



CITY OF WESTLAKE
Engineering Department
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STAFF MEMORANDUM

DATE: 8/27/2020

DESCRIPTION: GOLF CARTS ORDINANCE 2020-11

Final Recommendation

The Office of the City Engineer has reviewed the draft document “GOLF CARTS ORDINANCE 2020-11” and based on a comparison of applicable criteria and codes recommends approval by the Council. It is also recommended that an acceptance of the ordinance includes a request that appropriate City staff prepare necessary guidance documents to assist with the implementation of the ordinance.

Discussion

The City of Westlake is being developed with a sustainable framework that encourages multimodal transportation. New infrastructure will provide consideration to multiple transportation modes such as walking, bicycling, vehicles, and golf carts and will encourage various types of movements. Effectively integrating multiple modes of transportation can help advance various environmental, health, and congestion-mitigating benefits for communities.

In October of 2019 an ordinance was accepted by the City Council allowing the use of paved facilities by pedestrians, bicyclists, and/or other users that has separation from vehicular traffic. Golf carts may be used on these multi-modal paths in certain areas, under certain circumstances. The proposed ordinance clarifies this usage and some of the implementation of the golf cart use within the City boundaries.

Ordinance Criteria

Florida State Statute 316.212 “Operation of golf carts on certain roadways”, addresses acceptable usages and necessary restrictions of the activity. Counties or municipalities shall designate which roads golf carts are to be allowed to operate on. Traffic control and safety devices shall be considered for this use. It requires that when the entity makes a determination of the roads to allow golf carts on, speed, traffic volume, and character of motor vehicular traffic on the road should be considered. Golf carts within the right-of-way of the road should not impede the safe and efficient flow of motor vehicular traffic. Guidance with respect to acceptable speed limits for golf carts can be found by looking at the limits placed on streets that the state operates and allows golf carts on. This limit is 35 miles per hour or less. Also, golf carts 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. Additionally, golf carts 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, including horns

or other warning devices. There should be a minimum age not less than 14 years for drivers. and when golf carts share paths with other potential modes of transportation such as pedestrians and bicyclists the path should be no less than 8-feet in width and the speed limit on the path should be 15 mph.

Other Applicable Code Review

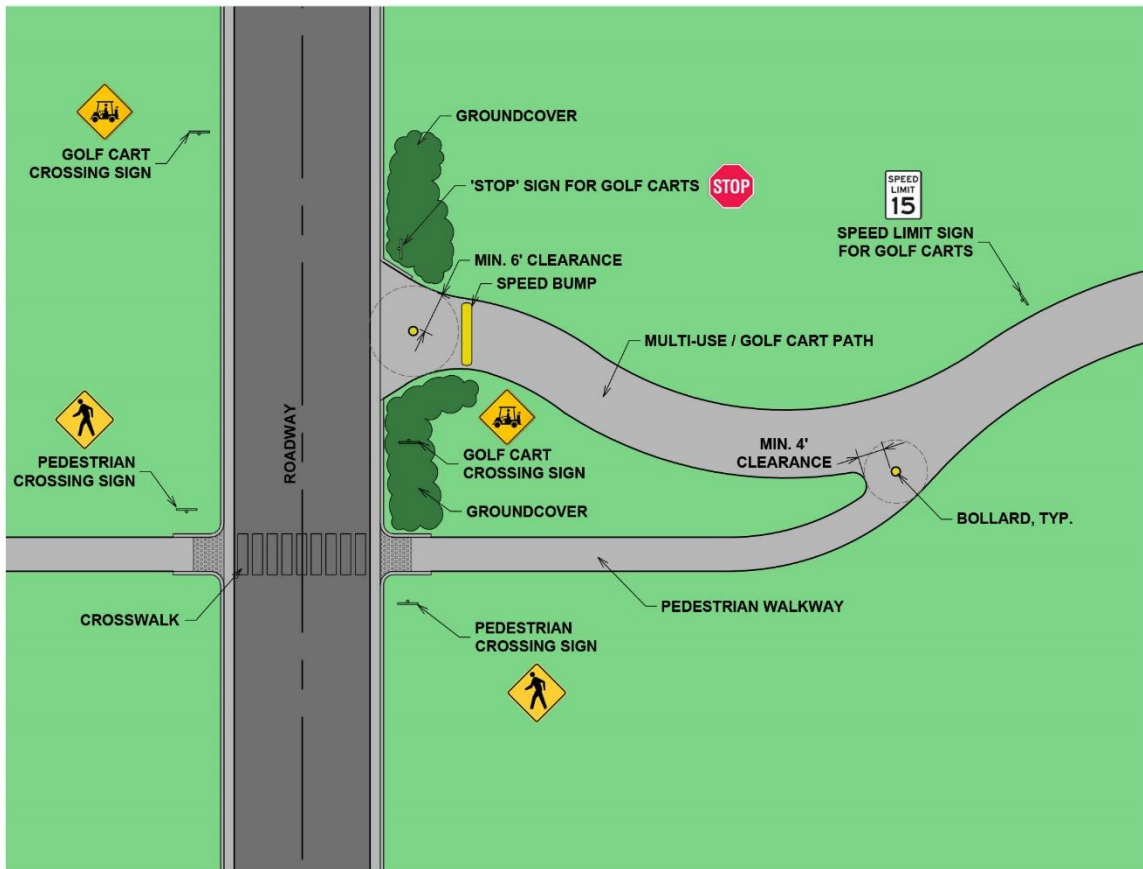
In addition to reviewing the state statute the Engineering Department reviewed ordinances and guidelines that other municipalities have adopted in Florida. It was found in this review that most municipalities adopted the requirements outlined in the state statute in a similar way that the ordinance was developed. It is our opinion that the ordinance meets the intent of the state statute and is similar to other codes and ordinances that have been adopted. The City staff is reaching out to the Florida Department of Transportation parallel to this report and will report if the Department has any comments on the proposed ordinance.

Use of Golf Carts within the City of Westlake

The City reviewed the Right-of-Ways within the City for speed, volume, and character of motor vehicular traffic. It was found that the design speed limit of roads in the City varies between 15 to 45 mph. Roads that have a speed limit of 35 mph and greater include Town Center Parkway West of the roundabout of the intersection of Town Center Parkway and Town Center Parkway South, Persimmon Boulevard west of Ilex Way and all of Seminole Pratt Whitney Road. For the most part, these roads are being designed with a multimodal path that will allow residence via this ordinance to move between private roads and points of interest, unless an existing facility conflicts with this pathway. These roads are not safe for the golf carts to travel on the vehicular roadway.

Traffic control devices (signs and pavement markings) shall be utilized for guidance and protection of the various types of users of the roadways, sidewalks and multi-modal pathways. Some examples of traffic safety devices are show in Exhibit A.

EXHIBIT A – EXAMPLE TRAFFIC & SAFETY DEVICES



Conclusion

The Engineering Department recommends that golf carts be permitted on City roads with a posted speed limit of 35 mph or less. Golf carts shall also be permitted on multi-modal pathways that are 8-feet in width or greater and shall operate at a speed of 15 mph on these pathways. Further coordination should occur with the Florida Department of Transportation for review of the implementation. Also, coordination with Palm Beach County should occur for crossings of County Roads.