



## Ulster County Traffic Safety Board Draft 2023 Annual Report



As required under Article XL Section A-40.1 (C) of the Administrative Code of the Ulster County Charter, the following Annual Report is provided to the Ulster County Executive and Ulster County Legislature documenting the activities of the Ulster County Traffic Safety Board during the 2023 calendar year.

### **Purpose**

As defined under Article XL § C-120 of the Ulster County Charter, the purpose of the Ulster County Traffic Safety Board (TSB) is to advance traffic and transportation safety, including pedestrian and nonmotorized transport, through study, advocacy and public education in accord with the provisions of the New York State Vehicle and Traffic Law and local law and perform other duties that may be assigned to it by the County Executive and the Legislature. The Board shall further prioritize safety concerns based on relative risk to people using major modes of transportation such as walking, cycling and/or other nonmotorized and motorized transport.

### **Membership**

The TSB is comprised of 12 members, each with background and interest in the pursuit of traffic safety. Eric Kight was re-elected to serve as Chair of the TSB in 2023; David Corrigan was re-elected to serve as Vice Chair. The position of Secretary remains vacant.

Ulster County Traffic Safety Board Members (as of January 2024):

- Eric Kight, NYC Department of Environmental Protection, Chairperson
- David Corrigan, Acting NYSDOT Resident Engineer (Ulster Co. Residency), Vice Chair
- Lou Klepner, Citizen, Town of Saugerties
- Chief Robert Lucchesi, Town of New Paltz Police Department
- Brendan Masterson, PE, Ulster County Commissioner of Public Works
- Tom Polk, Bicycle Safety Coordinator, YMCA of Kingston
- Rosemary Quinn, Kingston Resident and Upstate Regional Representative for Families for Safe Streets
- Steven Rice, Citizen, Town of Accord
- Giovanna Russo, Liaison to the Mid-Hudson Transportation Supervisor's Association
- Joseph A. Sinagra, NYS Association of Chiefs of Police Traffic Safety Committee/Kingston Resident
- Chief Egidio Tinti, City of Kingston Police Department
- Sgt. Robert Vedder, Ulster County Sheriff's Office (recommended; appointment pending Legislative approval)

The TSB is supported by Brian Slack, Principal Transportation Planner for the Ulster County Transportation Council, who was appointed as Coordinator of Traffic Safety in November 2021, replacing Diane Beitel, Ulster County Safety Officer, who stepped down after over 10 years of service to the TSB. Staff support is also provided by the Ulster County Planning Department, Ulster County Transportation Council, the Ulster County Safety Department, and the SUNY Ulster Traffic Safety Education Coordinator. The TSB reports directly to the Ulster County Legislature Laws, Rules and Government Services Committee. Other advisory roles to the board include the Ulster County Trails Advisory Committee and the City of Kingston Complete Streets Advisory Committee.

## **Webpage**

The TSB maintains a webpage on the Ulster County website at the following address:

<https://ulstercountyny.gov/traffic-safety-board>

Information including meeting notices, minutes and agendas are posted regularly. Additional information regarding membership, News and Events, as well as useful Traffic Safety Resources have been developed to provide valuable information for interested members of the public. Topics include:

- Serious Injury and Fatal Crash Locations (online interactive map)
- Road Closures (online interactive map)
- Speed Limits and Requesting Reduction of Posted Speeds on Area Roads
- Engineering Speed Studies
- Requesting a Speed Feedback Device
- Requesting Traffic Enforcement
- Reporting a Maintenance Concern
- Request a Planning Study
- Road Closures ArcGIS Dashboard
- Fatal and Serious Injury Dashboard
- Road Closure Location Dashboard

A county email address – [UlsterTSB@co.ulster.ny.us](mailto:UlsterTSB@co.ulster.ny.us) – was created and posted on the webpage along with the Coordinator’s telephone number. The public is encouraged to submit inquiries regarding traffic safety; general inquiries from the public have increased in frequency since this information was published in early 2022.

