

Village Code of Ordinances, Chapter 28, Traffic and Vehicles
Approved by Council 10/15/19

Summary of Changes

The “driving” forces behind the revision of this ordinance are:

- to make Bald Head island’s roads safer for all users,
- to allow for growth in road use capacity as road capacity stays the same,
- to recognize that island roads are an integral part of the island’s recreational experience,
- and to provide Public Safety with more clear guidelines and tools for enforcement.

Internal Combustion Engine (I.C.E.) Vehicles

By 2025, commercial users of internal combustion engine vehicles that “live” on island are encouraged to convert to electric vehicles (like commercially modified golf carts) where feasible, and transit vans or small pick-up trucks where an electric vehicle is either not available or will not meet the needed use. Special-use status is granted to emergency and government vehicles, as well as some types of earth-moving-type equipment. Incentives have been defined to entice commercial users to convert to electrics. Specifically, unlimited use of Village streets with no restrictions for workday hours (6 a.m. - 6 p.m.), holidays or weekends is granted to those with narrow, golf-cart-based electrics. Those businesses that must use gas-powered vehicles during non-workday periods, may apply for daily or annual special use permits. Gas-powered vehicles that make scheduled deliveries to the island are unaffected. The Director of Public Safety Exceptions will make exceptions as necessary.

Personal-Use Vehicles

Electric golf carts are the preferred mode of conveyance for personal-use. Small, lightweight electric vehicles that meet maximum defined limitations on length, width, weight, and horsepower may be registered.

Small Electric Devices

Although the Transportation Committee and Village Council initially agreed to prohibit small electric devices like electric scooters, skateboards, Segways, hoverboards, etc. (not electric-assist bicycles, tricycles, or wheelchairs), the outcome is to keep existing restrictions for these devices. Licensed drivers may use these small electrics but must wear a helmet. Discussion about these devices will continue.