

CITY OF ONEIDA
MINUTES OF THE TRAFFIC SAFETY BOARD

April 21, 2026
2:00 p.m.

MEMBERS:

IN ATTENDANCE

Chairman Bruce Burke	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Vice-Chairman Donald White	<input type="checkbox"/>
Erwin Smith	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Brahim Zogby	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Michael Geer	<input type="checkbox"/>
Brian Bortree	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Gary Laureti	<input type="checkbox"/>
Jennifer Bailey	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Cindy Bortree	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Michael Kaiser	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

ADVISORS:

Police Chief Steven Lowell	<input type="checkbox"/>
City Engineer Jeff Rowe	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Traffic Advisor Shawn Palmer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Police Lieutenant Ryan Warner	<input type="checkbox"/>

OTHERS PRESENT:

City Manager Kyle Lovell
Police Lieutenant Keith Hudson
Fire Department Assistant Chief Dennis Relyea
Community Service Officer Paul Kodya

The regular meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m. by Chairman Bruce Burke.

Approval of January 20, 2026 Meeting Minutes Distributed for Review Prior to April 21, 2026 Meeting.

Moved by: Brahim Zogby
Seconded by: Erwin Smith

RESOLVED that the minutes of the regular meeting of January 20, 2026 are hereby approved as presented.

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0

Abstain: 0

Absent: 3 (White, Geer, Laureti)

MOTION CARRIED

OLD BUSINESS

1. Seneca Street Elementary School Lights and Signs

Discussion: City Manager Kyle Lovell reported that he had inquired into potential grant and funding opportunities for the school zone light and signage project. Discussion was held regarding carrying the matter to the next meeting pending additional information, no formal action taken at this time.

2. Owl's Nest Rear Delivery Access

Discussion: Chairman Bruce Burke requested an update regarding the trial use of traffic cones to reserve the rear delivery access area. Community Service Officer Paul Kodya reported that the cones had not been effective, noting they had been moved and the issue persisted.

Further discussion followed regarding alternative options, including installation of signage, restricting parking during certain hours, and increased enforcement. Lieutenant Keith Hudson noted that the driveway area is not clearly identifiable and that signage may assist with compliance. Board members discussed that enforcement may be the solution, rather than signage.

Moved by: Brian Bortree

Seconded by: Erwin Smith

RESOLVED that the City first attempt notification and enforcement efforts regarding parking in the rear delivery access area prior to installation of signage.

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0

Abstain: 0

Absent: 3 (White, Geer, Laureti)

MOTION CARRIED

3. Traffic Safety Board Liaison to Common Council

Discussion: Chairman Bruce Burke recommended appointing a consistent representative to attend both Traffic Safety Board and Common Council meetings to improve communication between the two bodies. Discussion noted that having a designated liaison attend meetings regularly would improve communication and continuity between the Board and Common Council. Brian Bortree volunteered to serve as liaison.

Moved by: Brahim Zogby
Seconded by: Erwin Smith

RESOLVED that Brian Bortree be appointed as Traffic Safety Board liaison to the Common Council.

Ayes: 6

Nays: 0

Abstain: 1 (B. Bortree)

Absent: 3 (White, Geer, Laureti)

MOTION CARRIED

AGENDA ITEMS

1. HP Hood Truck Traffic and Signage Concerns

Discussion: The Board discussed ongoing issues involving tractor trailers utilizing incorrect routes and turning around in residential areas near HP Hood. Erwin Smith stated that prior attempts to install signage on Route 5 had been unsuccessful due to State jurisdiction.

Further discussion included concerns regarding GPS routing errors directing trucks to the incorrect entrance, language barriers for drivers, and limitations of local law enforcement due to jurisdictional and court restrictions. Several members suggested HP Hood update commercial routing information and GPS data.

City Manager Kyle Lovell and Assistant Fire Chief Dennis Relyea tested separate GPS applications during the meeting and confirmed inconsistent routing information between platforms. Discussion also included possible communication with HP Hood representatives regarding correction of addresses and navigation data.

No formal motion was made, however the Board agreed to continue discussions with HP Hood representatives and request additional information regarding commercial GPS routing corrections prior to the next meeting.

2. City-wide Consideration of Bus Stop Signage Installation

Discussion: City Manager Kyle Lovell reported concerns raised by two Common Council members regarding the need for bus stop signage throughout the city. Discussion focused on whether adequate bus stop signage currently exists and whether additional signs should be installed to clearly identify designated bus stop locations.

Board members discussed coordination with the bus company and County representatives to determine responsibility for installation and maintenance of signage. ADA accessibility considerations were also noted as part of the broader discussion, but the primary focus remained on ensuring bus stops are clearly marked for public awareness and use.

City Manager Kyle Lovell stated that he will look into the matter further, including coordination with appropriate agencies regarding installation and responsibility for bus stop signage.

No formal motion was made at this time.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Parking of Recreational Vehicles in Residential Areas

Discussion: Board member Brahim Zogby distributed copies of local code provisions relating to recreational vehicle parking and raised concerns regarding visibility, emergency access, and neighborhood impacts. Discussion followed regarding whether enforcement responsibility lies with the Police Department or Code Enforcement. Lieutenant Keith Hudson stated that the Police Department does not typically enforce these matters. Board members discussed possible review with Code Enforcement regarding current practices and permit requirements.

No formal motion was made at this time.

2. Temporary Speed Limit and Detour Signage Concerns

Discussion: Chief of Police Steve Lowell raised a concern to the Board prior to the meeting regarding traffic speeds and temporary detour conditions associated with the ongoing bridge construction on Route 46.

It was discussed that any modification to speed limits would require coordination with Madison County, particularly where jurisdiction applies. Traffic Advisor Shawn Palmer stated that additional research is needed to determine what changes, if any, are feasible. It was noted that portions of Cobb Street fall under County jurisdiction.

Concerns were raised that signage alone may not be sufficient to modify driver behavior without enforcement. In response, Lieutenant Keith Hudson stated that a License Plate Reader (LPR) trailer is already deployed on North Lake Street and suggested that it could be repositioned further along the roadway to gather additional data and monitor compliance. The possibility of

targeted enforcement was discussed.

No formal motion was made at this time.

3. Rail Trail Crosswalks and Maintenance

Discussion: Board member Michael Geer raised a concern prior to the meeting regarding the lack of crosswalks along the Oneida Rail Trail. The Board discussed the installation and maintenance of crosswalks along the trail, discussion also included concerns regarding pedestrian visibility and potential liability if crossings are not clearly marked.

Further discussion included the cost of paint, the amount of staff time required for painting, and ongoing maintenance concerns. Traffic Advisor Shawn Palmer noted that current staffing and seasonal workload limitations make additional projects difficult to complete during the construction season.

Board members also discussed possible grant opportunities, historic significance of the trail, and whether additional signage may be more practical than annual repainting. City Manager Kyle Lovell stated that he would continue exploring possible funding opportunities for future improvements.

No formal motion was made at this time.

Next Meeting Tuesday July 20, 2026, at 2:00pm

Motion to adjourn by: Brian Bortree

Seconded by: Michael Kaiser

The meeting is hereby adjourned at 3:03 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Jaime Feith-Mallory
Traffic Safety Board Secretary