## **Meetings**

TSB meetings are typically held on the first Monday of every month in the Ulster County Legislative Chambers between 6:00 and 8:00pm unless otherwise noted. During 2022, the TSB convened on the following dates:

- |                    |                      |
|--------------------|----------------------|
| • January 9, 2023  | • August 7, 2023     |
| • February 6, 2023 | • September 11, 2023 |
| • April 10, 2023   | • October 2, 2023    |
| • May 1, 2023      | • November 6, 2023   |
| • June 5, 2023     | • December 4, 2023   |

Meeting Agendas and the previous meeting minutes are posted on the TSB website at least 3 days prior to the next scheduled meeting. The meeting agenda includes a standing item of member updates whereby TSB members provide useful and important traffic safety related news, activities, and bulletins.

Members of the public are encouraged to attend TSB meetings and are offered an opportunity for public comment at the beginning of every meeting.

## **Officers**

At the December 2023 TSB meeting Eric Kight was re-elected to serve as Chair of the TSB; David Corrigan was re-elected Vice Chair. The position of Secretary remains vacant with no volunteers. Terms are for 1 year.

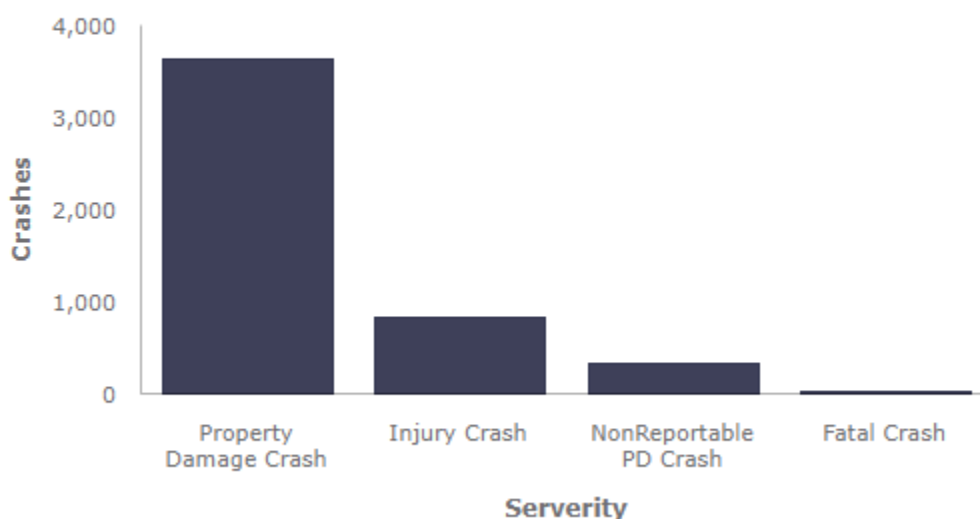
## 2022 Ulster County Crash Statistics<sup>1</sup>

Beginning in FFY2020, the United States began to experience a significant spike in nationwide severe and fatal traffic crashes due primarily to changes in travel patterns and traffic conditions as well as driver behaviors brought about by the COVID pandemic. A review of traffic crash data for Ulster County during the period October 2019 – September 2022 revealed a slight downward trend appearing to begin across most travel modes and crash types. Future analyses will endeavor to develop an adjusted 5 year trend analysis beginning with FFY 2020 as a baseline in an effort to closely monitor variances from the historic 2020 period of severe and fatal traffic crashes.

FFY2020	FFY2021	FFY2022
Total Crashes: 5,200 People Injured: 1,177 People Killed: 20	Total Crashes: 5,107 People Injured: 1,050 People Killed: 14	Total Crashes: 4,815 People Injured: 1,122 People Killed: 18
Bicycle Related Crashes: 26 People Injured: 19 People Killed: 0	Bicycle Related Crashes: 25 People Injured: 16 People Killed: 4	Bicycle Related Crashes: 22 People Injured: 20 People Killed: 0
Pedestrian Related Crashes: 41 People Injured: 33 People Killed: 4	Pedestrian Related Crashes: 39 People Injured: 38 People Killed: 0	Pedestrian Related Crashes: 34 People Injured: 30 People Killed: 2

