

TRAFFIC SAFETY BOARD AGENDA

April 21, 2026 at 2:00 p.m.
Common Council Chambers
109 N. Main Street
Oneida, NY 13421

Call to Order

Pledge of Allegiance

Acceptance of previous meetings minutes

Old Business

- Seneca Street Elementary School lights and signs
- Owl's Nest rear delivery access – trial use of traffic cones
- Traffic Safety Board liaison to Common Council / board communications

Agenda Items:

1. Citizen Complaint – Tractor-trailer traffic on Seneca Street, Belmont Avenue, and Broad Street related to Hood deliveries; request for coordination with NYSDOT and business for routing, signage, and enforcement solutions. (City Manager Kyle Lovell)
2. City-wide consideration of bus stop signage installation. (City Manager Kyle Lovell)

New Business

CITY OF ONEIDA
MINUTES OF THE TRAFFIC SAFETY BOARD

January 20, 2026

2:00 p.m.

MEMBERS:

IN ATTENDANCE

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

ADVISORS:

Police Chief Steven Lowell	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Fire Department Chief Scott Jones	<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
Assistant Chief of Police Willam Clark
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 October 21, 2025 Meeting Minutes Distributed for Review Prior to January 20, 2026 Meeting.

Discussion: Board member Michael Geer noted a correction to the October 21, 2025 minutes. He was present at that meeting but had been recorded as absent. The correction was acknowledged by the Secretary to be amended.

Moved by: Bruce Burke
Seconded by: Brian Bortree

RESOLVED that the minutes of the regular meeting of October 21, 2025 are hereby approved as amended to reflect that Michael Geer was in attendance.

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0

Abstain: 0

Absent: 2 (White, Laureti)

MOTION CARRIED

OLD BUSINESS

1. Seneca Street Elementary School Lights and Signs

Discussion: Traffic Advisor Shawn Palmer reported that two quotes had been previously circulated via email for flashing school zone beacons: approximately \$27,000 for a solar-powered unit and \$49,000 for a hardwired unit. The City is exploring potential cost-sharing with the Oneida City School District.

Discussion noted that lower-cost flashing beacon signs (approximately \$179 each, as used by other municipalities) are not compliant with federal traffic codes regarding flash frequency, and therefore cannot be installed. The possibility of photo/speed enforcement cameras was briefly raised; the City of Syracuse's arrangement with a vendor — where the vendor fronted costs and shared revenue — was referenced as a potential model, though no direct cost or grant information is available at this time.

City Manager Kyle Lovell indicated he will reach out to Assemblyman Brian Miller and Senator Joseph Griffo to inquire about the availability of Congressionally Delegated Spending (CDS) funds or other state funding for the school zone beacon project. Lovell will also contact Superintendent Matt Carpenter regarding the school district's participation and cost-sharing.

Police Chief Steve Lowell noted that a crossing guard is stationed at Seneca Street Elementary and that cones have been placed in nearby parking spots to maintain crosswalk visibility, which has been effective. This item will be carried to the next meeting pending outreach results.

AGENDA ITEMS

1. Cleveland Avenue – Removal of Speed Tracker Caused Increase in Speeding

Discussion: Board member Jennifer Bailey, who lives in the area, reported ongoing speeding issues in the morning hours, particularly around 7:00 a.m. It was noted that a radar speed trailer had previously been deployed on Cleveland Avenue for several months but was removed for winter storage due to battery sensitivity to cold temperatures.

Chief Lowell shared that data collected from the radar trailer indicated that speeding, while present, may be less frequent than visually perceived — vehicles often appear to be traveling faster than they are. He noted that speeding citations in 2024–2025 were up approximately 30% over the prior year and offered to share the full data report with the Board via email.

Various traffic calming measures were discussed, including stop signs (noted as ineffective based on observed non-compliance), traffic signals (costly), speed bumps (concerns raised regarding plowing, liability, and displacement of traffic to adjacent streets), and speed divots (a reverse-profile pavement treatment observed at Hudson Valley Community College, to be researched further). Portable rubber speed bumps were also discussed as a seasonal option (installed spring through fall), to be explored for cost.

