



# ULSTER COUNTY TRAFFIC SAFETY BOARD

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**Jen Metzger**  
County Executive

**Eric Kight**  
Chairperson

## Ulster County Traffic Safety Board

### November 6, 2023 Draft Minutes

Location: Ulster County Legislative Chambers

Approved December 4, 2023

<b><u>Members In Attendance:</u></b>	<b><u>Absent</u></b>
Lou Klepner, Town of Saugerties	Eric Kight, NYCDEP, Chair
Egido Tinti, City of Kingston Chief of Police	David Corrigan NYSDOT, Vice Chair
Tom Polk, Bicycle Program Dir, Kingston/Ulster YMCA	Brendan Masterson, Ulster County DPW Commissioner
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, NYS Assoc. of Chiefs of Police Traffic Safety Board	
<b><u>Advisory Members</u></b>	
Brian Slack, Coordinator of Traffic Safety	
<b><u>Guests</u></b>	
Tanya Garment	
John Grossbohlen	Dr. Kathy Nolan, Ulster County Legislature District 22
Kevin Smith	

## **I. Welcome and Introductions**

In the absence of the Chair and Vice Chair, Mr. Slack offered to serve as meeting Chair.

## **II. Approval of the October 02, 2023 Draft Meeting Minutes**

Motion to approve made by Mr. Sinagra; second by Mr. Rice. No discussion. All in favor/none opposed.  
Motion carried.

## **III. Public Comments**

*No public comments.*

## **IV. Member Updates**

*Sherriff's Office will be implementing two GTSC grants for child safety seat checks*

*Town of New Paltz has received Child Passenger Safety grants and Police Traffic Safety grants. Chielf Lucchesi has attended the New Paltz Bike/Ped Committee Meeting; some discussion has been occurring regarding upcoming development*

projects and how vulnerable road users should be accommodated; the Village recently completed a segment of sidewalk on N. Front Street between Church and N. Chestnut St.

Joe Sinagra updated the TSB that he will be attending as a member of the NYS Association of Chiefs of Police Traffic Safety Board. He provided background from a recent NYS DUI Foundation Conference regarding 'oral fluid testing,' NYS Police is currently conducting oral swabs for anyone detained for suspicion of driving under the influence of drugs or alcohol. The purpose of the swab is to provide a control sample for comparison against blood test results taken at the same time. The information will be used to aid in the verification of accuracy of oral swab test results which could be used for roadside oral fluid testing. While at GTSC, Mr. Sinagra did have the opportunity to review grants submitted by Ulster municipalities; he did notice that applicants do not seem to be using all of the data driven indicators available to them and providing that supporting documentation in applications. Face to face contacts on a daily basis between local law enforcement on citizens is not necessarily being logged, either (written and verbal warnings are not typically documented). The data will be critical to remain competitive as more applicants apply for limited funds. Rose Quinn offered to provide an overview of the NYS Institute for Traffic Safety Management and Research (ITSMR) online database at a future meeting. Mr. Sinagra also stressed that budget modifications are appropriate at the end of grant cycles if dollars are left.

Chief Tinti indicated that Officer DeFrance, the Department's only Drug Recognition Expert, has been promoted to Detective; the Department is therefore seeking to identify upcoming DRE training opportunities for its officers. Chief Lucchesi indicated that classes will be offered to departments soon at no cost as long as appropriate officers are identified.

Rosemary Quinn provided updates from the Vision Zero conference that she attended in NYC, sponsored by Transportation Alternatives. She spoke with the National Association of City Transportation Officials Community Engagement representative and had a good discussion regarding Kingston. A number of vendors attending the conference were advertising the use of camera technology for enforcement. Ms. Quinn indicated that the option should be considered locally, which could create a new revenue stream (fines). Families for Safe Streets has been discussing with NYSDMV regarding reevaluation to the NYS Driver's License point system. Mr. Sinagra indicated that NYS will be transitioning to digital licenses soon as well. Ms. Quinn also provided background on a letter of support prepared by NYS Safe Streets Coalition requesting the NYS Department of Transportation to clarify requirements under Chapter 496 of 2022 regarding engineering studies for the reduction of local speed limits to 25 mph. Ms. Quinn asked Mr. Slack to share that draft letter with the TSB for consideration at the next meeting. Ms. Quinn concluded that the World Day of Remembrance will be held on November 19, 2023 beginning at 3:00. With support from UCAT, volunteers will assemble at Pine Grove and Broadway nearby where Christine Tarasco was hit and killed while riding on a bike and can travel from there by foot, bike or bus to Wurts Street where Sarah Edwards was hit and killed while walking. The purpose is to remember victims of traffic violence. Finally, Ms. Quinn announced that a petition has begun to address safety on Washington Avenue in Kingston where John Lynch was struck and killed. The primary request is for a light on the street to allow safe crossing for pedestrians.

**Action: Slack to share materials with the TSB for consideration.**

Ms. Quinn closed by providing details regarding a recent crash that occurred outside of her place of employment on Rte 28 near Mountain Road in Shokan Station while she was closing the shop on Friday 11/3. The crash involved automobiles. After some back and forth discussion among board members and guests regarding site-specific details, Mr. Slack requested that further discussion be deferred to a later meeting when a NYSDOT representative could be on hand and more information regarding site conditions and crash details could be brought forth.

