

Report to Council

Report Title: Golf Cart Pilot Project

Prepared By: Sonya Watson, Chief Administrative Officer

Department: Administration

Date: September 14, 2021

Report Number: CAO2021-17 **File Number:** C11AD

Attachments: Huron Kinloss By-law 2021-90

Recommendation:

That the Council of the Municipality of Brockton hereby receives Report Number CAO2021-17 – Golf Cart Pilot Project, prepared by Sonya Watson, Chief Administrative Officer for information purposes.

Report:

Background:

At the August 24th Council meeting, Council requested staff research and report on the Golf Cart pilot project that is being conducted at Pelee Island and locally at Huron Kinloss. These municipalities were selected because they discussed the possibility of these programs with the Minister.

On June 3rd 2021, the Ministry of Transportation (MTO) introduced a new pilot project for golf carts, legally referred to as golf cars. Ontario Regulation 407/21 sets out the regulatory framework for this pilot project. The pilot project is expected to last for ten (10) years in order to establish their ability to safely integrate with other vehicles and determine if existing rules of the road are adequate.

On August 16th, 2021, Huron Kinloss Council passed By-law 2021-90: Regulating the Use of Golf Cars in the Township of Huron Kinloss, which is attached.

Analysis:

The Clerk's department in Huron-Kinloss is currently handling the registration of the Golf Cars. Regular reporting to the MTO on the registrations is required. Additional information that may be required for reporting, but is unknown at this time. The registration process requires the owner's first and last name, contact information, mailing address and location of the Golf Car. A \$50 registration fee per year is also collected. This gives the registrant permission to use the Golf Car from April 1st to November 30th of that year.

A Golf Car can be electric or gas powered and must have:

- Two to six seats
- Steering wheel
- Rear-view mirror(s)
- Horn
- Good-quality tires
- Daytime running lights (always on)
- Turn signals
- Brake lights
- Reflectors
- Slow-moving vehicle sign on back
- If there are factory-installed seat belts, they must be used by driver and all passengers
- Registration sticker with current validation sticker
- Service brakes and parking or emergency brake

Any driver is required to have a valid A, B, C, D, E, F or G (full) Ontario driver's licence (or out-of-province equivalent). This program is not limited to residents of the participating municipality, so those camping or visiting for a week would be permitted to use their Golf Cars on municipal roadways, provided that they have registered it and have met the requirements.

The only roads that are permitted are municipal roads posted at 50km/hr or below. No County, highway or boundary roads are permitted and Golf Cars are only able to cross one of these roads at an intersection if the speed limit is 80km/hr or less and is controlled by a stop sign or other traffic control device. There is significant administration of this pilot in the community. There are also enforcement considerations that should have OPP comment and consideration prior to further consideration.

Staff contacted the MTO regarding the possibility of participating in the pilot program and while they are open to the possibility of adding new communities to the pilot program, they are not actively seeking out additional municipalities. It was suggested that should Council wish to express interest in becoming a part of this pilot that a letter be written to Minister of Transportation Omar Alghabra.

There may be delays becoming part of the pilot as an amendment to the legislation would need to be passed, as it is currently specific to the Townships of Pelee and Huron Kinloss. With the upcoming election, it is a possibility that the Minister will change and new priorities may take precedence.

There are practical considerations. Walkerton is a larger urban community in comparison to those communities in Huron-Kinloss. Golf cars on the roadway with the amount of traffic in the area and the growth to come may create challenges. Prior to Council choosing to advance this any further we would at a minimum recommend further consultation with the OPP regarding this pilot project. We provide this for information purposes and seek Council's direction on any further action or investigation related to this matter.

Sustainability Checklist:

What aspect of the Brockton Sustainable Strategic Plan does the content/recommendations in this report help advance?

- Do the recommendations help move the Municipality closer to its Vision?

N/A

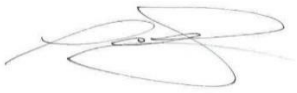
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| • Do the recommendations contribute to achieving Cultural Vibrancy? | N/A |
| • Do the recommendations contribute to achieving Economic Prosperity? | N/A |
| • Do the recommendations contribute to Environmental Integrity? | Yes |
| • Do the recommendations contribute to the Social Equity? | N/A |

Financial Impacts/Source of Funding:

- Do the recommendations represent a sound financial investment from a sustainability perspective?
N/A

There are no financial impacts as a result of this report at this time.

Reviewed By:



Trish Serratore, Chief Financial Officer

Respectfully Submitted by:



Sonya Watson, Chief Administrative Officer