The Board agreed that the most immediate and effective approach is targeted enforcement. Chief Lowell confirmed police will deploy in that area during morning hours. A courtesy letter to be sent to residents on Cleveland Avenue will include a request for community members to report speeding vehicles to police with vehicle description and plate number when possible. The Board also discussed the possibility of reinstalling the radar speed trailer if battery conditions permit, however this is not a viable option for the winter season.

Moved by: Brian Bortree
Seconded by: Erwin Smith

RESOLVED that the Police Department will increase enforcement presence on Cleveland Avenue, and that a courtesy letter to residents include a request for community reporting of speeding vehicles.

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0

Abstain: 0

Absent: 2 (White, Laureti)

MOTION CARRIED

2. Cleveland Avenue – DPW Requests Installation of “No Parking November-April” Signs on Both Sides of Cleveland Avenue, from Seneca Street to South Willow Street

Discussion: DPW forwarded a request to consider installing seasonal no parking signs on both sides of Cleveland Avenue from Seneca Street to South Willow Street (November through April). The request originated following an incident in which a plow struck a parked vehicle on Cleveland Avenue during normal daytime hours.

Discussion acknowledged the difficulty of plowing Cleveland Avenue, a narrow and divided street, when vehicles are parked along the street. Concerns were raised that installing signs on Cleveland specifically could prompt similar requests citywide, which would involve significant cost (approximately \$100 per sign; approximately 23 signs estimated for Cleveland Avenue alone). Board members noted that overnight parking restrictions (2:00 a.m. to 6:00 a.m.) already exist city-wide by ordinance, and that the Cleveland Avenue incident occurred during daylight hours, outside those hours.

The concept of snow towing — as practiced in smaller surrounding villages — was discussed as a potential tool, though concerns about storage capacity and manpower were noted. Assistant Police Chief Clark indicated that written warnings and tickets are currently placed on vehicles observed violating overnight parking rules, but no towing program currently exists. The Board

agreed that education and community outreach was the most appropriate immediate step.

City Manager Lovell summarized the proposed action: a courtesy letter will be sent to all residents of Cleveland Avenue reminding them of the existing overnight parking ordinance (no parking 2:00 a.m. – 6:00 a.m.) and requesting their cooperation in moving vehicles during snow events to allow plows to pass safely. The letter will also reference the need for emergency vehicle access.

Moved by: Brian Bortree
Seconded by: Michael Geer

RESOLVED that a courtesy letter be sent to residents of Cleveland Avenue reminding them of the overnight parking ordinance and requesting cooperation in removing vehicles from the street during snow events.

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0

Abstain: 0

Absent: 2 (White, Laureti)

MOTION CARRIED

3. Oneida Street – Request for “No Parking in Driveway” Signs for Rear Delivery Access at the Owl’s Nest on Oneida Street.

Discussion: Paul Kodya, Representative of the Owl's Nest Club and Community Service Officer for Oneida City Police Department, appeared before the Board to request installation of "No Parking" signs in the rear delivery access area of the Owl's Nest on Oneida Street. He explained that on court days (Tuesdays and Thursdays), when snow covers the pavement markings, individuals park in the truck access area, preventing delivery vehicles from backing in safely and potentially creating a traffic hazard on Broad Street.

Discussion noted that installing permanent signs could invite a large number of similar requests from other private properties citywide, and that New York State and federal guidance cautions against sign overuse. Traffic Advisor Palmer noted the area has public parking maintained by the City on Oneida Street.

The Board recommended a trial use of traffic cones, to be placed by Owl's Nest staff on delivery days (Tuesdays and Thursdays) prior to expected deliveries, and removed once deliveries are complete. Paul Kodya agreed to try this approach. City Manager Lovell suggested tabling the item to allow the cone approach to be evaluated, with a report back at the next Traffic Safety Board meeting.

Moved by: Erwin Smith
Seconded by: Brian Bortree

RESOLVED that the Owl's Nest no parking sign request be tabled to the next meeting, with the Owl's Nest to trial use of traffic cones on delivery days in the interim.

