



ULSTER COUNTY TRAFFIC SAFETY BOARD

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Jen Metzger
County Executive

Eric Kight
Chairperson

Ulster County Traffic Safety Board

December 8, 2025 DRAFT Minutes

Location: Karen Binder Library Conference Room

Approved 3/9/26

Members In Attendance:	Absent
Giovanna Russo, MHV School Transp. Supervisors Assoc	Eric Kight, NYCDEP, Chair
David Corrigan NYSDOT, Vice Chair	Brendan Masterson, UC DPW
Rosemary Quinn, Upstate Regional Rep, Families for Safe Streets/NYS Safe Streets Coalition/City of Kingston resident	Sgt. Robert Vedder, Ulster County Sherriff's Dept
Lou Klepner, Chair, Town of Saugerties Transportation Advisory Committee	
Brian Slack, Coordinator of Traffic Safety (Board Member Ex Officio) Ulster County Transportation Council	
Egido Tinti, City of Kingston Chief of Police	
Marc Cassidy, Town of Rosendale	
Nick Mercurio, Town of Rosendale	
James Andrew Seyfarth, Town of Ulster Police Department	
Neal Bettez, Town of New Paltz resident	
<u>Nonvoting Members</u>	
Adam Dietz, Ulster County DPW	
<u>Guests</u>	
William Kerr, Woodstock	Bob Greenwood, Woodstock
Kirsti Gholson, Woodstock	Howard Cohen, Woodstock
Betsy Blair, Hurley	Laurie Felber, Woodstock
Hilary Partridge, Woodstock	Julien Shapiro, Hurley

I. Welcome and Introductions – 6:00pm

II. Approval of the September 8, 2025 Draft Meeting Minutes

Motion made by Chief Tinti. Second by Lt. Seyfarth. Motion carried.

III. Public Comments

Ms. Betsy Blair addressed speed limits on local and county roads and expressed that speeds seemed excessive; many local requests for speed limit reductions have been denied by NYSDOT; excessive speeding continues to be a local concern.

Mr. Julien Shapiro raised concerns regarding the safety of the O&W trailhead at Washington Avenue in the City of Kingston. The lack of wayfinding and clear trail connections to Midtown Linear Park and elsewhere is a safety concern, as bicycling in traffic on adjoining roads is hazardous in this area. Connecting sidewalks are not ADA compliant due to heaving. He proposed the addition of wider sidewalks and protected bicycle facilities similar to

those on Greenkill Ave as preferred solutions. Mr. Slack indicated that these issues have been raised in the past in great detail and that NYSDOT has programmed \$15m to design and construct operational and safety improvements on Washington Ave.; that design will begin in 2026. In response to NYSDOT programming the project, Ms. Quinn indicated that a citizen committee is being formed to advocate their transportation interests on behalf of the community. Mr. Shaprio also mentioned his concern regarding bridge conditions throughout the state and county, noting visible signs of wear and tear on bridge structures to be commonplace.

Ms. Hilary Partridge of Sherman Rd, Woodstock spoke on behalf of her neighbor Melody Joseph of Sherman Rd regarding limited sight distance and excessive speeding at the intersection of Zena and Sherman. A crash occurred on 10/21/25 and residents have indicated there have been many close calls. The limited sight distance and curvilinear road design, makes pulling out of Sherman Rd dangerous and local residents do not feel safe walking in the area. A list of 24 residents was submitted in support of seeking solutions to making the intersection safer.

Mr. Bob Green was present and supported these comments; he has personally observed these conditions and indicated that he often rolls down his car windows in order to safety pull out of the intersection. He submitted a letter that was submitted previous to Ulster County DPW on the issue.

John Areiazag and Marianne Bosshart-Littman supported these comments as well; Marianne once had her car sideswiped while attempting to pull out.

Another resident [name unknown] submitted that the speed limit for the entire limit of Zena should likely be reduced below the current 45mph posted speed, which does not seem like a safe speed due to the conditions and presence of deer.

General discussion ensued; David Corrigan recommended that the residents reach out to the Woodstock Town Board to request a speed study and possible reduction in the speed limit.

Laurie Felber, Glasco Turnpike resident, indicated that she is experiencing similar issues on her road. There is next to no safe zone or shoulder for walkers or vehicles to take refuge in if a close call occurs. A reduction in speed may be warranted east of Rock City Rd (reduction was granted west of Rock City Rd) to 35mph; an increase in signage warning of wildlife would be beneficial as well due to frequent deer, bear and other wildlife crossings.

Howard Cohen, Town of Woodstock, inquired as to whether a School Zone could be created next to a youth center; Mr. Bettez reviewed the law and indicated that the rules guiding school zones in NYS account for primary and secondary schools and licensed childcare facilities; youth centers are not part of the statute, so it would not be possible. He also submitted a suggestion to move crosswalks on Rock City Rd to better accommodate pedestrian paths of desire near Good Night and Colony.

IV. Member Updates

Mr. Corrigan indicated that the NYSDOT residency is somewhat short-staffed but NYSDOT staff from outside of the area have provided support during local storms. While each event presents its own challenges, the residency always has the ability to shift staff around to address most weather and maintenance issues/events. Residency has removed 484 hazardous trees from near the state right of way.

Gianna Russo had no updates

Mr. Slack noted that the UCTC forwarded the most recent Transportation Alternatives Program call for projects, which is issued by the NYSDOT. Mr. Bettez raised the possibility that the TSB promulgate potential safety projects for consideration by local jurisdictions for them to pursue in the future. The program is very competitive and in most cases requires a 20% local match.

