



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

March 9, 2026 DRAFT Minutes

Location: Karen Binder Library Conference Room

Approved

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

I. Welcome and Introductions

II. Approval of the December 8, 2025 and February 2, 2026 Draft Meeting Minutes

Motion made by Mr. Bettez; second by Sgt. Vedder. All in favor; motion carried

III. Public Comments

Mr. Julien Shapiro of the Town of Hurley and Hurley Safety Committee requested updates regarding concerns that he raised at the December meeting regarding the Washington Ave Trailhead regarding sidewalk and stormdrain issues. Ms. Slack responded that a NYSDOT capital project is scheduled for Washington Ave with construction estimated around 2030; any designs to address the crossing of Washington Ave will be addressed through that effort; sidewalks are the responsibility of the adjacent property owner in the City of Kingston. Mr. Corrigan did indicate that he is presently investigating the storm drain to see when they were installed and their state of repair. He agreed that they may no longer be in compliance with modern design standards; if the condition is suffering, he can look into ordering a maintenance improvement of the grates; it has been added to the 2026 work plan of the residency.

Member Updates

Mr. Corrigan repeated that the residency will investigate Washington Ave in Kingston to see if there are any maintenance activities that can be performed. He continued that the regional ADA sidewalk project is continuing and he is investigating some local complaints about poor workmanship in some spots; he suspects any failures in concrete can be repaired. His crew is responding in force to roadway maintenance trying to keep up with patching; hot mix asphalt will become available around mid-April.

Mr. Slack provided UCTC updates; the Albany/Ulster Ave Corridor Management Plan contract award letter was issued and contract negotiations are underway; he estimated the project would begin around April or May and will address safety and travel conditions on Albany/Ulster Aves between the Kingston roundabout to Rte 9W. UCTC will issue an RFP for a Traffic Safety Action Plan to conduct a network screening and systemic crash analysis of crash history on all Ulster County roads (excluding NYS Thruway). The project will identify locations with crashes above expected averages; there will also be a policy component to develop recommendations for local policies or leadership statements addressing traffic safety. Recommendations should also open opportunities for additional federal transportation capital funding. Slack concluded that the NYSDOT has issued letters to highest elected officials regarding the availability of roadway departure action funds for safety improvements. Interested municipalities can submit inquiries to NYSDOT or UCTC.

Mr. Bettez spoke with the New Paltz Bike Committee; they indicated that the town was considering submitting the Wallkill bridge on the Wallkill Valley Rail Trail/Empire State Trail for repairs. He inquired if the pedestrian bridge on Mountain Rest Rd will be repaired; Mr. Dietz indicated that Ulster County will be replacing the project. He also provided some feedback to the Town of Woodstock regarding their interest to construct a shared use path on Rte 212 based on his experience as Project Manager for the HW DuBois shared use path in New Paltz. The shared use path in New Paltz has been very popular since its opening.

Mr. Dietz provided brief updates for Ulster County DPW; he provided an update regarding Lucas Ave shoulder repair adjacent to a box culvert that Mr. Mercurio raised; a more permanent repair is being developed by DPW. He also added that Malden Turnpike bridge in Saugerties over NYS Thruway will be closed for replacement in the next 1-2 weeks.

Lt. Seyfarth had no updates.

Chief Tinti indicated that there was a pedestrian struck in the crosswalk at E. O'Reilly and Broadway; strict enforcement in City of Kingston continues.

Mr. Mercurio had no updates but continues to have serious concerns about the safety of bicyclists and pedestrians on our roadways; this should be our focus as a board. General discussion ensued regarding the extent to which traffic safety curriculum is taught in Ulster County schools; Mr. Slack noted that SUNY Ulster did have a funded position for traffic safety educator for many years, but after the most recent staff absence, the position was unable to be filled. Slack offered to inquire as to the status of that position/program.

Sgt. Vedder of the Ulster County Sheriff's Office has created a dedicated traffic enforcement unit with one dedicated deputy that is already deployed on local roads during various shifts. The Office is open to suggestions regarding locations for deployment as needed.

Mr. Klepner reported that the Town of Saugerties is re-applying for a Transportation Alternatives Program grant for a side path on Rte. 32. He also mentioned concerns raised regarding the traffic signal on 32 nearby Kings Highway that affects east bound traffic. East bound traffic appears to become delayed and stacks up toward the Speedway gas station. Mr. Corrigan noted that NYSDOT is already examining signal timing throughout the area but will also provide this information back to them.

Mr. Cassidy reported from Rosendale that road maintenance and traffic enforcement is prevalent among town departments. The Town continues to await the final NYSDOT safety report for Rtes 32 and 212 Rosendale from NYSDOT; Mr. Corrigan indicated that he will mention that desire in his bi-weekly report to the regional office.