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0

Abstain: 0

Absent: 2 (White, Laureti)

MOTION CARRIED

NEW BUSINESS

1. Cleveland Avenue and Seneca Street – Request for Installation of Crosswalk

Discussion: Board member Brian Bortree raised a request brought forward by the Third Ward Councilperson to install a crosswalk at the end of Cleveland Avenue at Seneca Street. The area currently has no marked crosswalk, despite being a pedestrian crossing point for children walking to and from school. Concerns were noted that the absence of a crosswalk creates both a safety hazard and potential liability in the event of a pedestrian incident.

Traffic Advisor Palmer estimated the cost at approximately a bucket of paint (roughly \$150). The crossing point is at the end of the divided section of Cleveland Avenue, where the median does not extend to the intersection, allowing for a single uninterrupted crosswalk. No additional signage was deemed necessary.

City Manager Lovell agreed to submit a work order for the crosswalk installation. Palmer noted that crosswalk painting is performed later in the year after paving has been completed to avoid being paved over.

Moved by: Brian Bortree
Seconded by: Erwin Smith

RESOLVED that a crosswalk be installed at the intersection of Cleveland Avenue and Seneca Street.

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0

Abstain: 0

Absent: 2 (White, Laureti)

MOTION CARRIED

2. Main Street – Sidewalk Snow Removal

Discussion: Board member Michael Geer raised a concern regarding the timeliness of sidewalk snow removal on Main Street. He cited a specific instance around December 27–28, during a weekend snowstorm, when sidewalks were not cleared until the following Monday, forcing pedestrians to walk in the roadway. Given reduced daylight and vehicle traffic, Geer expressed

concern that a pedestrian injury or fatality could result. City Manager Lovell noted that property owners are responsible for clearing snow and ice from the sidewalks, and that the City only provides the sidewalk plow as a courtesy.

City Engineer Jeff Rowe noted that overtime budgets prioritize street plowing for public safety; sidewalk clearing is performed during regular work hours. City Manager Lovell acknowledged the budgetary constraint and agreed to speak with City Maintenance Supervisor Scott Babcock about prioritizing high-pedestrian-traffic areas on Main Street during major storm events. No formal motion was made; the item was noted as a safety concern to be communicated to City Maintenance.

3. Route 5 Entrance to Oneida – Request to Install Deer Crossing Sign

Discussion: Board member Brian Bortree conveyed a request from the Third Ward Councilperson regarding the installation of a deer crossing sign on Route 5 as travelers enter the City of Oneida, where deer crossings have been causing near-miss incidents. Bortree correctly noted that Route 5 is a state road and that sign placement would be the jurisdiction of the New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT), not the City. No action was taken; the matter would need to be directed to the State.

4. Communications – Board Liaison to Common Council

Discussion: Board member Brahim Zogby raised a concern regarding the flow of communication between the Traffic Safety Board, the Common Council, department heads, and the general public. He noted that information often takes a lengthy path through intermediaries before reaching the Board, potentially delaying action on safety issues. He suggested that the Board consider actively inviting Common Council members to attend Traffic Safety Board meetings, and that meeting minutes be distributed to all Council members directly, not only to the City Clerk.

Chief Lowell suggested that the Board consider electing a liaison member to attend the bi-monthly Common Council meetings and provide a Traffic Safety Board report. City Manager Lovell agreed to reach out to Council members to encourage attendance at future Traffic Safety Board meetings, particularly for agenda items affecting their respective wards.

No formal vote was taken at this time; City Manager Lovell to contact Council members encouraging attendance; Traffic Safety Board to consider nominating a liaison at a future meeting.

Next Meeting Tuesday April 21, 2026, at 2:00pm
Motion to adjourn by: Brian Bortree
Seconded by: Erwin Smith

The meeting is hereby adjourned at 3:31 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Jaime Feith-Mallory
Traffic Safety Board Secretary



Outlook

Agenda item # 1

Fw: Traffic on Belmont Ave--Hood tractor trailers

From Kyle Lovell <klovell@oneidacityny.gov>
Date Mon 3/2/2026 10:24 AM
To Jaime Feith-Mallory <JFeith-Mallory@oneidacityny.gov>
Cc Steve Lowell <slowell@oneidacityny.gov>

Jaime,

This is for the next TSB meeting. Please place this issue on the upcoming agenda for discussion.

Thanks!

