

I'm Dave Williams, Mayor of the City of Loyal.

I would like to thank the Chairman and committee members for holding a public hearing on the Assembly bill regarding golf carts crossing state highways.

In the city of Loyal it is not possible to travel from east to west or north to south without crossing the state highway that bisects the city. At this time, if a state highway bisects a city or village there is no access to the entire city without illegally crossing the state highway with a cart.

We have developed a city ordinance allowing the use of golf carts on city streets if they pass street legal requirements. They must also pass inspections by the Loyal Police Department. We also will require an annual city license fee.

When we did research on writing the ordinance, we studied several cities in the state. Several have ordinances that are currently in effect and also have state highways within their city or village limits.

We feel a clarification is needed to meet the new DOT statute that does not allow a cart to cross a state highway. We also feel that within a small city such as Loyal (pop. 1264) or a village, the governing body should have the right to allow carts to travel from one side of the city or village to the other as long as they meet the city ordinance requirements.

We are requesting a change in the existing DOT statute that does not allow a golf cart to cross state highways. The previous statute allowed carts to cross state highways for access to golf courses, etc. We would like the ability to allow carts to cross state highways that are within city or village limits just as ATV's and snowmobiles are allowed with proper signage. This legislation would correct the problem we have stated allowing carts to cross the highway within city or village limits legally.

Carts offer an economical and environmentally safe means of transportation to access city businesses as well as mobility for those otherwise limited.

I ask for your support in this issue.