**Action: Slack to include as a future agenda item.**

Mr. Rice stated that the Ulster County Trails Advisory Committee will be taking up the Idaho Stop endorsement at the next meeting, and the endorsement is likely to be approved.

Lou Klepner stated that the Woodstock Complete Streets Advisory Committee will be pursuing a Transportation Alternatives Program grant through the NYSDOT to include a nonmotorized facility on Rte 212 from the Woodstock hamlet to Bearsville; this proposal would join with an ongoing NYSDOT bridge redesign project. Mr. Klepner also stated that Saugerties is presently redesigning a playground; opportunities for a bicycle garden may be explored. Also NYSDOT has completed a speed study of Rte 212 in Saugerties and should release results to the town shortly. Mr. Klepner also indicated interest in further clarification regarding speed studies and reduction of speed limits on town roads, including the use of area wide speed limits.

Mr. Slack provided brief update on ongoing UCTC studies; he stated that the UCTC presently has 6 discrete studies either underway or nearly under contract, as well as the recurring traffic count contract. Among those studies includes the ongoing railroad safety study in Kingston; a virtual open house information meeting was held last week, which can be viewed online at the project website. Mr. Slack also stated that the Town of Ulster Route 9W Mobility Plan should be reaching its conclusion in the next several months, with preliminary recommendations going to the town just after Thanksgiving.

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

### **a. Ulster County Bicycle and Pedestrian Policy**

No updates; awaiting action from the Ulster County Executive's Office

### **b. Public Education Subcommittee – Slack**

Mr. Slack summarized the purpose of the committee and indicated that its business had been concluded with the recommendation that it submit a request to the UCTC for funding to pursue an education and outreach graphic design proposal that could be used the help increase TSB notoriety and recognition when messages are released.

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

Rose Quinn met with a local official from the Department of Small Interventions in Newburgh and visited a bike garden, the purpose of which is to normalize bicycling as a form of transportation in Newburgh by teaching young bicycle riders about rules of the road and safe operation of bicycles. The funding was provided by the NYSDOH Creating Healthy Schools and Communities (CHSC) program with assistance from Orange County Planning. It is attached to a local school; the school has bicycles for the children to use; unfortunately the site is typically locked outside of school hours. The course is similar to the 'bike rodeo' program that Rose and Tom Polk have administered in the past, but from a permanent location. Lou Klepner indicated some interest in pursuing a similar opportunity in Saugerties. Rose indicated that the Midtown Linear Park in Kingston may provide an opportunity as well.

Time was provided for members to discuss items not on the agenda, regarding the Midtown Linear Park.

### **d. O&W Rail Trail & Washington Avenue –**

No updates; Slack indicated that the trail should be completed and opened to the public in November.

### **e. Fall Public Safety Message**

The fall message was published by the County Executive's Office; Mr. Polk indicated that he would transcribe the message into a letter to the editor. Winter messages addressing snow across highways and removed from vehicles were suggested. Mr. Klepner suggested more frequent, brief messages to be released to help increase notoriety. Slack suggested that once messages are created they can be easily reused. Mr. Slack indicated that he would not be able to increase the frequency at this time but would continue to meet the goal of quarterly releases. Mr. Slack also voiced his frustration with getting the messages published and noticed by a wide audience; the County Executive's Office has pushed the messages but any additional support from members to raise awareness of the messages through newsletters or letters to the editor would be appreciated.

Slack will prepare a draft winter message for the next meeting.

### **f. Education and Outreach Proposal to UCTC – Slack**

## **VI. New Business**

### **a. Ulster County Draft Resolution 551.2: A Local Law Providing For The Protection Of Vulnerable Road Users Bill Of Rights At Trail Crossings.**

- Phil Erner, Legislator Dist. 3 requested that the TSB provide input on the draft law, available at <https://legislature.ulstercountyny.gov/legislature/2023/resolution-no-5512>

Mr. Slack indicated that he is considering postponing the item; Legislator Erner, the bill's sponsor, had a conflict and was unable to attend. Legislator Nolan volunteered to summarize the issue on his behalf. The bill has been tabled indefinitely by the Public Works Committee; the sponsor will seek further clarification regarding the progress of the "Idaho Stop"

*legislation through the NYS Legislature, which would render parts of his bill irrelevant. The NYS Assembly is considering an Idaho Stop bill at this time; members of the Ulster County Legislature have been discussion this topic with members of the NYS Legislature.*

*Mr. Slack indicated that the bill does have significant flaws as written, primarily that the language appears to conflict with NYS VTL, which is not allowed under NYS General Municipal Law. He further requested that if members of the Legislature plan on taking up similar topics in the future, the Ulster County Traffic Safety Board would very much appreciate the opportunity to consult and provide feedback on subjects pertaining to traffic safety.*

*No action; item tabled.*

*Time was provided for members to discuss items not on the agenda, including the rules governing the setting of speed limits on area roads in New York State.*

## **VII. Other Business**

*Steven Rice raised the issue of “right on red” and the hazards that this turning movement creates, particularly for bicyclists and pedestrians. Mr. Slack agreed and noted that the Kingston Complete Streets Advisory Council will similarly be addressing the topic at the upcoming meeting.*

*No other business.*

## **VIII. Adjourn**

Next meeting is tentatively scheduled for December 4; agenda items include voting on appointments (Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary). Ms. Quinn offered to review Institute for Traffic Safety Management and Research data analysis.

Motion to adjourn made by Mr. Sinagra; second by Mr. Polk. All in favor (7:20pm)