Kyle

From: Judy <jrosello458@verizon.net>
Sent: Tuesday, February 24, 2026 7:52 PM
To: Kyle Lovell <klovell@oneidacityny.gov>; Nathan Smith <nsmith@oneidacityny.gov>
Cc: Rick Rossi <rrossi@oneidacityny.gov>; JUDY ROSELLO <jrosello458@verizon.net>
Subject: Re: Traffic on Belmont Ave--Hood tractor trailers

Thank you. I hope the city will put some pressure on the State for the poor roadway signs, and Hood for their continued failure to provide a long-term solution. I look forward to hearing the city's plan to address this issue with all parties involved. Thanks again.

Judy Rosello
jrosello458@verizon.net

On Tuesday, February 24, 2026 at 03:46:10 PM EST, Nathan Smith <nsmith@oneidacityny.gov> wrote:

Hi Judy,


Thank you for taking the time to write and for clearly explaining your concerns. I completely understand your frustration, and I agree that tractor-trailer traffic on narrow residential streets—especially with snowbanks and winter conditions—is a serious safety issue.


It is disappointing to hear that this problem has resurfaced after a period of improvement, particularly given the history of the issue and prior assurances regarding truck routing. The frequency you're describing is concerning, and residents should not have to deal with repeated disruptions and safety risks in their own neighborhoods.

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I appreciate you bringing this back to our attention. I will be raising these concerns with City staff so the issue can be reviewed and addressed. Thank you again for your persistence and for advocating for your neighborhood.

Nate Smith
Ward 3 Common Counciler
City of Oneida

 315-527-6121

 nsmith@oneidacityny.gov

From: Judy <jrosello458@verizon.net>
Sent: Monday, February 23, 2026 4:28 PM
To: Kyle Lovell <klovell@oneidacityny.gov>; Nathan Smith <nsmith@oneidacityny.gov>
Cc: Rick Rossi <rrossi@oneidacityny.gov>; JUDY ROSELLO <jrosello458@verizon.net>
Subject: Traffic on Belmont Ave--Hood tractor trailers

Hello!

The saga of Hood delivery trucks traveling down Seneca, through our neighborhood (Belmont Ave) to get to their final destination continues--and it's actually as much of an issue as in the past (in my opinion, at least). Belmont is a neighborhood side street and too narrow for tractor-trailers, and now, adding the snow and high snow banks--it's a real safety and quality of life concern. This issue goes back years (apparently), but Hood can't seem to get it together to hold the drivers accountable? How is this fair to the residents on Seneca, Belmont, and Broad?

Andrea Hitchings provided a lot of detail on the history of this issue (below stream of emails), and for a while (through most of last year), it seemed to correct itself, but now the issue is back, and honestly, it's 2-3 times a week that I notice the trucks, and I am not even home every day! (Example Saturday at 4 and just now, and it's only Monday!)

As a long-term resident, I feel the State needs to be brought into the discussion to improve its signage on Rt. 5, and Hood needs to be held accountable for their third-party drivers' actions and make it right for its neighbors, instead of the excuse that the GPS used is not accurate...Also, maybe remind Hood that, as part of the expansion of the plant, we were told truck traffic would be barred from traveling in the neighborhoods surrounding the plant. So much for that...

I look forward to a resolution to this issue. Thanks so much.

Agenda item #1

Judy Rosello
458 Broad St.

Here is a snippet from September 2024 email from Andrea, which is attached in full further down.

On Tuesday, September 17, 2024 at 03:38:14 PM EDT, Andrea Hitchings <ahitchings@oneidacityny.gov> wrote:

