



City of Largo Agenda Item 5

Meeting Date
07/10/18

Presenter: Rafal Cieslak P.E., Eng Services Assistant Director

Department: EN – Engineering Services

TITLE:

GOLF CART UPDATE

This item is to provide the City Commission with an update on the use of golf carts on City roadways. The Traffic and Transportation Committee (Committee) has received and reviewed a request to allow golf carts on City roadways from the Palm Hill Mobile Home Park community for the area located between 8th Avenue SW and West Bay Drive, and between Clearwater-Largo Road and Seminole Boulevard.

The Committee reviewed this request and its impacts citywide. The City is divided by several major roadways where golf carts would not be allowed. This includes county or state roadways with speed limits above 35 MPH. The existing local roadway network does not provide safe areas to cross golf carts across these roadways. Additionally, all roadways in the City have speed limits that are higher than the maximum speed of a golf cart. The maximum speed of a golf cart is around 20 MPH. This will cause traffic safety issues between the golf carts and other vehicles driving the speed limit on the roadways.

An additional concern is golf carts on City brick streets. The non-uniform surface of a brick pavement due to the settlement of the bricks can cause potential safety issues with golf carts while turning. This, combined with the lack of safety features on a golf cart, pose a safety issue.

Staff reviewed several other municipalities and their policies on golf carts using public roadways. The City of St. Petersburg and the City of Clearwater do not have ordinances that allow golf carts on City streets. The City of

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Budgeted Amount: \$0.00 Budget Page No(s): NA Available Amount: \$0.00 Expenditure Amount: \$0.00

Additional Budgetary Information: Not applicable

Funding Source(s): NA Sufficient Funds Available: Yes No Budget Amendment Required: Yes No Source: N/A

City Attorney Reviewed: Yes No N/A Advisory Board Recommendation: For Against N/A Consistent With: Yes No N/A Strategic Plan

Potential Motion/Direction Requested: DOES THE CITY COMMISSION CONCUR WITH THE FINDINGS TO NOT ALLOW GOLF CARTS ON CITY ROADWAYS AT THIS TIME?

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Dunedin does have an ordinance allowing the use of golf carts. The City of Dunedin has a process for registering golf carts, and a list of streets where golf carts are not allowed, and zones where they are allowed. Streets where golf carts are not allowed have designated crossing points that are indicated on a City map. Dunedin also has requirements for the golf carts to be upgraded with reflective devices and lights if they are to be operated at night.

Finally, State statutes do not allow golf carts on City streets unless regulations are adopted by a City Commission that would require signage where the golf carts would be allowed to operate. Low-speed Vehicles (LSV's), which operate at a higher speed and have more safety features than a standard golf cart, can operate on roadways according to Florida Statute Section 316.2122, unless the City prohibits them in the interest of safety. LSV's must meet all the requirements listed in the State Statutes and are only allowed on roadways with posted speed limits lower than 35 MPH. The City of Largo does not currently prohibit the use of LSV's.

In conclusion, although it is feasible, the Traffic and Transportation Committee does not recommend allowing golf carts on City roadways. Golf carts do not offer the protection of a typical vehicle, and with the operating speeds below the speed limit of the neighborhood, the Committee views this as an unsafe condition.