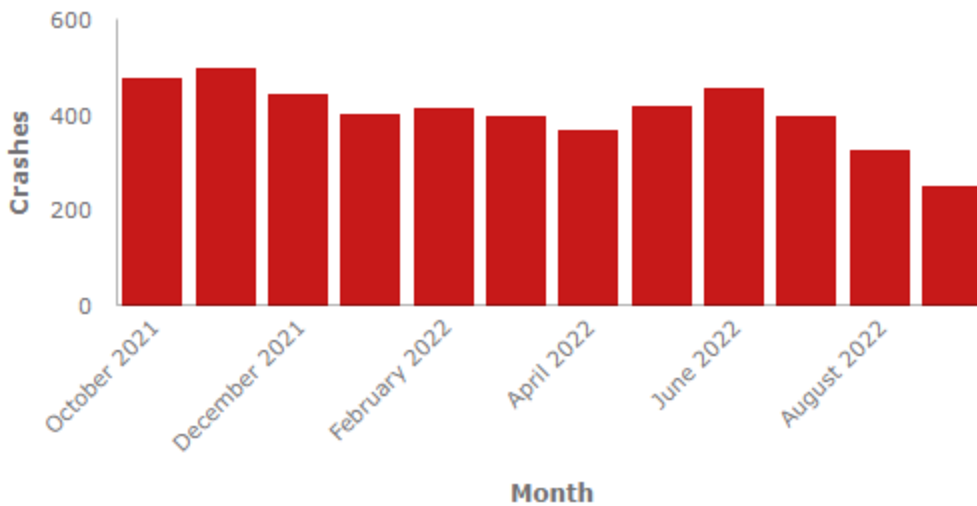
FFY reporting period 10/1 – 9/30. Ulster County only.

### Crashes by Severity FFY2022



<sup>1</sup> Information derived from NYS Department of Motor Vehicles crash statistics and developed by the NYS Governor's Traffic Safety Committee Crash Analyst Liaison.

## Crashes by Month FFY2022



### Activities

The following is a summary of activities accomplished during the 2023 calendar year:

**Appointments.** One appointment was renewed during the reporting period; the remaining appointments are scheduled for renewal on 1/1/2025.

The TSB continues to maintain one of its most vibrant membership rosters in recent memory, which includes individuals at the highest rank of their profession across a variety of fields including law enforcement, engineering, planning, public advocacy, and education, as well as several engaged citizen volunteers who apply their collective experiences and expertise to the practice of traffic safety.

**Rules for Governing.** In late 2022 the TSB was made aware of the requirement under the Ulster County Charter Administrative Code to establish rules of conduct; after a brief investigation staff concluded that no rules had previously been established.<sup>2</sup> The TSB conducted a review of rules created by neighboring TSBs and used them to develop its own rules, which were approved on September 11, 2023. The rules are referred to as “Bylaws” and are posted on the TSB website under the “Documents” page.<sup>3</sup>

**Grants.** The Governor’s Traffic Safety Committee posts an annual call for grant applications every March. The opportunity is disseminated to members, discussed and areas of emphasis are suggested by members for focus (enforcement, education, etc). Pending local grant applications are filed electronically with the GTSC by the applicant; awards are recommended by the GTSC but require final

<sup>2</sup> As per § A40-3 part C.1 of the Administrative Code of the Ulster County Charter [“The Traffic Safety Board shall...Adopt rules for the conduct of its business...”].

<sup>3</sup>[https://ulstercountyny.gov/sites/default/files/documents/TSB/Final%20Ulster%20County%20Traffic%20Safety%20Board%20Bylaws\\_September%2011%2C%202023.pdf](https://ulstercountyny.gov/sites/default/files/documents/TSB/Final%20Ulster%20County%20Traffic%20Safety%20Board%20Bylaws_September%2011%2C%202023.pdf)

approval from the Chair of the TSB. Grant awards to Ulster County municipalities and other eligible agencies are shown in the table below; a total of \$201,870 in grant funding has been awarded for 2024; this is an increase from \$158,359 during the previous grant cycle:

