



Goochland County

Application for Golf Carts and Utility Vehicles on Public Roads

Department: Community Development

Policy Number: TR-01

Date Issued: 07/03/2018

Implementation: 07/03/2018

Supersedes: n/a

All applicants shall read the information below and submit the attached petition form to begin this process.

Virginia Code

The Virginia Code (46.2-916.2) empowers a locality to enact an ordinance to authorize the operation of golf carts and utility vehicles on designated public roads.

The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) is the State agency charged with supporting local governments to implement provisions for golf carts and utility vehicles.

On August 7, 2018, Goochland County adopted County Code § 9-27 to allow the operation of golf carts and utility vehicles on certain public roads once they are designated for such use by the Board of Supervisors.

Generally

- No public road may be designated for use by golf carts and utility vehicles unless the governing body of the county in which the road is located has reviewed and approved such usage.
- The governing body of the county may, by ordinance, authorize the operation of golf carts and utility vehicles on designated public roads within its boundaries after: (i) considering the speed, volume, and character of motor vehicle traffic using such roads; and (ii) determining that golf cart operation on particular roads is compatible with state and local transportation plans and consistent with the Commonwealth's Statewide Pedestrian Policy (§ 33.2-354).
- No public road shall be designated for use by golf carts and utility vehicles if the operations will impede the safe and efficient flow of motor vehicle traffic.

Limitations on Golf Cart Operations

1. No person shall operate a golf cart or utility vehicle on a public road unless that road is designated for those operations and is posted with the required signage.
2. Golf carts and utility vehicles may operate on designated public roads with a posted speed limit of twenty-five (25) miles per hour or less. No golf cart or utility vehicle shall cross a road at an intersection where the road being crossed has a posted speed limit of more than twenty-five (25) miles per hour.
3. No person shall operate a golf cart or utility vehicle on a public road unless in possession of a valid driver's license.
4. Every golf cart and utility vehicle, when operating on a public road, shall display a slow-moving vehicle emblem in conformity with Section 46.2- 1081 of the Code of Virginia.
5. Golf carts and utility vehicles shall operate on public roads only between sunrise and sunset, unless equipped with lights in accordance with Virginia Code Section 46.2-1010.



Goochland County Application for Golf Carts and Utility Vehicles on Public Roads

Department: Community Development

Policy Number: TR-01

Date Issued: 07/03/2018

Implementation: 07/03/2018

Supersedes: n/a

6. Golf carts and utility vehicles operating on public roads shall abide by all laws and rules of the road applicable to motor vehicles.

Goochland County Process for Requesting Golf Cart and Utility Vehicle Designation

Any individual, organization, or entity may request the Board of Supervisors to designate a road for golf cart and utility vehicle use.

Step 1 – Petition Requesting Golf Cart and Utility Vehicle Designation

1. A minimum of 75% of the residents on each road must sign a petition agreeing to the golf cart and utility vehicle designation.
 - a. The applicant shall provide County staff with each signed petition form, a map of the neighborhood, a list of streets to be included, and the primary contact persons information.
2. Petition(s) shall include
 - a. Name, street lengths, and location of street(s) being requested for golf carts and utility vehicles
 - b. Map showing the requested streets and the proposed location of required signage (County staff can assist with the sign locations).
 - c. One or more residents identified as lead contact(s)
 - d. Names/contact information for lead contact(s)
3. Submit petition to Planning and Zoning staff.

Step 2 – County Staff Review and Coordination

1. Planning and Zoning staff receives the petition and confirms eligibility. County staff or VDoT prepares a preliminary cost estimate for signage, et al.
2. Planning and Zoning staff contacts primary contact person with the cost for signage and the next steps.

Step 3 – Board of Supervisors Consideration

1. County staff will ask the Board to set a public hearing to amend the County's ordinance to include each petitioned road. If the Board agrees to the request, then the public hearing will be held at a future meeting, typically the next month. The applicant is encouraged to attend all applicable meetings.

Step 4 – VDOT Permit

1. After the above process is complete, the County will fill in VDOT's land use permit agreement form and submit it to them for review. *Please know that VDOT has the explicit authority and responsibility to either agree with or overturn the Goochland Board of Supervisor's approval. If denied, then golf carts and utility vehicles will not be allowed on the public roads listed in the petition(s).*

Step 5 - Implementation



Goochland County
Application for Golf Carts and Utility Vehicles on Public Roads

Department: Community Development

Policy Number: TR-01

Date Issued: 07/03/2018

Implementation: 07/03/2018

Supersedes: n/a

1. If the Board approves this request, and after the County receives payment for the signage, any road designated for golf cart use shall be posted with signs indicating this designation, and golf cart and utility vehicle use shall not be authorized until required signage is installed.
2. Required signage shall be installed and maintained within 100 feet of the initial roadway intersection and shall also be installed and maintained at one-half mile intervals, or at other reasonable distances, alerting motorists that golf carts and utility vehicles may be in use/operation.
3. It shall be the responsibility of the organization, individual, homeowner's association, or other entity requesting the designation to pay for the signs and maintain them.



