



April 19, 2013

Lee County Board of Commissioners
2120 SW Main Street
Fort Myers, FL 33901

Dear Commissioners:

BikeWalkLee, a coalition to complete the streets in Lee County, works for a balanced multi-modal transportation system and sustainable community. We are writing in support of the proposed ordinance on Pine Island golf carts, scheduled for public hearing on April 23rd.

In April 2012, the Greater Pine Island Civic Association submitted a proposal to LeeDOT that would have allowed for the use of golf carts on side paths under certain conditions. On April 18, 2012, BikeWalkLee issued a position paper on the issue, stating our opposition to allowing any use of the side paths by operators of golf carts. Safety is our utmost concern, and allowing powerful and potentially dangerous vehicles such as golf carts on the path system, which was intended exclusively for non-motorized uses, would make matters worse for more vulnerable path users.

(See: http://www.bikewalklee.org/BWL_PDFs/BWL_PR/041812bikepathPaper.pdf.)

As stated in our 2012 paper, "However, BikeWalkLee endorses approval of golf carts on roadways where state statutes allow for a variety of reasons, including their traffic calming effect, removing them from illegally operating on side paths where their use puts non-motorists at risk, and because they are a more energy efficient mode of travel."

We are pleased that the proposed ordinance is consistent with BikeWalkLee's position and prohibits all use of the side paths by golf cart operators. We support the use of golf carts on the roads designated in the draft ordinance and believe they will have a traffic calming effect on the roads. We urge you to support the draft ordinance as proposed by the staff.

We look forward to continuing to work with you to improve the safety, mobility, and quality of life for all residents of Lee County.

Sincerely,

/s/

Darla Letourneau
On behalf of BikeWalkLee

cc: Doug Meurer, Interim County Manager
Donna Marie Collins, Assistant County Attorney
Pam Keyes, Assistant County Manager
David Loveland, LeeDOT Director