

Allowing the on-road use of golf carts on Pelee Island and in Huron-Kinloss

Background:

MTO is exploring the feasibility of implementing a pilot program that would permit the on-road use of golf carts on Pelee Island and in Huron-Kinloss. Over the last several years, the Township of Pelee Island has requested the Ministry of Transportation (MTO) allow golf carts on-road as a transportation alternative due to the lack of transportation options available on the Island. More transportation options could help with economic development, population growth, and business sustainability on Pelee Island.

In addition, the Township of Huron-Kinloss has also requested the use of golf carts in small towns within their municipality, such as Ripley and Lucknow, which do not have many transportation options. This could improve accessibility and mobility in the municipality.

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, and 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 the 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 and in Huron-Kinloss 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 and in Huron-Kinloss;
- Only permitted to operate on roads with a maximum road speed limit of 50km/h;
- Cannot tow other vehicles;
- Cannot be used for a road test;
- Required to display a slow-moving vehicle sign;
- Cannot carry passengers under eight years of age;
- Can be operated during nighttime hours if adequate lighting requirements are met for nighttime operation;
- Daytime running lamps must be illuminated;
- Cannot exceed a speed of 32 km/h;
- Must be operated in the right-most lane;
- Golf cart can only be operated if the roads are free of ice, snow and slush; and,
- All *Highway Traffic Act* rules of the road and penalties will apply to the operation of golf carts on-road.

Vehicle Safety Equipment Features Include:

- 2 - 6 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 (if manufactured with a seatbelt, they must be worn)

Insurance Requirements Include:

Automobile insurance is not required.

Registration Requirements Include:

Registration is not required, however Pelee Island and Huron-Kinloss would need to track the vehicles, e.g. by issuing business licences.

Data Collection:

Pelee Island and Huron-Kinloss to remit data to the province annually.