

McKinney Police Department

Golf Cart Legislation

Current City of McKinney Website

- **A golf cart may not be operated on a sidewalk.**
- **A golf cart is allowed on a public roadway in two limited circumstances:**
 - within a master-planned community
 - traveling to and from a golf course during daytime within five miles of the location where the golf cart is kept on a street with a posted speed limit of no more than 35 mph
- **A golf cart must have:**
 - A slow-moving vehicle emblem affixed to the rear and be built in compliance with applicable federal regulations. Registration, inspection and insurance are specifically waived under state law.
- **A driver of a golf cart must:**
 - Possess a valid driver's license.
 - Follow the same traffic laws as cars, including regulatory signs and the use of directional or hand signals when making turns and stops.

Legislative Changes – Texas Transportation Code 551

- 2009
 - Allowed persons to operate a golf cart in a Master Planned Community; and
 - Allowed persons to operate a golf cart on a public road to and from the place where the golf cart is parked and a golf course located within 2 miles from such place
- 2019
 - Allowed cities to prohibit the operation of a golf cart on a highway (being a local road that is not in a Master Planned Community) for persons traveling to-and-from golf courses;
 - Required golf carts to be licensed (w/license plates that do not expire) AND requiring that any golf cart operated on a highway have headlamps, taillamps, reflectors, parking brake and mirrors AND the driver must be a licensed driver (Class C)
 - Allowed a golf cart operator to cross a highway having a speed greater than 35 mph at intersections.
- 2021
 - Allowed cities to prohibit (by ordinance) the operation of a golf cart on a highway (being a local road that is not in a Master Planned Community)—effectively prohibiting the travel to-and-from homes to golf courses, outside of Master Planned Communities.
 - Clarified the definition of Master Planned Community
- 2023
 - Extended the distance to-and-from homes to golf courses from 2 miles to 5 miles

