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COUNTY DEPARTMENT AGENDA REQUEST

Department/Division: Planning & Zoning/Community Dev.

Department Head: Peter A. Frisina

Presenter, if needed: Pete Frisina

Preferred Meeting Date: Thursday, September 25, 2008

Wording for the Agenda:

Consideration of staff's recommendation that Sumner Road be designated as an authorized street for motorized cart usage.

Background/History/Details:

Mike Flynn on behalf of The Landings Subdivision has requested the designation of Sumner Road for motorized cart usage. The County Code, Chapter 10. Motor Vehicles and Traffic, Article III. Motorized Carts, Sec. 10-42. Street Authorization was amended on July 24, 2008, to establish issues which may be considered by the B.O.C. in the designation of an authorized street. This item has been discussed numerous times by the Board, including input from Planning and Zoning, law enforcement, public works and others.

What action are you seeking from the Board of Commissioners?

Designation of Sumner Road as an authorized street for motorized cart usage.

If this item requires funding, please describe:

N/A

Has this issue come before the Commissioners in the past? Yes

If so, when? July 24, 2008

Do you need audio-visual for the presentation? No

Back-up Material Submitted? Yes

STAFF USE ONLY

Approved by Finance? Yes

Reviewed by Legal? Yes

Approved by Purchasing? Yes

Approved by Administrative Staff? Yes

Staff Notes

Administrator's Approval Yes

Confirmed Meeting Date Thursday, September 25, 2008

- ○ Recognition/ Presentation
- ○ Public Hearing
- ◉ Old Business
- ○ New Business
- ○ Consent
- ○ Report
- ○ Other

Fayette County Board of Commissioners
140 Stonewall Avenue West
Fayetteville, GA 30214

Dear Commissioners,

I would like to request approval of the golf cart usage on Sumner Road on behalf of the Landings Subdivision. Golf cart usage within the Landings Subdivision started in 2000. In 2001 golf cart access to Sumner Road by residents of the Landings Subdivision was gained by permission of the property owners through the rear of two lots within the subdivision and the Coweta-Fayette EMC property at the corner of Sumner Road and SR 54. The residents of the subdivision were using Sumner Road for golf cart access into Peachtree City until we were informed about a year ago that Sumner Road was not approved for golf cart usage. The portion of Sumner Road within Peachtree City allows for golf cart usage. Presently, approximately 47 households in the Landings Subdivision own golf carts. Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

M.G. Flynn

Fayette County GEORGIA

Where Quality Is A Lifestyle

To: Fayette County Board of Commissioners

From: Pete Frisina, Planning and Zoning
Phil Mallon, Public Works
Bryan Woodie, Sheriff

Date: September 10, 2008

Subject: Authorization of Sumner Road for Motorized Carts

The purpose of this memo is to address the request for the authorization of Sumner Road for motorized carts. The request is being made by Mike Flynn of the Landing Subdivision on behalf of the subdivision.

Section 10-42. (Street Authorization) of the Fayette County Code outlines issues that can be considered in the BOC's designation of authorized streets. Section 10-42 reads as follows:

> The Board of Commissioners may designate authorized streets upon its own initiative or by request from a private citizen for the use of motorized carts. The Board of Commissioners may consider issues including, but not limited to, the street classification, posted speed limit, speed characteristics of the street as determined by studies, maximum grade of the road, minimum visibility distance, or any other existing conditions particular to the street in their designation of an authorized street. The Board of Commissioners may condition approval of the designation subject to safety measures on the street including, but not limited to, the reduction of the posted speed limit, additional signage/markings, and traffic calming devices to improve safety.

Staff has found the following:

Street Classification: Sumner Road is a County Local per the Fayette County Thoroughfare Plan

Posted Speed Limit: 35 mph

Speed Characteristics: The Sheriff's Office conducted a speed study from 08/19/2008 to 08/21/2008 on Sumner Road. The study found that the 85th percentile was less than 16 mph over the posted speed limit (50.17 mph for eastbound traffic and 47.82 mph for westbound traffic). The "85th percentile" is a statistic used in traffic engineering commonly used to help characterize vehicle speed on a given section of roadway. More specifically, it is the speed at which 85 percent of all vehicles on that road

are travelling at or below. For example, on eastbound Sumner road, only 15 percent of the vehicles are travelling in excess of 50.17 mph.

According to the National Safety Council, the average un-impaired driver of a motor vehicle takes 1 and ¾ seconds to observe, process, and react to a hazard. The distance a vehicle travels during this time is referred to this as the perception and reaction distance. At velocities of 35 mph, the perception and reaction distance is 89.79 feet, at 50 mph the distance is 104.97 feet. These distances are important when evaluated in conjunction with sight distance, described below.

Visibility Distance: In order to provide for a reasonable level of safety, we recommend that motorized carts only be allowed on streets that have characteristics that allow a driver adequate time and distance to identify a hazard (e.g., a golf cart) and react to it (i.e., stop their vehicle). Visibility distance indicates the minimum distance a driver can see given the road's horizontal and vertical curves, vegetation and other obstructions.

On average, the braking distance for an automobile in good weather conditions, with a normally operating vehicle, is within a range of 100 to 160 feet. Adding the braking distance with the perception and reaction distance yields the minimum required visibility distance. For Sumner Road this is a range of 204 to 264 feet (based on the 85th percentile). The Engineering Department has verified that the sight distance is in excess of 264 feet.

Grade of the Road: The primary method for reducing instances of excessive vehicle speed is the employment of speed detection devices (RADAR/Laser). The use of speed detection devices is strictly governed be state law. The Official Code of Georgia Tile 40, Chapter 14, Section 9, states in part "…No speed detection device shall be employed by county, municipal, or campus law enforcement officers on any portion of any highway which has a grade in excess of 7 percent." The grade of Sumner Road does not exceed 7 percent.

Signage: Signage that alerts the public that motorized carts are allowed on the roadway and indicates the limits of where motorized cart use is allowed will be placed on Sumner Road. The Public Works Department, working with the Sheriff's Office, will place the signs.

Recommendation: Given the factors discussed above, Staff recommends that the BOC designate Sumner Road as an authorized street for motorized cart usage.