



COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET

Meeting Type: Council - Regular

Meeting Date: November 7, 2024

Agenda Item Type: Old Business

Staff Contact: Brandon Perkins, Town Manager

STAFF REPORT

AGENDA ITEM:

Consideration of a revision to section 36-75 of the Golf Cart Ordinance to allow golf carts or low-speed motor vehicles to be operated on Dogwood Trail between Meadowood Lane and Greencastle Road.

BACKGROUND:

The Town's current golf cart ordinance prohibits the operation of golf carts along Dogwood Trail. This provision has been in the ordinance for many years – likely since the ordinance was first adopted 20+ years ago – but has not been regularly enforced by the Police Department. That changed in October after a young person was illegally operating a golf cart on Dogwood Trail and was involved in an accident.

Thankfully, no one was injured in that accident, but the accident was a catalyst for our PD to place more focus on this provision of the ordinance. Unfortunately, this action also brought to light the fact that many of our golf cart users on the west side of HWY 74 are unable to access Peachtree City via the cut through path at the end of Greencastle Lane. Combined with PTC's decision to close Crabapple Lane, this provision essentially eliminates all golf cart connectivity between Tyrone and PTC, which is not our intent.

After hearing input from many citizens who have been impacted by this matter, Staff (including Chief Mundy and Lt. DeLoose from the PD) got together to discuss how we might be able to safely allow golf carts to continue connecting to PTC via Greencastle. The consensus is that this can easily be achieved by simply changing the current ordinance to allow golf cart operations on Dogwood Trail between Meadowood Lane and Greencastle. That stretch of roadway is relatively flat with good visibility and the speed limit is 35 mph, which matches state law pertaining to golf cart operations on roadways.

Staff proposes a multi-phase approach to this matter:

1. Approve the aforementioned change to the ordinance tonight to immediately allow golf carts to be operated along that section of Dogwood Trail. It's important to note that legal counsel was included in our discussions and Mr. Davenport agrees with the recommended ordinance revision.

2. Over the next couple of weeks, the Town will install new signage along this section of Dogwood to include golf cart/share the road signs, higher visibility speed signs, and a flashing speed sign.

3. Continue with our planned installation of a signalized crossing at Tullamore next Summer as soon as the paving project is completed.

4. Consider adding “sharrows” along this section of the roadway in conjunction with the new crossing.

Just a note: Some residents on the East side of Hwy 74 have reached out asking why we cannot take similar steps on their section of Dogwood Trail so that they can operate their golf carts up to Dogwood Church and then into PTC via the old road bed adjacent to Hwy 74. There are several major obstacles on that side:

-The speed limit there is 45mph and state law does not allow golf carts to be operated on roadways with a speed limit higher than 35mph. Can the Town change the speed limit? Yes, but this should only be completed after a proper speed study has been completed and these are costly and risky in that the study may not warrant the change.

-Dogwood Church has not given us approval to allow golf cart traffic to traverse its property, so the Town cannot encourage this to happen by means of an ordinance change.

-It is staff’s understanding that GDOT still owns the ROW that the old road bed rests on and they have not given permission for its use as a golf cart path.

FUNDING:

Funding for this proposal includes the purchase of signs, which would be negligible. The Town already has the flashing speed sign.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends approval.

ATTACHMENTS:

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PREVIOUS DISCUSSIONS:

This was previously discussed during the October 17th meeting.