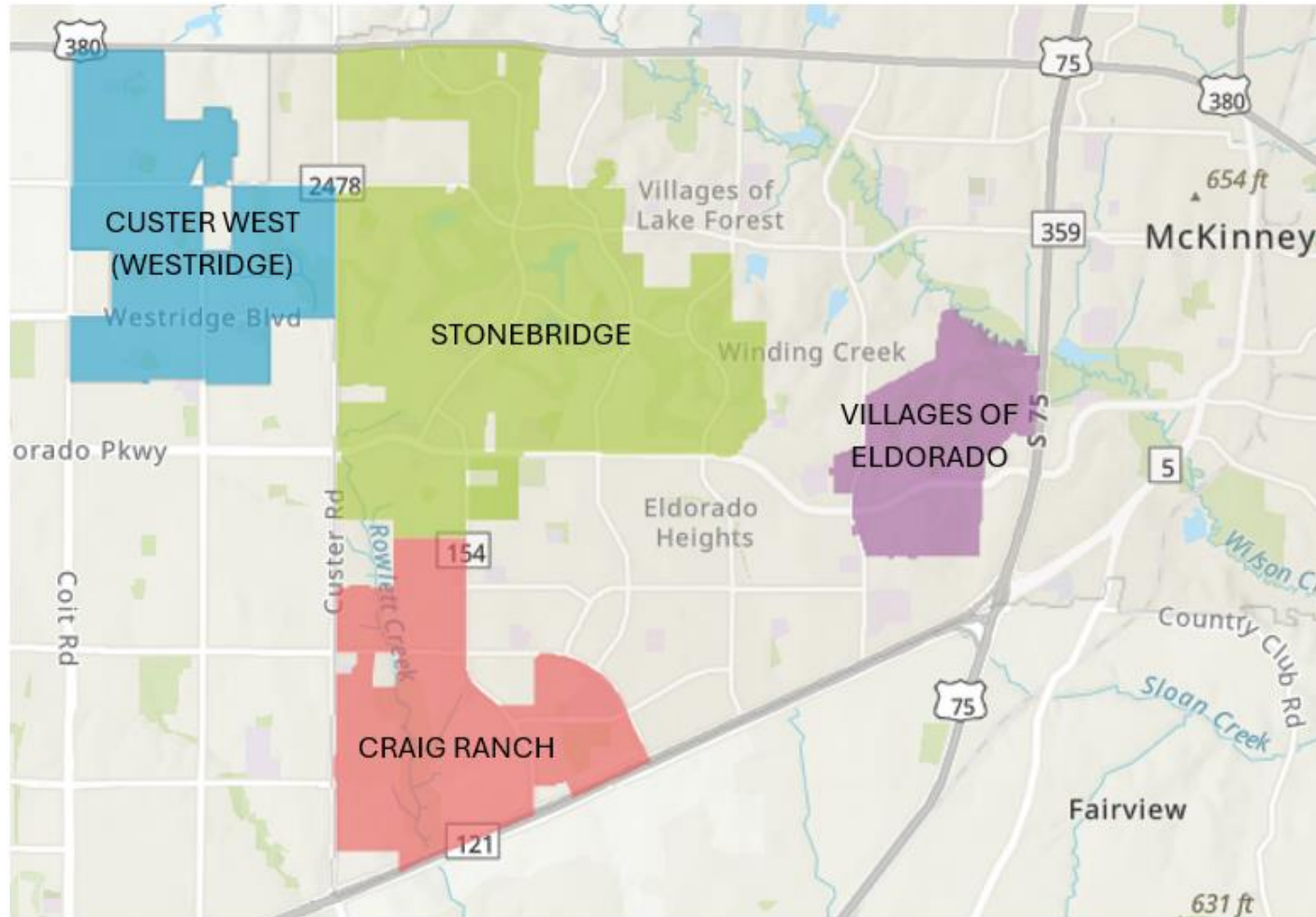


Property Code 209.002 (9)

"Residential subdivision" or "subdivision" means a subdivision, planned unit development, townhouse regime, or similar planned development in which all land has been divided into two or more parts and is subject to restrictions that:

- (A) limit a majority of the land subject to the dedicatory instruments, excluding streets, common areas, and public areas, to residential use for single-family homes, townhomes, or duplexes only;
- (B) are recorded in the real property records of the county in which the residential subdivision is located; and
- (C) require membership in a property owners' association that has authority to impose regular or special assessments on the property in the subdivision.

Current McKinney Master Planned Communities



Texas Transportation Code 551.403

Sec. 551.403. OPERATION AUTHORIZED IN CERTAIN AREAS. (a) An operator may operate a golf cart:

- (1) in a master planned community:
 - (A) that is a residential subdivision as defined by Section 209.002(9), Property Code, or has in place a uniform set of restrictive covenants; and
 - (B) for which a county or municipality has approved one or more plats;
 - (2) on a public or private beach that is open to vehicular traffic; or
 - (3) on a highway for which the posted speed limit is not more than 35 miles per hour, if the golf cart is operated:
 - (A) during the daytime; and
 - (B) not more than five miles from the location where the golf cart is usually parked and for transportation to or from a golf course.
- (b) Notwithstanding Section 551.402(b), a person may operate a golf cart in a master planned community described by Subsection (a) without a golf cart license plate on a highway for which the posted speed limit is not more than 35 miles per hour, including through an intersection of a highway for which the posted speed limit is more than 35 miles per hour.

Sec. 551.4031. PROHIBITION OF OPERATION ON HIGHWAY BY MUNICIPALITY, COUNTY, OR DEPARTMENT.

- (a) A county or municipality may prohibit the operation of a golf cart on a highway under Section 551.403 if the governing body of the county or municipality determines that the prohibition is necessary in the interest of safety.
- (b) The Texas Department of Transportation may prohibit the operation of a golf cart on a highway under Section 551.403 if the department determines that the prohibition is necessary in the interest of safety.



Texas Transportation Code 551.404

Sec. 551.404. OPERATION ON HIGHWAY AUTHORIZED BY MUNICIPALITY OR CERTAIN COUNTIES.

(a) In addition to the operation authorized by Section 551.403, the governing body of a municipality may allow an operator to operate a golf cart on all or part of a highway that:

- (1) is in the corporate boundaries of the municipality; and
- (2) has a posted speed limit of not more than 35 miles per hour.

(b) In addition to the operation authorized by Section 551.403, the commissioners court of a county described by Subsection (c) may allow an operator to operate a golf cart on all or part of a highway that:

- (1) is located in the unincorporated area of the county; and
- (2) has a speed limit of not more than 35 miles per hour.

(c) Subsection (b) applies only to a county that:

- (1) borders or contains a portion of the Red River; or
- (2) borders the Gulf of Mexico and has a population of less than 500,000

Sec. 551.4041. EQUIPMENT. A golf cart operated under Section 551.404 must have the following equipment:

- (1) headlamps;
- (2) taillamps;
- (3) reflectors;
- (4) parking brake; and
- (5) mirrors.



Additional Requirements for Golf Carts Authorized by Ordinance for Highway Operation

- License Plate
- Motor Vehicle Insurance (Texas Transportation Code 601)
- Headlamps
- Taillamps
- Reflectors
- Parking Brake
- Mirrors

Options before City Council

Option 1

No Changes; Defer to state law –

Allows golf cart operation in Master Planned Communities and traveling to-and-from golf courses under 5 miles with a posted speed limit of 35mph or less

Option 2

Prohibit golf cart operation on all public City roadways by ordinance

Option 3

Allow golf cart operation on all public City roadways with a speed limit of 35mph or less during the daytime by ordinance with the following state required contingencies:

- Licensed Class C Driver
- Motor Vehicle Insurance
- All Mandated Equipment: Headlamps, taillamps, reflectors, parking brake, mirrors