



PINELLAS PARK CITY COUNCIL

WORKSHOP MEMORANDUM

FROM: Tom Nicholls, Public Works Administrator

DATE: January 6, 2009

SUBJECT: DESIGNATION OF ROADWAYS FOR GOLF CART PATHS FOR MAINLANDS SUBDIVISION


BACKGROUND:

The Police Chief and Public Works Administrator will be present to discuss the designation of roadways for golf cart use.

Attached Backup May Be Required:

- Attorney Approval
- Purchasing Approval
- OMB Approval
- Finance Approval
- Minutes from Board or Commission
- Document required for Council action

- Workshop Agenda
- Council Agenda

Department Head Approval 

City Manager Approval _____



PINELLAS PARK POLICE DEPARTMENT

Date: 11/05/2008

To: Chief Thomas via COC

From: Cpl. S. Galley #353

Re: Golf Carts

At your request I have researched information on the possibility of allowing golf carts on the roadway. It is my understanding that we could allow golf carts on municipal roadways through use of signage and or ordinance. It would be my recommendation that ordinance be included if the city does choose to allow golf carts on municipal roadways to help clarify what can and can not be allowed.

There are several statutes that surround this topic but there is a specific statute and definition for golf carts.

State statute 320.01(22) is "Golf cart" means a motor vehicle that is designed and manufactured for operation on a golf course for sporting or recreational purposes and that is not capable of exceeding speeds of 20 miles per hour.

State statute 316.212 specifically governs golf carts. It reads "Operation of golf carts on certain roadways. It is my understanding after reading this statute that this would allow the City to possibly allow golf carts on certain roadways.

Subsection (1) The city would have to determine if the municipal roadway in question for use could be used safely by a golf cart. If it is determined safe, then the city would be responsible for posting the appropriate signs, such as "roadway shared by golf carts", along the roadway being designated. It would be my recommendation that the city traffic division complete a survey of speed, traffic volume, and roadway hazards to determine if the roadway would be safe for golf cart use.

Subsection (2) This section governs the ability of the golf cart to cross a State Highway at an intersection, midblock, or on the right of way. In order for this to occur the area would have to be approved by the Department of Transportation. Due to the high volume of traffic, traffic crashes, and speeds of the State Highways within the City of Pinellas Park, I do not believe we could gain approval for this section.

Subsection (3) This section governs the ability to cross the roadway from one mobile home park to another across a street or highway. The city would have to approve a safe

crossing area and then provide appropriate signs and traffic control to allow the golf carts to safely cross.

Subsection (4) Allows a golf cart to be operated within a State Park Road System if the speed limit is less than 35 mph.

Subsection (5) This section allows golf carts to be used only on the designated roadway between the hours of sunrise and sunset. It does provide the city with the ability to allow the golf carts to operate from sunset to sunrise but the golf carts must be equipped with headlights, brake lights, turn signals, and a windshield. This would most likely be done through the city ordinance if allowed during darkness.

Subsection (6) This governs the safety equipment of the golf cart. Subsection (8) would allow us to require additional safety equipment.

Subsection (7) Prohibits the use of a golf cart on public roads or street by a person under the age of 14. It would be my recommendation that an ordinance be put in place by the city that would not allow operation of a golf cart by a person under the age of 16.

Subsection (8) Gives local government the ability to enact an ordinance regarding golf cart operation and equipment. Signs would have to be present informing the residents that there is an ordinance in place. This sign could be attached to the golf cart posted signs. The ordinance would only apply to an unlicensed driver. Some examples of additional equipment required by other cities is a sign on the rear of the golf cart saying "slow moving vehicle" and having a raised safety flag attached to the golf cart.

At this time, the City of Pinellas Park does not meet any of the statutory requirements to allow golf carts to be operated on the highways or municipal roadways within the city limits. Violations of the above listed statute, 316.212 will result in a noncriminal moving traffic violation with a fee of \$141.00 and points added to the violator's license.

In regards to subsection 8, some local governments have made a requirement that if someone wants to operate a golf cart according to the statute, they must pass a police inspection and have a decal upon the golf cart signifying that the golf cart was inspected. A fee can be assessed for this inspection.

I have attached some information that I downloaded from the internet to provide samples of ordinances and guidelines written by other cities.

It is my understanding that as long as the city follows Florida Statute 316.212, golf carts could have access to designated municipal roadways within the City of Pinellas Park.