Goochland County Application for Golf Carts and Utility Vehicles on Public Roads

Department: Community Development
Policy Number: TR-01
Date Issued: 07/03/2018
Implementation: 07/03/2018
Supersedes: n/a

Road Name and length of road:	
<i>In accordance with Goochland County policy, at least 75% of the residents along the road must sign a petition requesting Golf Cart and Utility Vehicle designation before the Board will consider the request. If a neighborhood has 2 or more roads, then a petition for each road will need to be submitted. If a property is shared/owned by more than one person, only one signature is needed below.</i>	
Lead Contact (Phone/E-mail):	
Lead Contact (Phone/E-mail):	
We, the undersigned, petition the Goochland County Board of Supervisors to designate the above-listed road to allow golf carts and utility vehicles. We further acknowledge the obligation to pay for and maintain the signs required if the road is designated. See attached map for reference.	
Name (Print):	Name (Print):
Signature:	Signature:
Street Address:	Street Address:
Name (Print):	Name (Print):
Signature:	Signature:
Street Address:	Street Address:
Name (Print):	Name (Print):
Signature:	Signature:
Street Address:	Street Address:
Name (Print):	Name (Print):
Signature:	Signature:
Street Address:	Street Address:
Name (Print):	Name (Print):
Signature:	Signature:
Street Address:	Street Address:
Name (Print):	Name (Print):
Signature:	Signature:
Street Address:	Street Address:
Name (Print):	Name (Print):
Signature:	Signature:
Street Address:	Street Address:



Goochland County
Application for Golf Carts and Utility Vehicles on Public Roads

Department: Community Development
Policy Number: TR-01
Date Issued: 07/03/2018
Implementation: 07/03/2018
Supersedes: n/a

Street Address:	Street Address:
Name (Print):	Name (Print):
Signature:	Signature:
Street Address:	Street Address:
Name (Print):	Name (Print):
Signature:	Signature:
Street Address:	Street Address:
Name (Print):	Name (Print):
Signature:	Signature:
Street Address:	Street Address:
Name (Print):	Name (Print):
Signature:	Signature:
Street Address:	Street Address:
Name (Print):	Name (Print):
Signature:	Signature:
Street Address:	Street Address:
Name (Print):	Name (Print):
Signature:	Signature:
Street Address:	Street Address:
Name (Print):	Name (Print):
Signature:	Signature:
Street Address:	Street Address:



Land Use Permit
LUP-GC
Golf Cart & Utility Vehicle Accommodation

Code of Virginia §46.2-916.1 through §46.2-916.3 govern the use of golf carts and utility vehicles on Virginia highways. The code allows for the governing body of any county, city or town to authorize the operation of golf carts and utility vehicles on public highways within its jurisdictional boundaries. A locality can designate a state maintained road for use by golf carts and utility vehicles without any explicit approval from the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT), however VDOT does have the authority and the responsibility to overturn the designation if it is deemed that golf carts and utility vehicles impede the safe and efficient flow of motor vehicle traffic.

Permittee Agreement for Land Use Permit Issuance

I the undersigned locality representative hereby acknowledge that I am fully cognizant of all of the following requirements associated with the issuance of a VDOT Land Use Permit authorizing the use of golf carts and utility vehicles on non-limited access state maintained highways:

Type or Print Clearly

Locality Name: _____

Locality Federal Tax ID No. or Driver's License No.: _____

Locality Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Authorized Representative's Name: _____

Business Telephone No.: (____) ____ - _____ 24-Hour Telephone No.: (____) ____ - _____

Fax No.: (____) ____ - _____ E-mail Address: _____

Location(s): _____

Authorized Representative's Name: _____

Signature: _____

VDOT Land Use Permit Required by Law

The General Rules and Regulations of the Commonwealth Transportation Board provide that no work of any nature shall be performed on any real property under the ownership, control, or jurisdiction of VDOT until written permission has been obtained from VDOT. Written permission is granted for the above-referenced activity through the issuance of a land use permit.

By issuing a permit, VDOT is giving permission only for whatever rights it has in the right-of-way; the permittee is responsible for obtaining permission from others who may also have an interest in the property.

The permittee will be civilly liable to the Commonwealth for expenses and damages incurred to VDOT as a result of violation of any of the rules and regulations of this chapter. Violators shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction, shall be punished as provided for in [§33.2-210](#) of the Code of Virginia.

Application Requirements

Application for a land use permit authorizing the operation of golf carts and utility vehicles on state maintained highways shall be made through the local district permit office by the requesting locality.

The district administrator's designee receiving the request shall coordinate review and approval of the request with all appropriate VDOT personnel.

The regional traffic engineer (or their designee) shall perform a review of the land use permit application and supporting material

Contact Information

A list of counties with their corresponding VDOT district offices and contact information may be obtained on the VDOT web site at: <http://www.virginiadot.org/about/districts.asp>

Permit Fees & Charges

The application fee for a land use permit authorizing the operation of golf carts and utility vehicles on state maintained highways shall be waived.

