

Allowing the on-road use of golf carts on Pelee Island

Background:

The Township of Pelee Island has over the last several years requested the Ministry of Transportation (MTO) to allow golf carts on-road as a transportation alternative due to the lack of transportation options available on the Island. Challenges related to transportation could negatively impact economic development, population growth, and business sustainability on Pelee Island.

MTO recognizes the importance of new or existing vehicle technology, especially if it expands mobility options for Ontarians – however safety remains a top priority. The safe integration of new or existing vehicle types with pedestrians and other vehicles is a key consideration before any vehicle type will be allowed on-road.

Since 2005, Ontario's *Highway Traffic Act* has given the ministry the authority to implement and evaluate pilot projects by regulation, to test the safe integration of new and existing vehicles on Ontario's public roads. Under this pilot authority, the ministry is seeking to explore options and develop a feasible solution to allow the use of golf carts on-road.

The pilot authority is intended to assess these vehicles over a specified period of time in order to examine their ability to safely integrate with other vehicle types, determine whether existing rules of the road are adequate, and the appropriateness of some unique operating and licensing requirements before expanding their use and/or allowing these vehicles on-road permanently.

Golf Carts

Although golf carts may resemble low-speed vehicles, they do not meet the safety standards for low-speed vehicles required in the Canadian *Motor Vehicle Safety Act* (MVSA) and therefore are currently not permitted on Ontario roads.

British Columbia (B.C.) is currently the only Canadian jurisdiction that allows golf carts on-road. B.C. announced a pilot for neighbourhood golf carts in August 2016, which was limited to the two communities of Village of Chase and Town of Qualicum Beach.

The ministry is interested in exploring the feasibility of these vehicles safely integrating with other road users while promoting road safety.

MTO is soliciting public comment on the proposal to permit the on-road use of golf carts on Pelee Island as part of a pilot project. This will allow the ministry to ensure golf carts can be safely integrated with other road users before further decisions are made.

MTO is considering the following proposal and invites you to submit your comments for consideration.

Proposed Golf Cart Pilot Framework:

Pilot Duration:

The length of the pilot will be for a prescribed period of 10 years, to account for the investment that will be made to purchase golf carts and to ensure sufficient time to effectively monitor and evaluate the pilot results.

Driver Qualification

Must have a valid A, B, C, D, E, F or G licence

Operating Requirements Include:

- Only permitted to be operated on Pelee Island;
- Maximum speed limit TBD, however will not be more than 50km/h;
- No towing other vehicles;
- Cannot be used for a road test;
- Require to display a slow moving vehicle sign;
- Cannot carry passengers under 9 years of age;
- Can only operate golf cart during daylight hours;
- Daytime running lamps must be illuminated;
- Cannot exceed a speed of 32 km/h; and,
- Golf cart can only be operated if the roads are free of ice, snow and slush.

Vehicle Safety Equipment Features Include:

- 2 - 4 seats
- A steering wheel
- Service brakes and parking or emergency brakes
- A rear-view mirror
- A horn
- Good quality tires
- Daytime running lights, turn signals and brake lights
- Reflectors
- Seatbelts

Insurance Requirements Include:

TBD

Registration Requirements Include:

Registration is not required, however Pelee Island would need to track the vehicles, e.g. by issuing a municipal permit.

Data Collection:

TBD – Pelee Island to remit data to the province, as requested.