

CALIFORNIA HIGHWAY PATROL GENERAL ORDER 40.7

REVISED MARCH 2019

GOLF CART CROSSING ZONES AND TRANSPORTATION PLANS

1. AUTHORITY.

a. Section 21115.1 of the California Vehicle Code (CVC), as amended September 30, 1992, established criteria for permitting a local authority to establish crossing zones for use by golf carts. In unincorporated areas, establishment of these crossing zones is subject to the California Highway Patrol's (CHP) approval. Each crossing zone must meet the following criteria:

- (1) Use of the crossing zone is prohibited during hours of darkness.
- (2) The posted speed on the highway crossed does not exceed 45 miles per hour.
- (3) The highway is immediately adjacent to a golf course.
- (4) The crossing is at an angle of approximately 90 degrees to the direction of the roadway.

b. The appropriate field Division commander shall be notified prior to the designation of any golf cart crossing zone. No crossing zone may be designated which, in the opinion of the Division commander, would create a potential traffic safety hazard.

c. Sections 21115 and 21115.1 CVC include low-speed vehicles (LSV) in the provisions for operating a golf cart in residential areas adjacent to golf courses and/or in golf cart crossing zones. Additionally, Section 4023 CVC exempts LSVs from registration when they are operated in accordance with Section 21115 or 21115.1 CVC.

d. Effective January 1, 2005, cities and counties may adopt golf cart transportation plans by ordinance or resolution after receiving prior approval by the appropriate transportation planning agency. Golf cart transportation plans shall not include the use of any state highways or portion thereof, except a crossing of, or a golf cart lane along, a state highway may be included in the plan, if authorized by the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) and the law enforcement agency having primary traffic enforcement responsibility of that highway or portion thereof.

2. POLICY. The appropriate Area commander and Division commander will review all proposals submitted for golf cart crossing zones and golf cart transportation plans in unincorporated areas, and determine whether they would create a potential traffic safety hazard. The field Division commander's approval or disapproval becomes the decision of the Department.

3. PROCEDURE.

a. All requests for approval of golf cart crossing zones or golf cart transportation plans received by an Area command shall be forwarded to the appropriate field Division commander within 28 calendar days. The request will be accompanied by comments and recommendations from the Area commander concerning potential traffic safety hazards. The Area commander shall also:

(1) Ensure the appropriate traffic engineer has been consulted and concurs with the Area commander's recommendation. This consultation shall be documented; the documentation shall be retained on file to minimize any future liability on the state's part.

(2) Include a proposed letter of reply from the Division commander to the county administrator.

b. Any request initially communicated to CHP Headquarters or a field Division will be forwarded directly to the appropriate Area command for the comments and recommendations described in paragraph 3.a.

c. The Division commander will advise the county administrator within 14 calendar days of the CHP's approval or disapproval after having determined whether the crossing zone would create a potential traffic safety hazard. A copy of Division's letter of response will be forwarded to the affected Area command.

4. GUIDELINES. To assist the local government authorities in submitting golf cart crossing zones or golf cart transportation plans, the CHP has developed the following format. This format may be used by local government authorities to notify the CHP of their desire to submit a golf cart transportation plan for approval:

a. Purpose. The purpose of the crossing zone or golf cart lane; for example, to link a golf course with a nearby residential area.

b. Description. A description of the highway segment. The highway segment is 100 yards on either side of the proposed crossing zone or the distance between the nearest intersections, whichever is greater. The highway segment description shall include (but is not limited to) width, location, type of surface, type of shoulder,

number of lanes, and speed limit. A description of the width of the crossing zone shall also be included. Diagrams and photographs would be beneficial.

c. Highway Traffic Data. The average daily travel and accident rate (the number of accidents per million vehicle miles traveled) within the highway segment.

d. Land Use. Land use within 100 yards of the proposed crossing zone.

e. Authority. A copy of the city or county ordinance or resolution designating the crossing zone or golf cart lane, subject to CHP approval.

f. Justification. The benefits of the crossing zone or golf cart lane, such as public service performed or problem resolved.

g. Costs. An estimate of the costs associated with developing, implementing, and maintaining the proposed crossing zone or golf cart lane.

h. Signing. A description of Caltrans-approved signs to be posted and where they will be erected. Include their location on any diagrams submitted pursuant to paragraph 4.b.

i. Lighting. Location and description of existing lighting and any additional lighting to be erected.

j. Additional Information. The name of the requesting local government authority, the name and telephone number of a contact person, and whether the request was initiated by a private or public organization, or the member of the State Senate, State Assembly, or Congress representing the area within which the proposed golf cart crossing zone or golf cart lane is located.

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

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