



ULSTER COUNTY TRAFFIC SAFETY BOARD

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



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THE ULSTER COUNTY TRAFFIC SAFETY BOARD REMINDS DRIVERS TO BE PREPARED FOR WINTER DRIVING CONDITIONS

Happy New Year! As winter weather sets in, the Ulster County Traffic Safety Board (TSB) would like to remind the public of several steps they can take to stay safe while traveling on our roadways.

First of all, when clearing snow from your property, make sure it doesn't wind up in the road! Plowing snow across the road can be dangerous and could also bring you a ticket. New York State Law prohibits anyone from putting on public roads "any substance likely to injure any person, animal or vehicle".... and that includes snow from your driveway! Fines for a first offense include up to a \$150 fine and/or 15 days in jail, plus applicable surcharges.

It is OK to use salt or sand or materials that are otherwise intended to allow for safe use of the highway. Materials on the highway resulting from agricultural activities are exempt from the law.

The TSB would also like to remind drivers to:

- Remove snow and ice from the top of your vehicle or bed of your truck, which can become airborne at highway speeds creating a blinding or projectile hazard for oncoming travelers;
- Prepare a winter supply kit for your vehicle, including first aid, ice scraper, jumper cables, sources of warmth, lights, charging equipment, and other essential supplies;
- Be sure to remove children's coats before buckling them in their safety seats to ensure a proper fit; and
- Always remember to be patient and courteous to others on the road – we all want to get there safely!

As winter road conditions worsen, the onset of another annual rite of passage for rural property owners also emerges – submitting claims for damaged or destroyed mailboxes.

Highway crews do their best to avoid mailboxes, but often visibility, oncoming traffic and heavy snow will work against them. And just so you know, if you place your mailbox in the highway right-of-way, the municipality is not liable for damage to the mailbox if it was caused by non-negligent municipal snow removal activities. What's the best method to protect your mailbox during the winter months? Make sure it is properly attached to the post. We also recommend that you keep the mailbox assembly simple in order to limit impact surface area for plowed snow.

Our purpose at the Ulster County Traffic Safety Board is to advance traffic and transportation safety for all road users through study, advocacy, and public education. We prioritize safety concerns based on the

relative risks to people using major modes of transportation such as walking, cycling and other non-motorized and motorized vehicles.

The TSB usually meets on the first Monday of each month at 6:00 pm in the Ulster County Legislative Chambers on the 6th floor of the Ulster County Office Building at 244 Fair Street, Kingston. Meetings are open to the public and every meeting begins with an opportunity for public comment. We encourage you to attend and voice your concerns regarding traffic safety.

Meeting agendas are available on the web at <https://ulstercountyny.gov/traffic-safety-board> and are also listed on the Ulster County Legislative Calendar.

For more information, contact Brian Slack, Coordinator of Traffic Safety, at bsla@co.ulster.ny.us