

Establishing A Pedestrian And Bicycle Policy

The Public Works and Capital Projects Committee (Chairman Loughran and Legislators Decker, Hochberg, Sheeley, Fabiano, Felicello and Roberts) and Legislators R.S. Parete and Terrizzi (members of Ulster County Trails Advisory Committee) and Legislator Zimet offer the following:

WHEREAS, bicycling and walking are important forms of transportation and recreation in our community, and walking and bicycling contribute to health, fitness, and economic development, and

WHEREAS, cost effective roadway and facility improvements can be provided as both "stand alone" projects and integrated into projects and programs, and

WHEREAS, the NYS Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) has affirmed the need to integrate pedestrian and bicycle facilities in NYSDOT's policy, planning, implementation, and operations efforts through its Bicycle and Pedestrian Policy adopted October 1996, and

WHEREAS, Ulster County's Non-Motorized Transportation Plan recommended in 2008 that Ulster County adopt a "Complete Streets" program, with "Complete Streets" defined as facilities that are "designed and operated to enable safe access for all users," including pedestrians, bicyclists, transit riders, children, the elderly, and people with disabilities, and

WHEREAS, the Ulster County Trails Advisory Committee recommends that Ulster County adopt a "Complete Streets" program, and

WHEREAS, increased bicycling and walking trips is intended not only to reduce the carbon footprint in Ulster County but also to promote increased exercise among children and adults, especially among the 36% of school-aged children in Ulster County who are overweight or at risk of becoming overweight, as documented by the Healthy Eating And Living survey conducted in 2007 by the Ulster County Department of Health with funding support from the Ulster County Legislature's Health Services Committee; and

WHEREAS, educating the public about safety, health, and mobility are part of being a quality community, and

WHEREAS, development of pedestrian, bicycle, and transit infrastructure offers long term cost savings and opportunities to create safe and convenient non-motorized travel; and designing for universal access may assist in qualifying capital projects for additional funding, and

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WHEREAS, the Public Works and Capital Projects Committee has met and reviewed said request with a majority of the members voting approval, now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, the County of Ulster hereby establishes a Pedestrian and Bicycle Policy **which purpose is to establish appropriate design standards** 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,

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and move its adoption.

ADOPTED AS AMENDED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 28 NOES: 0
(Absent: Legislators Aiello, Decker, Loughran and
Stoeckeler)
(Legislator Hansut left at 8:25 PM)

Legislator Fabiano motioned, seconded by Legislator Hochberg to amend the resolution adding to the “RESOLVED” the following language as shown in bold font **“which purpose is to establish appropriate design standards”**, in the body of the resolution.

MOTION ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 28 NOES: 0
(Absent: Legislators Aiello, Decker, Loughran and
Stoeckeler)
(Legislator Hansut left at 8:25 PM)

FINANCIAL IMPACT:
UNKNOWN

0726

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STATE OF NEW YORK

ss:

COUNTY OF ULSTER

This is to certify that I, the undersigned Deputy Clerk of the Legislature of the County of Ulster have compared the foregoing resolution with the original resolution now on file in the office of said clerk, and which was adopted by said Legislature on the 8th Day of July, 2009, and that the same is a true and correct transcript of said resolution and of the whole thereof.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and seal of the County of Ulster this 10th Day of July in the year Two Thousand and Nine.

/s/ Karen L. Binder
Karen L. Binder, Deputy Clerk
Ulster County Legislature

Submitted to the County Executive this

10th Day of July, 2009.

/s/ Karen L. Binder
Karen L. Binder, Deputy Clerk
Ulster County Legislature

Approved by the County Executive this

20th Day of July, 2009.

/s/ Michael P. Hein
Michael P. Hein, County Executive