As far as the tractor trailers going down Belmont and Broad, this has been an ongoing issue for years and a topic of many discussions at the City's Traffic Safety Board meetings. I was secretary on that board for a few years and I fielded many complaints about trucks driving down Seneca, Broad, and Allen Park Place, among others. We had the Hood plant manager at our meetings and things did improve for a bit after that. One thing we learned is that the navigation system used was not updated for the current traffic flow. Once they rectified that, things did improve. Additionally, we met with the DOT to request to have signs placed on Route 5 notifying the truck drivers of proper turns to enter the plant. Since it is a State Route, we have to get permission from DOT and the traffic signs cannot mention a business as that is considered advertising. The signs we had added near Price Chopper and Dunkin Donuts mention a "dairy plant". From what I understand though, many of the drivers do not speak or read English, so the signs we did place are not always effective, and once they pass Broad St, the next turn is Seneca, so that is why we see these trucks. Many realize they missed the turn but too late to do anything. After we had the DOT place the signs, things did improve after that as well, but I have noticed more trucks traveling down Seneca in recent weeks. My plan is to reach out to the Traffic Safety Board to advocate for us residents. While nothing we do will work 100% of the time, there is still room to improve. I will reach out to Traffic Safety Board and also to Hood to see what we can do to improve things. Additionally, there is a form on the City's website that you and your neighbors can complete that will be sent directly to the Traffic Safety Board secretary. I am more than happy to help alleviate or rectify this issue on your behalf, but if you would like to complete this form for any other traffic issues, please feel free to fill this out any time you see fit. Here is the link [Traffic Safety Board Contact Form | Oneida New York \(oneidacityny.gov\)](#).

I will look into your concerns and get back to you in a few days.

Judy

Judy Rosello
jrosello458@verizon.net

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: Andrea Hitchings <ahitchings@oneidacityny.gov>

To: Judy <jrosello458@verizon.net>

Cc: Rick Rossi <rrossi@oneidacityny.gov>

Sent: Thursday, September 19, 2024 at 03:28:31 PM EDT

Subject: Re: Ward 3 concerns

Good afternoon Judy,

Agenda item #1

I have a couple updates for you.

First, with regard to the bridge over the mini-brook on Broad Street, our wonderful DPW team has let me know that they will be painting/giving it a facelift before the end of the year. So that is great news!

Second, I reached out to the Chairman of the Traffic Safety Board, Public Safety Commissioner, and Police Chief to have the ongoing issue with the Hood trucks looked into and discussed at the next board meeting in October. I also plan to attend this meeting. As I stated before, this has been an ongoing issue and will probably always be an issue to some degree since we do not control the drivers' actions. But we need to do as much as possible to ensure the safety of our residents and property, so we will talk about what our options are. I will keep you updated as I learn more.

As far as the long grass at 502 Broad St., I will let you know on this once I have an update.

Please feel free to reach out should you have any other questions or concerns.

Have a great afternoon!

Thank you!

All the best,
Andrea Hitchings
City of Oneida
Common Council
Ward 3

From: Judy <jrosello458@verizon.net>
Sent: Tuesday, September 17, 2024 4:48 PM
To: Andrea Hitchings <ahitchings@oneidacityny.gov>
Cc: Rick Rossi <rrossi@oneidacityny.gov>
Subject: Re: Ward 3 concerns

Thank you so much! Glad to hear and appreciate the guidance relating to the Hood truck issue!

On Tuesday, September 17, 2024 at 03:38:14 PM EDT, Andrea Hitchings <ahitchings@oneidacityny.gov> wrote:

Good afternoon Judy,

Thank you for reaching out.

I will look into the issues with the grass at 502 Broad St and the railing over the mini-brook and get back to you. We will do what we can to clean things up.

As far as the tractor trailers going down Belmont and Broad, this has been an ongoing issue for years and a topic of many discussions at the City's Traffic Safety Board meetings. I was secretary on that board for a few years and I fielded many complaints about trucks driving down Seneca, Broad, and Allen Park Place, among others. We had the Hood plant manager at our meetings

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and things did improve for a bit after that. One thing we learned is that the navigation system used was not updated for the current traffic flow. Once they rectified that, things did improve. Additionally, we met with the DOT to request to have signs placed on Route 5 notifying the truck drivers of proper turns to enter the plant. Since it is a State Route, we have to get permission from DOT and the traffic signs cannot mention a business as that is considered advertising. The signs we had added near Price Chopper and Dunkin Donuts mention a "dairy plant". From what I understand though, many of the drivers do not speak or read English, so the signs we did place are not always effective, and once they pass Broad St, the next turn is Seneca, so that is why we see these trucks. Many realize they missed the turn but too late to do anything. After we had the DOT place the signs, things did improve after that as well, but I have noticed more trucks traveling down Seneca in recent weeks. My plan is to reach out to the Traffic Safety Board to advocate for us residents. While nothing we do will work 100% of the time, there is still room to improve. I will reach out to Traffic Safety Board and also to Hood to see what we can do to improve things. Additionally, there is a form on the City's website that you and your neighbors can complete that will be sent directly to the Traffic Safety Board secretary. I am more than happy to help alleviate or rectify this issue on your behalf, but if you would like to complete this form for any other traffic issues, please feel free to fill this out any time you see fit. Here is the link [Traffic Safety Board Contact Form | Oneida New York \(oneidacityny.gov\)](#).