**New York State Governor’s Traffic Safety Committee  
2024 Grant Awards**

<b>Agency</b>	<b>Project Title</b>	<b>Approved Amount</b>
Lloyd Town Police Department	Police Traffic Service	\$2,484
Marlborough Town Police Department	Police Traffic Service	\$3,584
New Paltz Town & Village Police Department	Child Passenger Safety Program	\$2,600
New Paltz Town & Village Police Department	Police Traffic Service	\$2,100
Saugerties Town Police Department	Child Passenger Safety Program	\$1,500
Saugerties Town Police Department	Police Traffic Service	\$5,040
Ulster County Community College	Ulster County Traffic and Highway Safety Program	\$99,484
Ulster County Community College	Child Passenger Safety Program	\$1,600
Ulster County Sheriff’s Office	Child Passenger Safety Program	\$4,600
Ulster County Sheriff’s Office	Police Traffic Service	\$12,210
YMCA of Kingston and Ulster County	Vulnerable Road Users Safety Education for Ulster County	\$66,668
		<b>\$201,870</b>

Source: <https://trafficsafety.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2023/12/2024-grant-awards.pdf>

**Education.** The goal of establishing a consistent public safety messaging program was raised by the Coordinator and supported by members. With financial support from the Ulster County Transportation Council, \$25,000 has been set aside to support such activities utilizing a portion of UCTC’s Federal Highway Administration annual planning grant. A scope of work will be developed for release in early 2024.

**Ulster County Fatal and Serious Injury ArcGIS Dashboard.** An interactive mapping ‘dashboard’ was developed by UCTC staff at the request of TSB members. The dashboard pulls 5 years of traffic crash data from NYS DMV data sources and geo-locates the incidents and categories them by mode and severity. The dashboard will continue to be hosted and updated by UCTC into the future.

**Public Safety Messages.** Preparation of public safety messages including daylight savings time and autumn traffic safety measures and winter traffic safety measures that the travelling public can take to stay safe on area roadways.

**2023 School Bus Driver of the Year Award.** TSB, in partnership with the Dutchess County TSB, coordinated this annual award after a 2-year pause. The 2023 award was provided to Tersa Faso of the New Paltz Central School District; runner-up is Larry Borelli, a driver for Ulster County BOCES. The School Bus Driver of the Year Award recognizes drivers with exceptional service and safety records and is issued in conjunction with the Ulster County Traffic Safety Board and “Operation Safe Stop.” *Operation Safe Stop* is a cooperative project in New York State that seeks to promote school bus safety through education and enforcement efforts. A ceremony was held in the Rotunda of the Ulster

County Sheriff's Department with plaque and proclamations issued by the Ulster County Executive and Ulster County Sheriff; colors were presented by the Ulster County Color Guard.

**Resolution in Support of "Idaho Stop" Legislation by the NYS Legislature.** The "Idaho Stop" refers to legislation first passed in Idaho in the early 1980s that allows bicyclists to treat stop signs as yield signs. This legislation has been proven to significantly increase bicyclists safety at intersections. The resolution can be found on the TSB website under "Documents."<sup>4</sup>

**Discussion Topics.** The following topics of interest were discussed by the TSB in detail during regular meetings:

- Local road engineering and construction project updates
- Legalized Cannabis and Highway Safety
- NYS Families for Safe Streets Act
- New York State Governor's Traffic Safety 2023 Highway Safety Strategic Plan
- Traffic Safety Management and Research Data – NYS Institute for Traffic Safety Management and Research
- Eric Paulding, Ulster County District Attorney's Office – Presentation and Discussion on the Ulster County Crash Investigation Process
- Overview of the Safe System Approach
- Provided review and comment re: Ulster County Draft Resolution 551.2: A Local Law Providing For The Protection Of Vulnerable Road Users Bill Of Rights At Trail Crossings
- Consideration of resolution in support of NYS Safe Streets Coalition: Policy on 25MPH Speed Limits

### **Goals for 2024**

TSB goals for 2024 include the following:

- Development of a formal traffic safety public education and outreach program; formation of a subcommittee to address the issue
- Regular discussions at TSB meetings regarding any bicycle and pedestrian serious injury/fatal crashes that occur on Ulster County roadways
- Development and presentation of detailed traffic safety statistics to provide a data-driven focus to roadway safety measures in Ulster County
- Increasing GTSC grant applications and award capture among all municipalities in Ulster County
- Useful additions to the TSB website and wider visibility of that content
- Selection of dynamic and informative guest speakers at TSB meetings
- **A measurable decline in traffic-related crashes in Ulster County, particularly those that involve the most vulnerable users of our transportation system**

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<sup>4</sup> <https://ulstercountyny.gov/traffic-safety-board/documents>