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File #: 2025-178 Version: 1 Name:

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On agenda: 2/27/2025 Final action:

Title: Discussion Regarding Golf Carts and Low Speed Vehicles. Review State Statue and Options for Implementing City Ordinances.

Attachments: 1. [Winter Workshop Golf Carts FINAL](#)

- [History \(1\)](#)
- [Text](#)

Placement: Proclamations and Special presentations

Action Requested: Motion / Vote

title

Discussion Regarding Golf Carts and Low Speed Vehicles. Review State Statue and Options for Implementing City Ordinances.

body

Submitted By: Colt Schwerdt, Public Works Director

Strategic Plan Link: The City's Goal of safe, clean, and beautiful.

Executive Summary (General Business): This is an overview and discussion of state statutes as applicable to golf carts and low-speed vehicles, and ideas on how to implement case-by-case ordinances led by stakeholder applications. The impetus prompting this discussion includes safety concerns from illegal sidewalk golf cart use, the perceived demand for golf cart usage within the City, and planning and approval implications. City ordinances are allowable by state statute if they adopt more restrictive rules and regulations which would increase safety and limit usage, such as lower speed targeted streets on designated private or municipal roadways (excludes state owned roadways) by specific designations. The goals for this discussion are to receive feedback and share ideas on approaches and potential courses of action, as well as receive from Council perspective on the future of the use of low-speed vehicles within the City.

Presentation Information: 30-minute presentation with 30-minute question and answer.

Staff Recommendation: Move that the Council support the continued enforcement under current default state statute rules and regulations to address the unlawful operation of golf carts and low speed vehicles within the City.

Alternate Recommendations:

1. Move that the Council amend the recommendation and identify specific roadway segment(s), area(s), and/or communit(ies) for review if roadway improvements can assist with safety and demand. A 3rd party consultant study would be completed for recommendations and potential ordinance proposals.
2. Move that the Council amend the recommendation and provide staff direction.

Background: With continued population growth and traffic volumes, the use of golf carts and low-speed vehicle use has increased. With this increase comes rising safety concerns over the illegal use of golf carts and low-speed vehicles on sidewalks. Differences in roadway speeds and maximum low speed vehicle speeds have prompted the idea of golf cart friendly communities and/or interconnected paths. State statute allows additional restrictions to be put on low-speed vehicles and golf cart use. Golf carts are supposed to be reserved for golf courses and are currently prohibited on City sidewalks, which are intended for pedestrian traffic. The use of low-speed vehicles, if ever fully permitted within the City, would likely be reserved for use on roadways under 35 miles per hour, and purpose-built paths that are designated specifically for low-speed vehicles. Such permission of low-speed vehicles within the City would require local and state approval to ensure increased safety, as well as a more restrictive ordinance. With the various master planned communities and community development districts, there may also be opportunities to coordinate an interconnected path system and/or designate specific areas as low-speed and cart friendly.

Issues/Analysis: To address the myriad concerns on safety and administration of allowing low-speed vehicles in the City, state law allows city ordinances to be more restrictive than what is provided in the relevant state statute. Considerations in permitting low-speed vehicles include required investment in infrastructure, as well as relevant studies that enable the City to conclude that such low-speed vehicles may safely travel on or cross any roads/paths identified, and may be restricted by our current available space in existing rights-of-way (e.g., conflicts with utility easements, attempted real property acquisition to obtain the needed space, etc.).

Financial Information: N/A

Special Consideration: Given recent speed reductions in neighborhood streets to 25 mph, a case-by-case ordinance approach could be an available option, as there are many variables and gaps in the current infrastructure as well as resident outreach and funding requirements.

Location of Project: TBD. Ideally specific roadways and/or areas vs citywide application.

Attachments:

1. Golf Carts and Low Speed Vehicles Presentation

NOTE: All of the listed items in the "Attachment" section above are in the custody of the City Clerk. Any item(s) not provided in City Council packets are available upon request from the City Clerk.

Internal Reference Number: N/A

Legal Sufficiency Review:

N/A