

TRAFFIC ENGINEERING POLICY

Golf Cart Operations on Public Roads

Purpose:

The purpose of this Policy is to protect the health, safety and well-being of the citizens of the City of Suffolk by prohibiting the unsafe use of golf carts on the public roads in the City, many of which have narrow roadways and hidden obstructions which may endanger the safety of persons driving, bicycling or walking on the roads or the safety of motorists, cyclists or pedestrians and to ensure the safe operation of golf carts on public roads in the City of Suffolk.

It is the intent of this policy to study and approve only complete neighborhoods that are under City roadway maintenance and have at least 75% of all planned homes constructed.

A golf cart may be operated only in the City of Suffolk on roadways that have been designated by the City of Suffolk for use by golf carts. Prior to making such a designation, Suffolk Traffic Engineering will study the road(s), neighborhood or subdivision that is considering such request and determine that golf carts may safely travel on or cross the public road considering factors including roadway widths, on street parking, speed, traffic volume, accident history, roadway geometrics, sight distance, pedestrian volumes and character of motor vehicle traffic using the road(s). To begin a determination that golf carts may be safely operated on a designated road, the Suffolk Traffic Engineering shall require a petition signed by at least 75% of the affected residents within the study area for golf cart operation approve of the request and the collection of the required study fee. After the review and approval of the signed petition, a positive finding on the study, approval by City Council, and collection of the required sign fees, appropriate signs will be posted to indicate that such operation is allowed.

All neighborhoods will have a sign installed at the entrance noting that a golf cart study is underway. A second sign will be placed noting when City Council will consider a positive report for the Golf Cart designation.

Operation of a golf cart on certain roadways:

The operation of a golf cart may be authorized with the following restrictions:

- (1) A golf cart may be operated only on streets where the posted speed limit is 25 miles per hour or less and the street is designated for golf cart operations and is posted with the required sign.
- (2) A golf cart must be equipped with a slow moving vehicle emblem in conformity with Virginia Code § 46.2-1081.
- (3) A golf cart shall not be driven across any highway where the highway being crossed has a posted speed limit of more than twenty-five (25) miles per hour.
- (4) Any person operating a golf cart must have in his or her possession a valid driver's license.
- (5) The City of Suffolk will not permit the operation of a golf cart on any road under its jurisdiction if the City Traffic Engineer determines that such prohibition is necessary in the interest of safety.
- (6) No person shall operate any golf cart on any designated highway between sunset and sunrise unless equipped with lights as required by § 46.2-1010 of the Code of Virginia.

Sign Standards:

Golf Course Trail Crossing:

MUTCD Standard W11-11 and W16-7P signs must be provided at all locations of the crossing of a public road by a golf cart trail associated with the operation and usage of a golf course.

Areas for Public Road Usage by Golf Cart:

All locations identified and approved in conformance with City of Suffolk Code 86-601, Regulation of Golf Carts shall have the below listed sign placed at the entrance of the approved areas as required by Suffolk Traffic Engineering. This sign assembly shall be a MUTCD W11-11 sign with a City of Suffolk “Golf Cart Permitted” supplemental sign immediately below.

Fees:

The application fee for a golf cart engineering study is \$1,600 or as shown in the current City Fee Schedule.

The sign fee is \$250.00 per location or as shown in the current City Fee Schedule.

Future maintenance cost shall be the sole responsibility of the applicant. Failure to provide the required fees shall be grounds for automatic termination of the golf cart zone approval. The fee shall be as noted above for new signs per location.

**APPLICATION FOR GOLF CART OPERATION ON CERTAIN PUBLIC
ROADS IN THE CITY OF SUFFOLK**

Petition Originator

Name: _____ Date: _____

Address: _____

Home phone No.: _____ Daytime phone No.: _____

E-mail address: _____

Community to be reviewed: _____

Streets to be included: _____

Speed Limit posted on streets: _____ (Speed Limit must be 25 mph)

Number of affected residents along designated roadway: _____

*Suffolk Traffic Engineering will supply this number.

75% of above number: _____

*Application must include petition with 75% of affected residents endorsing application.
(Round a decimal to the next highest whole number)

Neighborhood under City Maintenance and 75% built out: YES NO

Required study fee attached: YES NO

Studies should be completed within sixty (60) days of application.

For Traffic Engineering Use

Date application received: _____ App. complete: YES NO Fee pd.: YES NO

Study completed: _____

Recommend approval, forwarded to City Council

Applicant notified of disapproval for golf cart operation

Director of Public Works: _____ Date: _____

City Council Action: Date: _____ Approved Disapproved

Sign fee collected: _____

Sign location approved: _____ Date sign posted: _____





W11-11

GOLF CART TRAFFIC

30" x 30"

GOLF CART

PERMITTED

CITY CODE

SEC. 86-600, 86-601

18" X 24"

GOLF CART

PERMITTED

CITY CODE

SEC. 86-600,86-601