

Updating The Ulster County Pedestrian And Bicycle Policy

Referred to: The Housing and Transportation Committee (Chairman Collins and Legislators Clinton, Corcoran, Harmon, Kitchen, McCollough, and Stewart), The Public Works and Capital Projects Committee (Chair Nolan and Legislators Donaldson, Kovacs, Litts, and McCollough), and The Ways and Means Committee (Chairman Gavaris and Legislators Collins, Hansut, Kovacs, Nolan, Roberts, and Uchitelle)

Legislator Eric Stewart offers the following:

WHEREAS, pursuant to Resolution No. 229 of July 8, 2009 the Ulster County Legislature adopted a Pedestrian and Bicycle Policy (UCBPB) for the purpose of establishing design standards; and

WHEREAS, said policy reads as follows:

Engineering: The County's infrastructure will include a complete system of bikeways, pedestrian facilities, and shared use paths, bicycle parking, and safe crossings connecting our residences, businesses, and public places.

Designs for bicycle and pedestrian accommodations (e.g., bicycle lanes, sidewalks, off road trails, bicycle racks, shelters, crosswalks, and traffic calming solutions) shall be provided in new construction, reconstruction, and maintenance projects initiated by Ulster County, unless the following condition is met:

- Bicyclists and pedestrians are prohibited by law from using the roadway. In this instance, bicyclists and pedestrians will be accommodated elsewhere within the right of way or within the same transportation corridor.

Bicycle and pedestrian accommodations will be provided and maintained in accordance with guidelines adopted by the United States Department of Transportation, New York State Department of Transportation, and American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials;

Encouragement: Ulster County will promote bicycling and walking for health, fitness, transportation, and recreation through events, programs, and other activities which benefit residents, businesses, and visitors of all ages and abilities. These activities will be coordinated with local bicycle clubs, schools, health organizations, and other partners; and

Enforcement: Ulster County will provide balance enforcement of the New York State Vehicle and Traffic Law for motorists, pedestrians, and bicyclists. This will include enforcement of pedestrians' right of way in crosswalks, bicyclists riding with traffic, and all modes of sharing the road safely; and

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WHEREAS, the Legislature wishes to update said policy to ensure that the Legislature is kept informed of prospective cost and potential challenges of such projects prior to considering and adopting same; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, the second paragraph of the Ulster County Pedestrian and Bike Policy shall be amended to read as follows:

Designs for bicycle and pedestrian accommodations (e.g., bicycle lanes, sidewalks, off road trails, bicycle racks, shelters, crosswalks, and traffic calming solutions) shall be provided in new construction, reconstruction, bridge, and maintenance projects initiated by Ulster County, unless the following condition is met:

- **Bicyclists and pedestrians are prohibited by law from using the roadway. In this instance, bicyclists and pedestrians will be accommodated elsewhere within the right of way or within the same transportation corridor.; and, be it further**

RESOLVED, Ulster County Pedestrian and Bike Policy shall be amended to include the following additional paragraph:

No less than thirty (30) days prior to the date on which a **bridge** capital project pertaining to UCPBP is submitted to the Legislature for consideration, the Commissioner of Public Works is required to submit a written ~~report~~ **notification** to the Legislature's Public Works and Capital Projects Committee detailing considerations made in compliance with the UCPBP; including but not limited to the projected budget, scope of construction, timeline for completion and anticipated bonds required for said capital project, if any.

and moves its adoption.

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES:

NOES:

Postponed in Committee: Housing and Transportation on May 8, 2025 with consent

Postponed in Committee: Housing and Transportation on June 5, 2025 with consent

Postponed in Committee: Housing and Transportation on July 3, 2025 with consent

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Postponed in Committee: Housing and Transportation on August 7, 2025 with consent

Passed Committee: Housing and Transportation on _____.

Passed Committee: Public Works and Capital Projects on _____.

Passed Committee: Ways and Means on _____.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

NONE