

RESOLUTION 15-13

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF PANAMA CITY BEACH, FLORIDA, REQUESTING THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO PERMIT AND ESTABLISH A GOLF CART CROSSING AT THE INTERSECTION OF PANAMA CITY BEACH PARKWAY AND NAUTILUS STREET; DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE OFFICERS OF THE CITY TO COORDINATE THIS REQUEST WITH THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION; AND PROVIDING AN IMMEDIATELY EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, on September 8, 2005 the City adopted Ordinance 980, regulating the use of golf carts and designating certain city streets for golf cart use during the hours between sunrise and sunset; and

WHEREAS, Nautilus Street is a City street on which golf carts are authorized to operate, while the operation of golf carts along Panama City Beach Parkway cannot be permitted by that Ordinance; and

WHEREAS, Ordinance 980 provides that golf carts may be permitted to cross a street on which golf carts are not otherwise permitted at such points as are from time to time designated by FDOT when that agency has jurisdiction; and

WHEREAS, Panama City Beach is a destination beach community which attracts millions of visitors each year who are looking to experience a laid back and lower speed pace of life; and

WHEREAS, the City's resident population is also increasing, as more retirees and families settle down in the City to celebrate the natural resources and pace of life the City provides; and

WHEREAS, golf carts and low speed vehicles are commonly seen operating upon roads within the City on both sides of the Panama City Beach Parkway in the area of this intersection; and

WHEREAS, numerous low speed vehicles are presently tagged and permitted for use and operation within the City, many of which are rented by visitors to the area; and

WHEREAS, the shopping plaza and restaurants located on the north side of the Panama City Beach Parkway and Nautilus Street intersection attract visitors and residents alike, particularly those who reside in the nearby subdivisions accessible by or adjacent to Nautilus Street;

WHEREAS, this section of Panama City Beach Parkway is presently operating at a Level of Service F, such that the congestion and operational inefficiency requires the

City's development of alternative means of transportation in this area to best serve the functional travel needs of travelers through this intersection; and

WHEREAS, the speed limit for this section of the Parkway has recently been reduced to 45 mph; and

WHEREAS, the City finds and determines that given the nature and proximity of the residential and commercial developments in this area, and with due consideration of the functional inefficiency of this segment of the Parkway, that a golf cart crossing could be established at this intersection without a material adverse impact upon traffic safety; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the appropriate officers of the City are authorized to submit a permit application to the Florida Department of Transportation to establish a golf cart crossing at the intersection of Panama City Beach Parkway and Nautilus Street.

THIS RESOLUTION shall be effective immediately upon passage.

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED at the regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Panama City Beach, Florida, this 23rd day of October, 2014.


MAYOR GAYLE F. OBERST

ATTEST:



HOLLY J. WHITE, CITY CLERK

MEMORANDUM

To: Mario Gisbert, City Manager

From: John Alaghemand, P.E., Assistant City Manager/CRA Manager

Subject: **Permit Application for Establishing Golf Cart Crossing at the Intersection of Panama City Beach Parkway and Nautilus Street**

Date: October 17, 2014

Staff has received citizen requests for establishing golf cart crossing at the intersection of Panama City Beach Parkway and Nautilus Street. To establish a golf cart crossing at this location, the City is required to submit a permit application to the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT).

Golf carts are increasingly used to make short trips for shopping, social and recreational purposes from nearby residential neighborhoods. These passenger-carrying vehicles, although low-speed, offer a variety of advantages, including comparatively low-cost and energy-efficient mobility. In response to a growing public interest in using golf carts, the FDOT has established criteria and guidelines for safe operation of golf carts on authorized portions of the State Highway System. The criteria and guidelines also provide safety recommendations to municipalities wishing to enact ordinances authorizing the use of golf carts on sidewalks adjacent to or on the State Highway System within their jurisdictions.

The intersection of Panama City Beach Parkway and Nautilus Street is a fully signalized intersection. To be considered for a golf cart crossing the following criteria must be evaluated and met:

- Side street maximum vehicular volume 1,500 ADT and AM/PM Peak Hour not to exceed 200 vehicles per hour single direction;
- Side street posted speed limit or 85th percentile intersection approach speed is 35 miles per hour or less;
- Maximum crossing distance equal to five (5) lanes or less not including any right turn lanes, bike lanes and crosswalks;
- Side street approaches should have at least one (1) exclusive left turn lane and at least one (1) exclusive through or shared through-right turn lane. Other lane approach configurations will be considered on case-by-case basis;
- Side street intersection alignment shall be a 90 degrees (not more than 105 degrees) angle to the mainline tangent. Skewed or offset intersections are not recommended for golf cart crossings;

- Golf carts shall not use pedestrian crosswalks or sidewalk ramps for the purpose of crossing the mainline State Roadway;
- Golf cart crossings are not permitted at “T” intersections;
- For existing signalized “T” intersections, a proposed forth leg approach and receiving lane for the exclusive use of golf cart crossing shall not be permitted;
- Approach traffic control signs and pavement markings shall be in accordance to Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) and FDOT Standards;
- Golf Cart signs should be placed on the side streets.

It is recommended that the Council authorize staff to submit a permit application for establishing golf cart crossing at the intersection of Panama City Beach Parkway and Nautilus Street. A suggested resolution is provided should the Council choose to authorize this request.

Attachment: Suggested Resolution