



Sean M. Polster
Town of Warrenton Town Council
Council Member At-Large
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TO: Town of Warrenton Public Safety Transportation Committee

FROM: Sean Polster

DATE: July 8, 2019

SUBJECT: Proposed policy study allowing golf carts on town roads under VA 46.2-916.3

I am respectfully requesting that the Town of Warrenton Public Safety and Transportation Committee consider conducting a study of allowing golf carts and utility vehicles to utilize roads in the Town of Warrenton as allowed under Virginia code section 46.2-916.3. This policy change would allow golf carts and utility vehicles to operate on town roads with a posted speed of 25 miles per hour from sunrise to sunset as per state code.

This study period would allow town staff to examine other localities in the Commonwealth of Virginia such as Colonial Beach who has had similar legislation in place since 2011 as well as exploring such trends across the country. Allowing additional transportation modalities can create new options and opportunities for our citizens. There are communities that have embraced the idea of golf carts such as Peachtree City, Georgia where for a population of 35,000 people there are 9,000 registered golf carts. The Villages in Florida is another example where there are over 50,000 golf carts for a population of 125,000.

With the increasing acceptance of electric vehicles there is an opportunity for the Town of Warrenton to benefit from this trend with electric carts that utilize less energy, are less expensive and have a smaller footprint than a vehicle. While I realize that carts are not practical for every vehicle trip within the town, their availability as an option could be a positive move. Imagine a NEV (neighborhood electric vehicle) network that allows residents to have their groceries or food delivered to their homes or utilized for local errands rather than always utilizing a car. Our Council has repeatedly heard businesses, residents and visitors speak about the lack of parking. Having these small electric carts providing a shuttle service in and around town would better connect our businesses to their end users.

By adopting a policy allowing golf carts in the Town of Warrenton we would be opening the door to a new opportunity for our community.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sean Polster', with a large, loopy flourish extending to the right.

Sean Polster
Councilmember At-Large
Town of Warrenton Council

Cc: Town Manager Brandie Schaeffer