



October 9, 2024

Mayor and Council,

I am writing to express my concerns regarding the potential allowance of golf carts on public roads within the City of Marshall. Community Transit of United Community Action Partnership offers public transportation service to 8 Counties in Southwest Minnesota, which includes the City of Marshall. The Marshall fleet has 13 buses that operate 7 days a week that provide over 65,000 passenger trips while putting on close to 160,000 miles within the city limits annually.

While I recognize the appeal of golf carts as an alternative mode of transportation, I believe that allowing them on public roads pose several significant safety and operational challenges.

**Reduced Visibility:** Golf carts are smaller and lower to the ground, making them less visible to bus drivers. This increases the risk of collisions, particularly at intersections or during lane changes.

**Increased Stopping Time:** Buses typically require a longer stopping distance due to their size and weight. If golf carts suddenly enter the roadway or slow down unexpectedly, it can lead to rear-end collisions or other accidents.

**Traffic Flow Disruption:** Golf carts move slower than regular traffic, which can disrupt the flow and lead to congestion. This may force buses to navigate around them, increasing the likelihood of accidents.

**Passenger Safety:** Sudden stops or swerves to avoid golf carts can endanger bus passengers, especially riders, although seat belted, who are unable to hold on securely.

**Pedestrian Conflicts:** Golf carts often share spaces with pedestrians, which can create confusion and lead to unsafe situations, particularly near bus stops where foot traffic is common.

**Public Transit Impact:** Allowing golf carts could undermine public transit initiatives by diverting potential riders from buses. This could lead to decreased ridership and funding challenges for our public transit system, which is crucial for many residents.

In light of these concerns, I strongly urge the Council to reconsider any plans to allow golf carts on public roads throughout the City of Marshall. Our priority should be to maintain a safe, efficient, and cohesive transportation system that serves the best interests of all residents. We appreciate your support and thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Best,

Michelle Miranowski  
Transportation Operations Administrator  
United Community Action Partnership