If there are any questions please contact me.


Cpl. S. Galley #353

Select Year:

The 2008 Florida Statutes

Title XXIII
MOTOR VEHICLES

Chapter 316
STATE UNIFORM TRAFFIC CONTROL

[View Entire Chapter](#)

316.212 Operation of golf carts on certain roadways.--The operation of a golf cart upon the public roads or streets of this state is prohibited except as provided herein:

(1) A golf cart may be operated only upon a county road that has been designated by a county, or a municipal street that has been designated by a municipality, for use by golf carts. Prior to making such a designation, the responsible local governmental entity must first determine that golf carts may safely travel on or cross the public road or street, considering factors including the speed, volume, and character of motor vehicle traffic using the road or street. Upon a determination that golf carts may be safely operated on a designated road or street, the responsible governmental entity shall post appropriate signs to indicate that such operation is allowed.

(2) A golf cart may be operated on a part of the State Highway System only under the following conditions:

(a) To cross a portion of the State Highway System which intersects a county road or municipal street that has been designated for use by golf carts if the Department of Transportation has reviewed and approved the location and design of the crossing and any traffic control devices needed for safety purposes.

(b) To cross, at midblock, a part of the State Highway System where a golf course is constructed on both sides of the highway if the Department of Transportation has reviewed and approved the location and design of the crossing and any traffic control devices needed for safety purposes.

(c) A golf cart may be operated on a state road that has been designated for transfer to a local government unit pursuant to s. [335.0415](#) if the Department of Transportation determines that the operation of a golf cart within the right-of-way of the road will not impede the safe and efficient flow of motor vehicular traffic. The department may authorize the operation of golf carts on such a road if:

1. The road is the only available public road along which golf carts may travel or cross or the road provides the safest travel route among alternative routes available; and
2. The speed, volume, and character of motor vehicular traffic using the road is considered in making such a determination.

Upon its determination that golf carts may be operated on a given road, the department shall post

appropriate signs on the road to indicate that such operation is allowed.

(3) Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, a golf cart may be operated for the purpose of crossing a street or highway where a single mobile home park is located on both sides of the street or highway and is divided by that street or highway, provided that the governmental entity having original jurisdiction over such street or highway shall review and approve the location of the crossing and require implementation of any traffic controls needed for safety purposes. This subsection shall apply only to residents or guests of the mobile home park. If notice is posted at the entrance and exit of any mobile home park where residents of the park operate golf carts or electric vehicles within the confines of the park, it is not necessary for the park to have a gate or other device at the entrance and exit in order for such golf carts or electric vehicles to be lawfully operated in the park.

(4) Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, if authorized by the Division of Recreation and Parks of the Department of Environmental Protection, a golf cart may be operated on a road that is part of the State Park Road System if the posted speed limit is 35 miles per hour or less.

(5) A golf cart may be operated only during the hours between sunrise and sunset, unless the responsible governmental entity has determined that a golf cart may be operated during the hours between sunset and sunrise and the golf cart is equipped with headlights, brake lights, turn signals, and a windshield.

(6) A golf cart must be equipped with efficient brakes, reliable steering apparatus, safe tires, a rearview mirror, and red reflectorized warning devices in both the front and rear.

(7) A golf cart may not be operated on public roads or streets by any person under the age of 14.

(8) A local governmental entity may enact an ordinance regarding golf cart operation and equipment which is more restrictive than those enumerated in this section. Upon enactment of such ordinance, the local governmental entity shall post appropriate signs or otherwise inform the residents that such an ordinance exists and that it will be enforced within the local government's jurisdictional territory. An ordinance referred to in this section must apply only to an unlicensed driver.

(9) A violation of this section is a noncriminal traffic infraction, punishable pursuant to chapter 318 as a moving violation for infractions of subsections (1)-(5) or a local ordinance corresponding thereto and enacted pursuant to subsection (8), or punishable pursuant to chapter 318 as a nonmoving violation for infractions of subsection (6), subsection (7), or a local ordinance corresponding thereto and enacted pursuant to subsection (8).

History.--s. 2, ch. 83-188; s. 1, ch. 84-111; s. 2, ch. 88-253; s. 322, ch. 95-148; s. 4, ch. 96-413; s. 168, ch. 99-248; s. 7, ch. 2000-313; s. 6, ch. 2005-164; s. 3, ch. 2008-98.