



ULSTER COUNTY LEGISLATIVE NEWS

ULSTER COUNTY NEWS INFORMATION

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Ulster County Legislature Passes Law to Protect Vulnerable Road Users 3 Foot Passing Now Required on County Roads

(Kingston, NY) – In its October Session, the Ulster County Legislature unanimously adopted Proposed Local Law No. 3 of 2025, setting a minimum safe passing distance of three feet for motorists passing pedestrians and cyclists on County roads.

"The right to feel safe as a cyclist or pedestrian on a roadway has long eluded residents of Ulster County. A epidemic of traffic violence has cut short too many lives, and left county residents feeling unsafe using methods of transportation other than cars. This is not only a matter of safety; it is a matter of dignity and equity. While more must be done, with this legislation we are taking one step closer to creating that reality. Everyone should feel safe using our roads," **said Majority Leader Abe Uchitelle (District 5)**, a Main Sponsor of the Proposed Local Law.

Ulster County owns and maintains over four hundred miles of county highways, including many scenic roads popular with cyclists and pedestrians such as Springtown Road in New Paltz, River Road in Esopus, Hurley Mountain Road in Hurley and Marbletown and Lucas Turnpike between Ulster and Rochester. Most county roads do not have sidewalks and consist of a standard narrow shoulder.

"A pedestrian-vehicle collision is a life shattering event that is all too common in our community. It leaves pedestrian victims with lifelong injuries, and many become fearful of ever getting on a bike or walking on the road again. We urge motorists to be cognizant of those walking or biking and recognize the power and responsibility they have to move over," **said Vice Chair Megan Sperry (District 17)**, a Main Sponsor of the Proposed Local Law.

"I am grateful to every one of my colleagues for supporting this measure to protect everyone on the road. The unanimous passage of this law shows that Ulster County is committed to leading the effort to ensure vulnerable road users can safely share our streets, and we will continue to examine how we can improve our intermodal transportation network, and we will continue to

examine how we can improve our intermodal transportation network,” **said Deputy Majority Leader Aaron Levine (District 1)**, a Main Sponsor of the Proposed Local Law.

Per the Ulster County Charter, the County Executive has thirty days after passage to hold a public hearing on the Proposed Local Law, upon which it becomes Law when filed with the New York State Secretary of State. Full text of the Proposed Local Law can be found [HERE](#).

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