



## Staff Report

**Report Title: Golf Cart Pilot Update (6)**

**Prepared By: Emily Dance, Clerk**

**Department: Clerk**

**Date: Aug. 4, 2021**

**Report Number: CLK-2021-08-90  
Ministry of Transportation Golf Cart Pilot**

**File Number: T08 GOL 21 –**

**Attachments: Ministry of Transportation – Best Practices, Maps of Suggested permitted areas**

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### **Recommendation:**

THAT the Township of Huron-Kinloss Committee of the Whole hereby approves Report No. CLK-2021-08-90 prepared by Emily Dance, Clerk AND authorizes participation in the Golf Cart Pilot in the designated areas along the Lakeshore for the months of May through October AND FURTHER approves a yearly registration fee of \$50.00 AND FURTHER authorize the appropriate By-Laws coming forward.

### **Background:**

The Ministry of Transportation (MTO) announced in March, 2021 that they are 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.

Staff received notification on June 11, 2021, from the Ministry of Transportation that the new pilot project for golf carts legally referred to as “golf cars” in the regulation has been passed.

[Ontario Regulation 407/21 Pilot Project – Golf Cars](#) sets out the broad regulatory framework to allow golf carts on roads on Pelee island and in Huron-Kinloss and includes operator and vehicle requirements.

### **Discussion:**

#### **Provincial Requirements**

In addition to Ontario Regulation 407/21 Pilot Project – Golf Cars the Ministry has provided a Best Practices document that outlines the parameters of the pilot.

(attached) These documents outline the driver requirements, vehicle requirements, and operating requirements.

### **Township Operating Parameters**

As noted in the regulation, Municipal By-laws need to be passed to allow their use on municipal roads and to add any additional requirements that may be required.

### **Permitted Areas**

The regulations state that no person is permitted to drive on a highway with a prescribed rate of speed greater than 50 kilometres per hour.

Noted in Section 4 (2)(a)(ii) operation of golf carts are only permitted on a highway under the jurisdiction of the Township of Huron-Kinloss. This will exclude any private roads and roads under the jurisdiction of the County of Bruce including Bruce Road 1, Bruce Road 7, Bruce Road 86 and Campbell Street- Lucknow.

Staff has been in contact with the Ministry of Transportation and the County of Bruce on this matter as it will significantly reduce the road connectivity in Ripley, Lucknow, and Kinlough.

County of Bruce staff are supportive of the pilot in principle and are in conversations with the Ministry to include roads under the jurisdiction of the County of Bruce. If the regulations can be amended, County of Bruce staff would need to take a report to County Council for final approval.

Staff is recommending that the pilot be introduced along the Lakeshore Communities from the Ashfield boundary to Saratoga Road, east of Lake Range Road. This will allow the pilot to move forward and allow staff and the OPP to identify any areas that may require additional attention. If and when a revision is made to the regulations the By-Law can be amended to include the other areas in the Township to participate in the pilot.

Council can however decide to permit the use of golf carts on all roads under the jurisdiction of the Township and provide education to the public on the restricted use on County Roads 50 km/hr and under.

The regulation states that "The golf car shall not be driven during the months of December, January, February and March" In conversation with the Municipal Solicitor and the Director of Public Works, staff is requesting consideration to exclude the month of November. November can bring on inclement weather and having golf carts on the roads impede plowing operations and increase operational safety risks.

### **Data Collection**

By participating in the pilot, owners of golf carts will be required to submit data to the Township to address any aspect of the use of golf carts that has been specified by the Ministry of Transportation and the Township of Huron-Kinloss.

The Township of Huron-Kinloss will collect data in respect of the use of golf carts in the municipality during the previous calendar year and submit it to the Ministry no later than March 1 in each year. Data collection to include but not limited to forms, surveys and questionnaires.

## **Registration Fees**

In order to provide the Ministry with the required data and to monitor the pilot project, staff is recommending that people wanting to participate in the pilot register their golf cart on a yearly basis.

Participants will submit a registration acknowledging participation in the pilot and confirm their golf carts meets the regulations and safety requirements.

In turn they will receive a package that includes the By-Law, Ministry Regulations and Best Practices and a sticker to affix to their golf cart indicating participation in the pilot.

This will assist the OPP in identifying the golf carts that are participating in the pilot and ensure that they understand the guidelines.

Staff is proposing a yearly fee of \$50 to participate in the pilot to help off set the costs of operating the pilot.

## **Commencement of Pilot**

Upon recommendation of the Committee a By-Law will be drafted and presented to Council for final approval.

## **Communications**

Information will be included on the Township website and communicated through various channels including social media posts, direct mail-outs and electronic newsletters.

Public Comment Forms will be available on the website for residents to provide feedback on the pilot.

Staff will collaborate with the South Bruce OPP to ensure the public is aware of the safety requirements and enforcement concerns related to the pilot.

## **Enforcement**

All Highway Traffic Act rules of the road apply to golf carts allowed under the pilot program. In addition, federal penalties for impaired driving under the Criminal Code will apply.

Penalties, such as fines of \$250 to \$2,500, will also apply to violations of the pilot regulation and other applicable regulations under the Highway Traffic Act. Police are responsible for enforcing the law and any violations of the pilot regulations.

## **Financial Impacts:**

There are no funds provided by the province to cover costs to implement the pilot. There will be expenses incurred for staff time, signage, registration, and reporting tools.

## **Strategic Alignment / Link:**

We are an accessible community that offers opportunities for everyone by being accessible for those with disabilities.

**Respectfully Submitted By:**

Emily Dance, Clerk

**Approved By:**

Mary Rose Walden, Chief Administrative Officer