

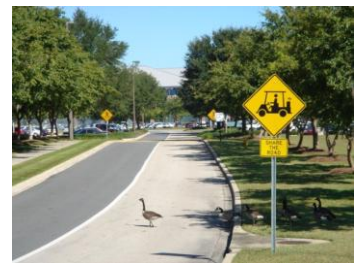


Safely Operating Golf Carts on Designated Roadways

Communities are being designed to internally accommodate slow moving vehicles such as golf carts to provide safe access to community features such as leisure, recreation, medical, educational, and shopping facilities.

According to Florida Statutes, a **golf cart** is defined as a vehicle designed and manufactured for operation on a golf course for sporting or recreational purposes and not capable of speeds over 20 miles per hour.

★ Section 316.212, Florida Statutes states the operation of a golf cart on public roads is prohibited **except** when a road has been officially designated by the local government having jurisdiction for use by golf carts. Prior to designation, the government (city or county commission) must first determine that golf carts may safely travel or cross the road, taking into consideration the speed, volume, and character of traffic (vehicles, bicycles, pedestrians) using the road. If it is determined that golf carts may safely operate on the community roads and streets and an ordinance has been signed, local government shall post signs to indicate that golf carts are permitted to share the roadway.



★ Even when golf carts are legal within the community, golf cart operators **MAY NOT CROSS** a U.S., State, or County numbered road unless the crossing has been approved by the agency having jurisdiction over that roadway and they have properly signed and marked the location for crossing or a bridge has been installed for this purpose.

★ Golf carts are motorized vehicles, therefore are **not allowed** to operate on sidewalks or trails.

★ To safely operate on designated roads, the golf cart **must** be equipped with:

- ★ Efficient brakes
- ★ Reliable steering apparatus
- ★ Safe tires
- ★ Rearview mirror
- ★ Red reflectorized warning devices on both the front and rear

★ A golf cart may **not** be operated by anyone under the age of 14.

★ A golf cart may only be operated during the hours between sunrise and sunset. If local government determines that a golf cart may be operated outside those hours, it must also be equipped with:

- ★ Headlights
- ★ Brake lights
- ★ Turn signals
- ★ Windshield

Golf carts are becoming a popular way to get around particularly in retirement communities; however, they are not recognized as on-road vehicles. While golf carts can not travel at high speeds, they can pose risks as there is potential for serious injuries when they come in contact with motor vehicles. To ensure their own safety, golf cart operators should always exercise care and courtesy while sharing the roadway.