Oneida, NY

I will look into your concerns and get back to you in a few days.

In the meantime, please let me know if you have any other concerns or follow-up. I am always happy to help.

Thank you.

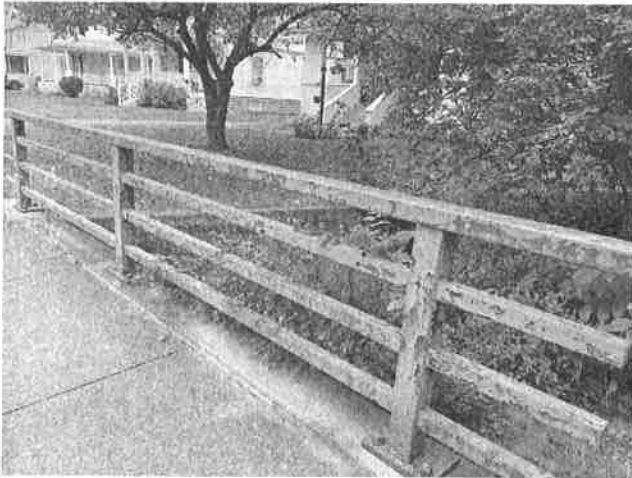
All the best,
Andrea Hitchings
City of Oneida
Common Council
Ward 3

Agenda item #1

From: Judy <jrosello458@verizon.net>
Sent: Tuesday, September 17, 2024 11:44 AM
To: Andrea Hitchings <ahitchings@oneidacityny.gov>
Cc: Rick Rossi <rrossi@oneidacityny.gov>
Subject: Ward 3 concerns

Dear Andrea, I am a resident of your Ward and have some concerns I'd like see addressed:

1. In front of 502 Broad St., by the curb, there is a long patch of grass that is now over 2 feet tall/wide. It is not wild flowers, but I believe the remnants of some digging done by one of the utilities. Seems it should be mowed--can we get this resolved.
2. Metal railing kitty corner from my house (across the street on Broad) where the creek flows under the street. Really needs attention. See picture.



3. HOOD tractor trailer trucks turning onto Seneca from Rt. 5 (in error) and using Belmont Ave. to get to Broad. Now that I work much of my time from home I see this quite often. Totally unacceptable and a safety issue in addition to a quality of life issue. Side streets aren't for tractor trailers. I have reached out to HOOD corporate multiple times and was told they'd pass the concern on--yet it continues. There needs to be a sign up at the intersection of Seneca and Rt. 5 stating something to the effect that HOOD deliveries proceed straight. As my councilor, I think the city needs some involvement to correct this. When this whole debacle started with the HOOD expansion we were told trucks would be barred from traveling on Broad to get to the facility....apparently, those rules are forgotten.

Your help in resolving these concerns is very much appreciated. Thank you.

Judy Rosello
Ward 3 resident

 Outlook

Agenda item #2

Agenda Item

From Kyle Lovell <klovell@oneidacityny.gov>

Date Mon 3/9/2026 9:58 AM

To Jaime Feith-Mallory <JFeith-Mallory@oneidacityny.gov>

Cc Nathan Smith <nsmith@oneidacityny.gov>; Steve Lowell <slowell@oneidacityny.gov>

Good Morning Jaime,


For the next TSB meeting, please add an agenda item to consider installation of bus stop signage throughout the city.


Thank you!


Sincerely,

Kyle P. Lovell
City Manager
City of Oneida
109 N Main St.
Oneida, NY 13421



 315-363-4800

 klovell@oneidacityny.gov

 www.oneidacityny.gov