

**Ulster County Non-Motorized Transportation Plan  
Minutes  
Public Meeting  
March 28, 2007, 6:00 pm  
Woodstock Community Center  
Woodstock, N.Y.**

**1. Welcome**

Bill Tobin – Ulster County Transportation Council

Bill Tobin welcomed participants to the first Ulster County Non-Motorized Transportation Plan (NMTP) public meeting. The NMTP is a long-range transportation plan that recognizes a greater need for bicycle and pedestrian projects in Ulster County. The plan will pull together data, identify gaps, reach out to local groups, and eventually focus on 15 priority projects.

Bill talked about the goals of the Ulster County Transportation Council. He welcomed NYS Department of Transportation official Russ Robbins and Ulster County Legislator Peter J. Liepmann. Bill acknowledged the support provided by the Ulster County Transportation Council Non-Motorized Transportation Plan Advisory Committee. Bill then introduced Jeff Olson of Alta Planning and Design.

**2. Introduction of the Ulster County Non-Motorized Transportation Plan**

Jeff Olson – Alta Planning and Design

Jeff opened the meeting by talking about Alta Planning and Design. Alta has worked on projects all over the United States and has offices across the county. Jeff also introduced Robin Dropkin, Executive director of Parks & Trails New York, the organization that is helping with the public outreach for the NMTP project.

Jeff began his presentation by talking about a *US News and World Report* article “[Making America Better](http://www.usnews.com/usnews/issue/070318/),” published March 27. The headline story highlights how European drivers enjoy less traffic congestion because of roundabouts and fewer stoplights. It also describes how Germany and the Netherlands are making streets safer for cycling. Jeff said that if *US News and World Report* highlights these trends, they must be important. He used these examples to illustrate the importance of the NMTP for Ulster County.

Jeff then pointed out that a non-motorized transportation plan means more to Ulster County than just helping bicyclists and pedestrians get around more easily. Health and the environment are important to the County, and can be improved if more people walk or ride bikes. Heart disease is the #1 killer in Ulster County. For the first time in the last century, the next generation will have a shorter lifespan than the current one.

Jeff advised the group not to think small and used a quote from Daniel Burnham, the Chicago architect who organized the Columbian Exposition in 1893 and authored the 1909 Chicago Plan: “Make no small plans.”

Jeff cited a British program, Sustrans, begun in 1988, to develop non-motorized transportation. To date, Sustrans has created over 10,000 miles of pathways in England. Every mile post in the Sustrans network features a sculpture, making these trails the largest outdoor art museum in the world.

### **3. Power Point Presentation**

Jeff used a Power Point presentation to outline the parameters of the NMTP project. [Power Point presentation http://www.altaplanning.com/ulsternmtp/documents.html](http://www.altaplanning.com/ulsternmtp/documents.html)

### **4. County Wide Proposals**

At the close of the Power Point presentation Jeff asked for ideas for county-wide projects. As each audience member made a proposal it was added to a flip chart. (See [DRAFT project list – http://www.altaplanning.com/ulsternmtp/documents.html](http://www.altaplanning.com/ulsternmtp/documents.html))

### **5. Breakout Groups**

Following the countywide project discussion, participants broke out into groups to discuss local projects. Participants were urged to draw on the County maps provided and fill out comment cards. The breakout session lasted 20 minutes. Following the breakouts, each group facilitator reported the group's ideas back to the larger group. These proposals were also added to the flip charts.

### **6. Close**

Ulster County Planning Director Dennis Doyle spoke at the close of the meeting and thanked everyone for attending. He thanked the Ulster County Transportation Council Non-Motorized Transportation Plan Advisory Committee (NTAC) for all its hard work. He noted that Ulster County was a green space between the metropolitan areas of New York City and the Capitol Region and thus had a special role to play.

“We need to preserve our sense of identity and uniqueness,” he said. He likened the UC NMTP to a golf course, repeating an analogy Jeff Olson had used earlier in the day. “We know where we are, at the tee box, and we know where we want to be, on the green. What we need to do is find a connection, the fairway.”

Participants were urged at the end of the meeting to fill out the NMTP online survey at [www.altaplanning.com/ulsternmtp](http://www.altaplanning.com/ulsternmtp).

Jeff Olson and Bill Tobin thanked everyone for attending. The meeting adjourned at 8:30pm.