



To : Nicholas C. Mimms, P.E., City Manager

FROM : John R. Andrews, P.E., City Engineer

RE : Golf Cart Utilization on City Streets

DATE : August 1, 2017

The Engineering Department has been charged with the task of providing recommendations regarding the use of golf carts upon the streets, designated multi-use sidewalks and designated trails in the City of Fort Pierce. Currently Florida Statutes Chapter 316 prohibits the operation of golf carts upon public roads or streets. An exception is provided for county roads or city streets providing the governmental entity can assure that golf carts can safely share the road with motor vehicles. Factors such as speed, volume, and character of vehicular traffic use must be taken into consideration for these designations.

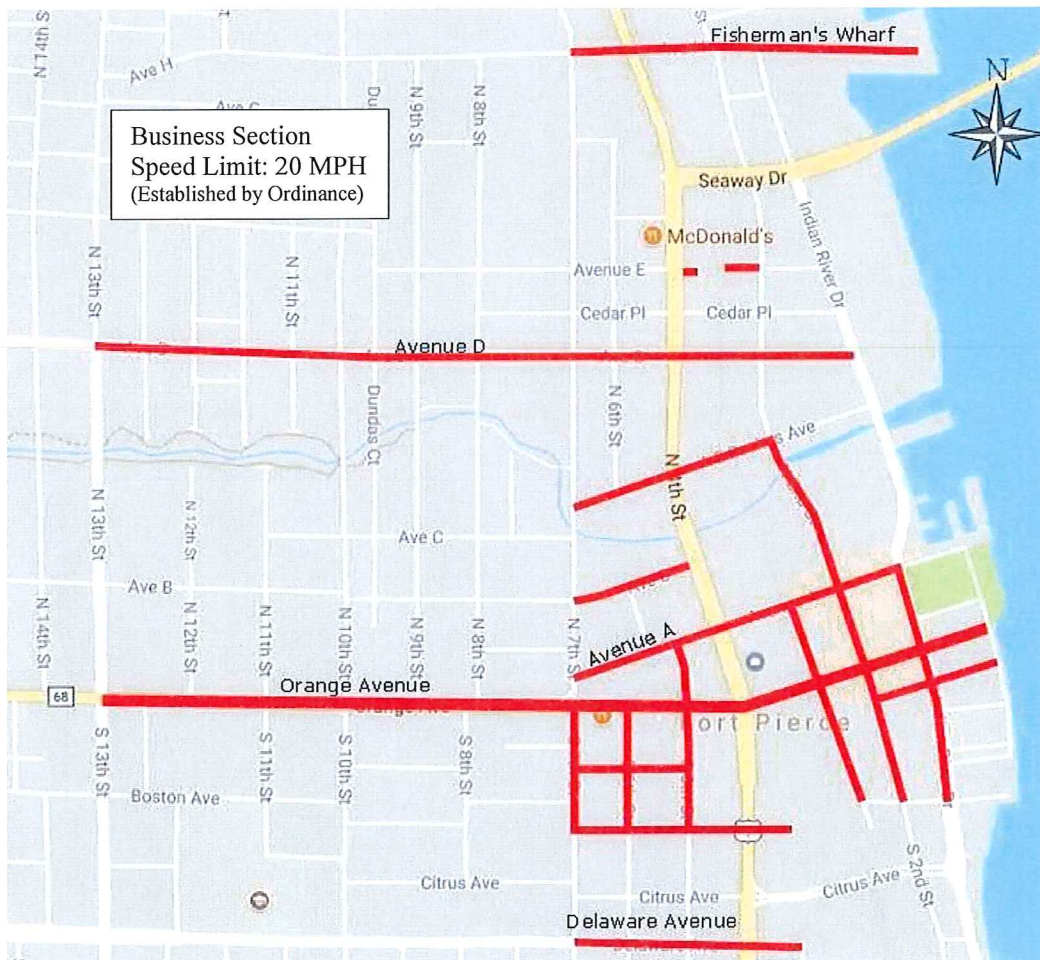
To assist in recommending a policy for the City of Fort Pierce, a review of ordinances from municipalities across the state was conducted. All of the municipalities that have granted public right-of-way usage by golf carts are similar regarding safety equipment requirements as specified by FS 316. These include efficient brakes, reliable steering, safe tires, a rearview mirror, and red reflectorized warning devices in both the front and rear. But discrepancies do arise when it comes to age restrictions, insurance requirements, and commercial leasing. Following, please find a synopsis of municipalities and their specific ordinance requirements as related to golf cart usage on public streets:

