

Municipality of Lakeshore – Report to Council

Strategic & Legal Affairs

Civic Affairs



To: Mayor & Members of Council
From: Brianna Coughlin, Division Leader – Civic Affairs
Date: April 6, 2022
Subject: Golf Cart Pilot Project – Status Update

Recommendation

This report is for information only.

Background

At the November 9, 2021 meeting, Council passed the following resolution:

Resolution #386-11-2021

Direct Administration to bring a report regarding a pilot program for the use of golf carts on roads in Lighthouse Cove.

Subsequent to this meeting, the Police Services Board passed the following resolution at the November 29, 2021 meeting:

Resolution #20-11-2021

Police Services Board support not allowing golf carts to drive on public roads.

Comments

On June 3, 2021, the Province of Ontario introduced a ten-year pilot project to allow the use of golf carts on certain roads in Huron-Kinloss and on Pelee Island, subject to conditions. This pilot project required a regulation under the *Highway Traffic Act*, as well as by-laws passed by the municipalities involved.

Information and guidelines relating to the program can be found at <https://www.ontario.ca/page/golf-cart-pilot-program>.

The current provincial guidelines require the following:

- No drugs or alcohol permitted when operating a golf cart (consequences under the Criminal Code of Canada and/or the *Highway Traffic Act* may apply).
- Operated by a driver with a valid A, B, C, D, E, F or G licence.
- Cannot carry passengers under eight years of age.
- Maximum road speed limit of 50 km/h.
- Allow crossing at a controlled intersection (where there is a traffic control signal, stop sign and/or other traffic control devices (e.g., yield signs) and traffic is controlled in all directions) that includes a road having a speed limit greater than 50km/h but not greater than 80 km/h.
- Only permitted to operate between April 1 and November 30 each year.
- Cannot tow other vehicles.
- Cannot be used for a driver's licence road test.
- Can be operated at any time of day.
- During the period that begins one-half hour before sunset and ends one half-hour after sunrise vehicles are required to have adequate nighttime lighting.
- Must be operated in the right-most lane, unless making a left turn.
- Cannot carry any combustible fuel while being driven.

This pilot project is currently limited to the municipalities of Huron-Kinloss and Pelee Island, as the intention of the program is to assess the use of golf carts in these areas over a specified period of time to examine their ability to safely integrate with other vehicle types, determine whether existing rules of the road are adequate; and, appropriate operating and licensing requirements before expanding their use and/or allowing these vehicles on-road permanently.

A revision to the *Highway Traffic Act* regulation allowing the pilot program would be required to permit Lakeshore to introduce a similar program. Administration met with members of the Ministry of Transportation to discuss the possibility of expanding the program to the Lighthouse Cove area, based on the direction of Council.

The Ministry of Transportation is currently in the process of evaluating the pilot program and, if no serious safety concerns arise, will be undertaking consultation with interested municipalities and other stakeholders to determine if the program should be continued, expanded or modified. The Ministry is aware of Lakeshore's desire to participate in the program and Administration will continue to monitor the status of the evaluation process at the Ministry.

Administration anticipates preparing another report once the Ministry of Transportation has completed its review of the pilot program and has indicated how it plans to proceed. Administration anticipates this will occur in late 2022.

Others Consulted

Ministry of Transportation

Financial Impacts

There are no financial impacts as a result of this report for information.

Report Approval Details

Document Title:	Golf Cart Pilot Project - Status Update.docx
Attachments:	
Final Approval Date:	Apr 6, 2022

This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:

Kristen Newman

Justin Rousseau

Truper McBride