Mr. Kight reported that the NYC DEP will begin regular road maintenance including roadside ditch cleaning. The new NYC administration has indicated that the City may experience a significant budgetary shortfall, but there have not been any cuts to the DEP Ashokan Century Project announced to date. Mr. Klepner inquired as to the status of the Basin Rd Bridge; Mr. Kight had no updates.

IV. **Old Business (Open Items)**

a. Ulster County Transportation Safety Plan

Mr. Slack reported that UCTC will issue an RFP for Professional Services on Wednesday March 11; the scope of work includes a significant policy component that he'd like to see

b. Education and Outreach Activities

Mr. Slack had no updates but noted the item is on the agenda under New Business.

c. Implementation of Local Law No. 3 Of 2025, A Local Law To Ensure The Safety Of Vulnerable Road Users In Ulster County. Update regarding MUTCD Signage

Mr. Slack recapped the issue and correspondence from Mr. Corrigan that was previously shared with TSB members; Mr. Kight requested that we keep this as an open item for the time being.

d. 2026 Awards. Discussion regarding the 2026 Charlie Schaller and School Bus Driver of the Year Awards will take place.

Mr. Slack has submitted applications to various entities and will send reminders. Mr. Klepner requested that the previous winners be listed on the TSB website.

Note from the Secretary: I misspoke during the meeting, the deadline for both applications is May 1, not April 1.

V. **New Business**

a. **Election of Officers.** Positions listed below. All positions require nomination and vote.

- i. Secretary – held by Slack
- ii. Vice Chair – held by Corrigan
- iii. Chair – held by Kight

Slack briefly reviewed Roberts Rules for elections. Mr. Cassidy suggested the vote be delayed due to the absence of 2 members; Mr. Klepner indicated that it would be nice to have them present. General discussion ensued. Slack disagreed and stressed that the vote is already late due to the January cancellation and no quorum in February. Chief Tinti made a motion to nominate all of the current officers for re-election; each officer accepted the nomination. General discussion ensued regarding history of the TSB,

calendar of meetings and attendance. Mr. Klepner submitted inquiry as to whether members in positions of authority at various state or other public agencies might create risk for themselves as an officer if scrutiny were to be made by supervisors regarding recommendations the board might make under their leadership, which may hold back enthusiasm for trying new things. Mr. Kight and Mr. Corrigan respectfully disagreed; Mr. Corrigan stressed that NYSDOT training for resident engineers specifically recommends participation on local TSBs. Mr. Klepner appreciated the feedback and offered support for the 3 candidates.

A motion on the floor previously made by Chief Tiniti to approve current officers of Kight (Chair), Corrigan (Vice Chair) and Slack (Secretary) as one slate; all in favor; none opposed. Motion carried.

- b. **2025 Annual Report.** The 2025 TSB Annual Report is due on or around March 31, 2026. Previous annual reports can be found at <https://www.ulstercountyny.gov/Boards/Traffic-Safety-Board> under the “About” section.

Mr. Slack circulated a copy of the Draft 2025 Annual Report and provided a brief overview. Mr. Slack noted that 2026 grants by county are not presently published on the Governor’s Traffic Safety Committee; he will attempt to acquire that information. Mr. Klepner and Mr. Bettez inquired as to why only 5 years of crash history are used; Mr. Slack agreed to add more years of historic data, potentially 10 years.

Mr. Kight indicated that the TSB should spend more time considering existing and new goals for 2026; Mr. Klepner suggested reviewing the functions of the TSB as described in the County Charter. He also noted that crash data alone does not tell the fully story regarding mobility and travel by the public; Mr. Slack indicated that UCTC will begin an Active Transportation Plan this year that may address this issue. Mr. Mercurio suggested “support of outreach to nonmotorized road users” as a potential new goal.

Mr. Slack requested final comments and revisions be submitted in writing prior to the next meeting so that members can review and consider for inclusion in the final Annual Report.

- c. **Future Education, Outreach, and Publicity Activities.** Open topic – At the request of the Chair, TSB members are asked to consider future traffic safety education, outreach and other publicity initiatives that the TSB could develop in 2026.

Seeking funding for reflective materials was suggested earlier in the meeting; Mr. Slack indicated that County Executive and Planning staff have improved the process for vest acquisition and distribution. General discussion regarding potential safety emphasis areas ensued. Mr. Slack noted that the GTSC already has significant education materials that are data driven based on statewide trends that can be used. Media buys and other education campaign development can be complicated and expensive; identifying the appropriate messaging can be a challenge. Mr. Klepner suggested that these messages be pulled out and given to the CE’s office for regular publication. Bicycle lights and helmets were also suggested.

Slack will review the previous press releases and messages that were created by Ulster County and the TSB.

VI. Other Business

VII. Adjourn

Motion made by Corrigan; second by Slack.

7:55pm