Municipality	Age Restriction / Driver's License Req'd.	Designated Streets in Ordinance	Designated Crossings for State Highways	Liability Insurance Required	Travel Permitted on Sidewalk / Paths	Commercial Leasing for use on Public Roads	Golf Cart Speed Limit
City of Vero Beach	Valid Driver's License	Yes – Specific streets on beach only	Yes – Where designated, but not called out in ordinance	Yes – Personal injury and property damage	No – Cannot be operated where other motor vehicles are not legal	No restrictions	20 MPH
City of Tavares	16 No driver's License Req'd.	All streets posted 35 MPH or less	Yes – Where designated, but not called out in ordinance	No	Compliant with traffic laws	No restrictions	20 MPH
Taylor County	16 No driver's License Req'd.	Yes – Specific streets listed in ordinance	Yes – Specific crossings identified in ordinance to cross state roads	Yes - \$50,000 per person bodily injury, \$100,000 property	Compliant with traffic laws	Commercial leasing prohibited	None

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City of Winter Garden	Valid Driver's License or 18 and complete safety course	In designated golf cart communities only and posted 25 MPH or less	No	No	Compliant with traffic laws	No restrictions	20 MPH
Brevard County	14	Yes	Yes – Must include proper signage	No	Yes – Designated sidewalks, trails. Minimum 8' wide, proper signage and 15 MPH limit	No restrictions	None
Town of Cutler Bay	Valid Driver's License	All streets excluding state roads	Yes – Where designated, but not called out in ordinance	Yes	No	No restrictions	25 MPH

Another step in the development of recommendations for golf cart usage was to compile an inventory of speed limits of the city's streets:

- Business Section: 20 MPH (as defined by the following diagram)



- All St. Lucie County roads outside of the "Business Section" of the city have speed limits greater than 25 MPH within the city limits.
- All state highways within the city limits have speed limits greater than 25 MPH.
- All remaining city streets; "Residential Sections", have a speed limit of 25 MPH as established by ordinance.

As a general conclusion, the majority of municipalities within the state have not addressed the issue of golf carts utilizing public right-of-ways. Of the ones who have, most have been confined to specific areas, "golf cart communities", utilizing streets with 25 MPH speed limits and not granting a city or county wide acceptance.

The most conservative approach would be to follow State Statutes and prohibit the use of golf carts on public streets. However, by assuring that golf carts can be safely operated in conjunction with other motor vehicles the city has options. To assure this safety, the Engineering Department recommends the following:

	RECOMMENDATIONS	COMMENTS
1.	Golf cart use shall be confined to streets with a posted speed limit of 25 MPH or less.	Golf cart usage to be limited to residential streets with maximum posted speed limit of 25 MPH. Streets must be posted with signs to indicate such operation is allowed.
2.	Golf cart use shall be confined to the residential sections of the city and be limited to adopted "golf cart neighborhoods".	Areas of the city should be identified and codified by ordinance designating specific sections of streets to be shared with golf carts.
3.	Golf carts shall cross county or state roadways at designated crossings only.	Individual crossings will need to be cited within the ordinance.
4.	Meet all safety requirements as established by the Florida Statutes Chapter 316.	Safety requirements include: efficient brakes, reliable steering, safe tires, a rearview mirror, and red reflectorized warning devices in both the front and the rear of the vehicle.
5.	Golf cart operators shall have a valid driver's license.	It shall be unlawful for a golf cart to be operated on designated city streets by any person who is not the holder of and in possession of a valid driver's license. No person may operate a golf cart on city streets who has a suspended or revoked driver's license.

	RECOMMENDATIONS	COMMENTS
6.	Golf cart operators shall be required to have liability insurance.	Owner of the golf cart shall purchase and maintain liability insurance insuring against personal injury and property damage.
7.	Golf carts shall not be permitted on sidewalks and or multi-use trails. Golf carts must be compliant with all traffic laws.	It shall be unlawful for any golf cart to be operated on city sidewalks, right-of-way, and other locations on which a motor vehicle cannot legally be operated.

These guidelines will provide the basis for enabling the city to designate certain streets within the city as adequately safe to operate golf carts on the public streets.

JRA/jra