



ULSTER COUNTY LEGISLATIVE NEWS

ULSTER COUNTY NEWS INFORMATION

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Ulster County Legislature Updates Bicycle & Pedestrian Policy to Better Protect Vulnerable Road Users

(Kingston, NY) – In its September Session, the Ulster County Legislature voted to improve the County’s Bicycle & Pedestrian Policy to increase consideration given to vulnerable road users on County roads. Resolution 225, sponsored by Legislator Eric Stewart (District 18) requires the County Department of Public Works to consider the feasibility of added sidewalks or bike lanes to County bridges when they are rehabilitated.

“Our current pedestrian-bike policy implemented in 2009 successfully incorporated requirements for larger shoulders, rumble strips, better signage and other improvements to increase the safety of vulnerable road users; however, requirements for a designated lane on bridges for pedestrians and bicyclists remained an oversight. My amendment to include such a lane on County bridges requires that the Department of Public Works explain in writing why or why not such a lane would be feasible. This provides an additional layer of oversight by the Legislature to make sure that the safety requirements of these users are considered in the design process for new bridges and renovation of existing bridges in order to foster safer travel and recreation for everyone.,” said **Legislator Eric Stewart**.

Per the updated policy, the Commissioner of Public Works shall inform the Chair of the Legislature’s Public Works & Capital Projects Committee of their decision to expand intermodal infrastructure to County owned bridges when they are repaired, or explain the circumstances as to why they could not be accommodated on each project.

“Updating this policy will allow the County to balance our goals for safer streets with the capacity of our Department of Public Works to upgrade our County bridges in a timely manner to ensure the most efficient use of taxpayer dollars where they are most needed. I look forward to hearing from the Commissioner of Public Works as this policy is implemented,” said **Legislator Herbert Litts, III (District 9), Deputy Chair of the Public Works & Capital Projects Committee**.

Full text of Resolution No. 225 can be found [here](#).

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