Quinn

- i. *Ms. Quinn circulated copies of a fact sheet from Families for Safe Streets that outlines the method for villages and cities in NYSDOT to attempt to reduce speed limits and explained the process. The method is described has been permitted for use in NYS by NYSDOT. Identifying methods for reducing speeds on Main Streets throughout the county has been identified as a priority by the Ulster County Executive's Office. Slack requested an electronic version for the TSB website once it is finalized.*

No action.

b. **NYS Comptroller's Report Moving in the Wrong Direction: Traffic Fatalities are Growing in New York State – R. Quinn**

- i. *General discussion ensued regarding the results and recommendations of the NYS Comptroller's report. The report identifies the trend of rising fatalities on NYS roads; the primary conclusions within the report identified stricter driving while intoxicated laws as a potential solution that could help reduce the fatality rates. Policy makers should consider if allowing other local governments, not just New York City, to be able to make similar adjustments to their minimum speed limits would help reduce the number of traffic fatalities in the State*

No action.

VII. Other Business

VIII. Adjourn

Slack made a motion to adjourn, second by Rice. Meeting adjourned at 7:23pm