Surety Requirements

It is not necessary for the locality to provide a surety for the operation of golf carts and utility vehicles on state maintained highways.

Insurance Requirements

It is not necessary for the locality to secure and maintain insurance to protect against liability for personal injury and property damage associated with the operation of golf carts and utility vehicles on state maintained highways.

General Requirements

- 1) Any county, city or town may designate a roadway as appropriate for golf cart and/or utility vehicle usage regardless of who owns or maintains the road within the constraints and requirements of the Code of Virginia.
- 2) The locality must consider the speed, volume, and character of motor vehicle traffic using such highways to determine if golf cart and utility vehicle operation is compatible with state and local transportation plans and if said operation is consistent with the Commonwealth's Statewide Pedestrian Policy.
- 3) The locality shall provide VDOT with evidence of its consideration of the speed, volume, and character of motor vehicle traffic for routes being considered for golf cart and utility vehicle designation.
- 4) The locality shall provide VDOT with an overall route plan to show connectivity to and from specific origins and destinations. EXAMPLE: Residences to a local park, ball field, community center, etc.
- 5) In general, a designated route should not cross an un-signalized intersection where the annual average daily traffic (AADT) exceeds 2000 vehicles per day or where peak period traffic volumes do not allow for the safe crossing of golf carts and utility vehicles.
- 6) VDOT shall consider the volume and posted speed limit of all roadways intersecting a designated route so that designated route(s) do not cross high volume, low-speed roadways.
- 7) The posted speed limit of the highway to be designated shall not exceed 25 miles per hour.
- 8) The AADT of the highway to be designated shall not exceed 1000 vehicles per day.
- 9) The designated route shall not cross a highway where the posted speed limit exceeds 25 miles per hour except where the intersection is controlled by a traffic signal and the speed limit of the intersecting highway does not exceed 35 miles per hour.
- 10) In the Town of Colonial Beach and in towns with a population of 2,000 or less, a golf cart and utility vehicle may cross a highway at intersections marked with signage posted by VDOT. The Regional Traffic Engineer (or their designee) shall recommend approval or denial of sign installation(s).
- 11) All costs associated with the installation and maintenance of all required signage shall be borne by the locality.
- 12) The designated route shall not have geometric constraints that restrict minimum intersection sight distance or stopping sight distance for the posted speed limit of 25 miles per hour.
- 13) The total pavement width of the designated route shall not be less than 17 feet in width. This width may include any drivable paved or grass shoulders on each side of the travel way.
- 14) Where parking is allowed on the designated route the minimum pavement width shall be 24-feet with parking on one side and 29-feet with parking both sides (See the VDOT Road Design Manual for subdivision streets with AADT < 2000 vehicles per day).
- 15) Actual truck traffic shall not exceed 10%. VDOT shall determine if said traffic creates an operational or safety concern for the use of golf carts and utility vehicles on the designated route.
- 16) Routes with high incidences of crashes will not be considered for designated use by golf carts and utility vehicles.
- 17) VDOT shall make a determination as to whether on-going development will trigger any thresholds that would deem the designated route as not compatible for the operation of golf carts and utility vehicles.

- 18) All persons operating a golf cart or utility vehicle on any public highway shall have in their possession a valid driver's license.
- 19) All golf carts or utility vehicles operated on a public highway shall display a slow-moving vehicle emblem in conformity with Code of Virginia §[46.2-1081](#).
- 20) Golf carts and utility vehicles shall be operated upon the public highways only between sunrise and sunset unless equipped with headlights as are required for these classes of vehicles.

General Requirement Exceptions

- 1) Operation of a golf cart to cross a highway from one portion of a golf course to another portion thereof or to an adjacent golf course or to travel between a person's home and golf course if the total trip does not exceed one-half mile in either direction and if the posted speed limit on the highway does not exceed 35 miles per hour.
- 2) Operation of a golf cart and/or utility vehicle by local government employees for official business or purpose on highways with posted speed limits that do not exceed 35 miles per hour.
- 3) Operation of a golf cart and/or utility vehicle by employees of public or private two-year or four-year institutions of higher education on highways within the property limits of such institutions provided the golf cart and/or utility vehicle is being operated on highways with posted speed limits that do not exceed of 35 miles per hour.
- 4) Operation of a golf cart and/or utility vehicle on a secondary highway with a posted speed limit of 35 miles per hour or less and within three miles of a motor speedway with a seating capacity of at least 25,000 but less than 90,000. This use is limited to the same day as any race or race-related event conducted at said speedway.
- 5) Operation of a golf cart and/or utility vehicle by employees of the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) for official business or purpose on highways located within DCR property or upon VDOT maintained highways located adjacent to DCR property with posted speed limits that do not exceed 35 miles per hour.

Permit Revocation

At the discretion of the district administrator's designee, the land use permit may be revoked and the route designation removed for non-compliance with all requirements contained herein and/or specific conditions of the permit.

Permittee Notice

The preceding provisions are intentionally condensed in format and should not be loosely interpreted by the permit applicant without consultation with the central office permit manager or the district administrator's designee and affirmation from the [Land Use Permit Regulations](#).