



Governance Committee

Subject:	Golf Cart Pilot
Date:	September 9, 2025
Presenter:	Lorraine Wesley, Manager, Enforcement Services
Department:	Enforcement Services

REPORT SUMMARY

Alberta’s *Traffic Safety Act* was amended in 2024 to establish a five-year provincial pilot program permitting the use of golf carts on designated public roads. Harmony Developments Inc. has proposed that Rocky View County (“the County”) consider participation. This report provides background information and outlines options for moving forward with a potential golf cart pilot (“golf cart pilot”) within the County.

Administration recommends a feasibility study and community engagement to evaluate safety, infrastructure, and resident perspectives for Council deliberation regarding a golf cart pilot. As an alternative, the Governance Committee may choose to proceed directly with developing terms of reference for a golf cart pilot bylaw.

ADMINISTRATION’S RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Governance Committee directs Administration to prepare an engagement and feasibility report for Council’s consideration no later than the end of Q1, 2026 to assess the merits of permitting the use of golf carts on designated public roads within the communities of Harmony and Langdon. The report will include:

1. Assessment of other municipal off-road vehicle and golf cart bylaws that have been implemented and best practices;
2. Assessment of the financial, legal, and road safety implications of allowing golf carts on designated public roads within the County; and
3. Initial public engagement feedback on the use of golf carts within Harmony, Langdon and other areas within the County.

BACKGROUND

The Government of Alberta amended the *Traffic Safety Act* in May 2024, to create the *Pilot Project (Golf Carts) Regulation* (“the Regulation”). The Regulation allows municipalities to authorize the limited use of golf carts on designated public roads, provided they pass local bylaws and receive approval from the Registrar of Motor Vehicle Services. The golf cart pilot is scheduled to run for five years, as per the Regulation’s design.

Some of the key requirements include:

- Operators must be at least 14 years old;
- Use is restricted to daylight hours; and
- Golf carts must have the manufacturer’s original seating capacity, be in good working order, and cannot be rented out.

Golf Cart Pilot

As part of the process, municipalities must:

- Define designated routes (max speed ≤ 50 km/h);
- Install proper signage;
- Have a permitting process in place; and
- Collect data and submit quarterly and annual pilot reports detailing usage, safety incidents, permit issuance, and public feedback.

The golf cart pilot is currently active in the following seven communities:

- Town of Coaldale
- Summer Village of Whispering Hills
- Village of Acme
- Village of Linden
- Town of Delburne
- Lacombe County (Residential Lake Districts)
- Summer Village of Half Moon Bay

The communities participating in the golf cart pilot have identified specific municipal roads where golf carts are permitted, ensuring use is limited to designated and controlled areas. For example, in Coaldale, the Land-O-Lakes subdivision, where the golf course is located, had permitted golf cart use informally for nearly 40 years before realizing in 2022 that it was provincially prohibited. In the Summer Village of Whispering Hills and Summer Village of Half Moon Bay, use is permitted throughout, but the density is not as intense as Harmony and Langdon. Lacombe County has restricted use to the residential lake districts as defined in their Land Use Bylaw.

At the County's July 17, 2025 Public Presentation Committee meeting, Birol Fisecki of Harmony Developments Inc. presented information on an opportunity for the County to participate in the golf cart pilot.

DISCUSSION

Potential benefits

Mr. Fisecki emphasized that allowing golf carts on designated roads represents a unique resort lifestyle that distinguishes the County. Harmony, he noted, is an ideal community for the pilot as golf carts provide an environmentally friendly and fun way to travel within the community while reducing strain on public parking areas. Harmony could serve as a pilot community within the County, recognizing that other areas—such as Langdon, where some interest has been expressed—may also wish to participate.

Implementation Considerations

As part of implementing the golf cart pilot and its corresponding bylaw, the County would need to establish a permitting system with associated fees, application requirements, approval processes, and data collection and reporting. Research regarding staff and technological resources would need to be undertaken to implement and administer the pilot program, including the potential to recover costs through permits.

From a safety perspective, careful consideration would need to be given to designate roads on which golf carts would be allowed due to their lower speed and potential conflicts with regular vehicles, avoiding roads that are not designed for mixed use.

Feasibility study

A comprehensive feasibility study, including an assessment of potential impacts and implementation requirements, would be provided should the County wish to pursue participation in the golf cart pilot.

Public engagement

Administration is recommending that the County undertake a community engagement process gather resident perspectives. Taking the time to gather and evaluate community input will help ensure that any future program is tailored to local needs, sustainable, and supported by the community. It is suggested that engagement could be focused on the communities of Harmony and Langdon.

ALTERNATE DIRECTION

Recognizing that the Governance Committee or Council may wish to advance the process more quickly, an alternative option to proceed directly with the development of a terms of reference for a bylaw permitting the use of golf carts is also provided. This would allow the County to begin shaping the framework for a bylaw while deferring some detailed analysis to later stages.

THAT the Governance Committee directs Administration to prepare terms of reference and budget adjustment for Council's consideration to guide the development of a bylaw permitting the use of golf carts on designated public roads within Harmony, Langdon and other communities within the County. The terms of reference will ensure that the following items are covered within the project:

1. Proposals providing public education and feedback opportunities for the affected communities.
2. Community engagement in Harmony and Langdon to gather information on resident perspectives.
3. Provision for cart operator insurance requirements and regulations that limit conflicts between public road users.
4. Introduction of user or permit fees to recover the costs of implementation and enforcement of the bylaw.
5. Engagement with the Alberta Transportation and Economic Corridors on compliance with the *Pilot Project (Golf Carts) Regulation (114/2024)*.

AND THAT the terms of reference and budget adjustment shall be presented to Council no later than the end of Q1, 2026.

ATTACHMENTS

There are no attachments.