Mr. Mercurio indicated that Ulster County DPW appears to have done a poor job cleaning up loose gravel in an area on Binnewater Rd. where a new culvert was installed; Mr. Deitz indicated that he will investigate and address any

issues. Mr. Mercuio also presented some signage found in the MUTCD that draws attention to Share the Road and the needs of vulnerable road users.

Mr. Bettez asked if the TSB has good data regarding crashes in Ulster and historical trends. Mr. Slack said that while the public has immediate access to data, the UCTC has access to a variety of datasets, and will try to perform some data analysis for the annual report.

Ms. Quinn announced that Hobokan, NJ has celebrated the 8th year in a row with no traffic-related fatalities, which is a notable achievement. She also reminded that the Safe and Accessible Foxhall and Flatbush open house meeting will be held on December 9 at City Hall. She also noted that City of Kingston DPW took action on a complaint submitted by her regarding snow removal on O'Neil St; the city was very responsive once they were notified. She concluded by listing a number of recent serious injury crashes across Ulster County, including an incident with a school bus, one serious injury pedestrian hit and run on Rt 32 [resulting in an arrest], one ped incident on Pearl St., along with 4-5 other incidents. Mr. Klepner used the issue raised by Ms. Quinn focusing on crashes as an opportunity to remind board members that the Traffic Safety Board could fulfill the role of analyzing crashes and their aftermath in greater detail if sufficient resources were allocated for that purpose, including utilizing county 911 data to supplement MV104a reports. Ms. Quinn further emphasized the need for post-crash care.

Mr. Adam Deitz, representing Commissioner Masterson, noted that county DPW operations during the first major storm went smoothly.

No updates from Mr. Klepner

Mr. Marc Cassidy mentioned that the town continues to await final, revised results of the Rosendale road safety study conducted by NYSDOT on Rte 32. Otherwise, he mentioned some recent serious crashes, one of which was on Dewitt Mills Rd.

Chief Tinti mentioned that strict traffic enforcement has continued in the City of Kingston, but some behaviors are difficult to change; in some instances, the same drivers continue to receive the same infractions on multiple occasions. The City is using [Urban SDK](#) data services to assist in deployment of resources where speeding appears to be excessive. Chief Tinti stressed that ticketing alone, however, does not appear to be an effective strategy for some repeat offenders. Lte. Seyfarth supported Chief Tinti's frustration with similar evidence in the Town of Ulster citing an increase in ticketing across the town.

Lte. Seyfarth only had an inquiry regarding the BOCES facility on Enterprise Drive. Mr. Slack reported that the location is not likely to meet the threshold of a school zone because it lacks pedestrians and crosswalks. However, the traditional MUTCD S1-1 advance school warning assembly could be erected by the Ulster DPW. That recommendation was made to the Commissioner of Public Works; it is at his discretion.

V. Old Business (Open Items)

- a. Ulster County Bicycle and Pedestrian Policy
 - i. Slack reported no updates
- b. Education and Outreach Activities
 - i. Slack reported no updates
- c. Traffic Safety Board Reserve Fund
 - i. Slack reported no updates
- d. E-bike/scooter Safety and Popularity among youth. Guidance on the operation of e-bikes and e-scooters is available at <https://nybc.net/nys-bike-law/e-bike>.
 - i. Slack provided the resource for more information for board members
- e. Implementation of Local Law No. 3 Of 2025, A Local Law To Ensure The Safety Of Vulnerable Road Users In Ulster County.

Slack submitted an inquiry to Leg. LeVine to see if the legislature had planned any education/outreach steps; he has not received a response to date. Mr. Bettez noted that he did identify signage in the MUTCD that might be appropriate for this application and referenced the source. *[Section 9B.15 Bicycle Passing Clearance Sign (R4-19) Option: 01 The Bicycle Passing Clearance (R4-19) sign (see Figure 9B-1) may be used in jurisdictions that have defined in law or ordinance a specific clearance to be provided by motor vehicles when they pass bicycles. 02 The specific clearance displayed on the Bicycle Passing Clearance (R4-19) sign may be adjusted to reflect the applicable law or ordinance. Standard: 03 The Bicycle Passing Clearance (R4-19) sign shall not be used in jurisdictions that do not have a specific passing clearance to be provided by motor vehicles passing bicycles, as defined in law or ordinance. Guidance: 04 The Bicycle Passing Clearance (R4-19)].*



Slack wasn't sure if the R4-19 sign would be appropriate because there wasn't a state law. Slack and Corrigan will follow-up with Region 8 and/or Main Office to see if they will render an opinion on the appropriateness of the sign in this instance.

VI. New Business

- a. **2026 Awards.** Preparation for 2026 Charlie Schaller and School Bus Driver of the Year Awards will take place.

Ms. Russo noted that the School Bus Driver of the Year Award is typically awarded in April in line with the national Operation Safe Stop. Operation Safe Stop is being consolidated with other traffic safety events that occur in October. Gianna and Bill Johnson from the Dutchess Co. TSB are discussing how to approach the awards and resolve the issue; they are considering keeping the application process in March with the award ceremony in October. Gianna will report back at the next meeting.

- b. **2025 Annual Report.** The 2025 TSB Annual Report is due on or around March 2026. Previous annual reports can be found at <https://www.ulstercountyny.gov/Boards/Traffic-Safety-Board> under the "About" section.

Slack requested members to review the previous reports and provide him with input for content in the 2025 report.

VII. Other Business

No other business.

VIII. Adjourn

Motion by Klepner; second by Seyfarth.