



Billy's Bike Shop & Segway of Sanibel
1509 Periwinkle Way
Sanibel, FL 33957

July 9, 2013

Vice Mayor Doug Congress
City of Sanibel
800 Dunlop Road
Sanibel, FL 33957

Dear Vice Mayor Congress:

Since the implementation of guided tours in 2005, it has been proven that Segway operation on the shared-use paths is a safe, compatible and environmentally friendly means of transportation. The tour groups are operating on the less desirable areas of the shared-use path, including the narrow/curve areas, with very few incidents. This speaks highly of the ability of Segway's when it comes to sharing the roadways. Also, training and safe operation of Segway's has been demonstrated in major island events including the 4th of July parade, Bailey Fest, C.R.O.W. Taste of the Islands, and Islands Night.

As a result, this letter is a request for changes/updates to Segway use as stipulated in Resolution No. 05-07. The following requested ordinance changes are:

5. There will be one tour leader for every five people for a ratio of 1:5.

Request: One tour leader for every six people for a ratio of 1:6.

Reason: Many times the group consists of 3 couples. If the group can be split it is, but sometimes that is not accommodating to the customer and an additional guide is used.

9. During tours, the "Segway's" can be operated at a maximum speed of 8 miles per hour.

Request: Segway's operated by tour riders limited to 8 miles per hour. Tour guide not limited to 8 mph.

Reason: This allows the guide to maintain group in an orderly fashion.

10. All tour riders must watch the "safety video" before physically operating a "Segway".

11. An experienced tour leader will give tour riders hands on training, in controlled area.

Request: All tour riders must participate in safety procedure presentation by tour guide in controlled area.

Reason: Tour guides provide extensive safety procedures and hands on training of Segway use and ensure rider is comfortable before allowing tour to proceed. The safety video provided by Segway Corp., while providing same procedures, is designed for the purchase of equipment. Instruction by our tour guides allows skills practice that is pertinent to the tour, rather than advanced user operations shown in the Segway Corp. video.

18. Aside and apart from any police reports that may be required, any accident that occurs during training and/or touring involving personal injury and/or property damage must be reported to the office of the City Manager.

Request: Follow same reporting procedures that are in use for bicycles and scooters.

The following requested ordinance update is:

Currently no tour shall be permitted on or along the Periwinkle Way shared-use path, except on or along that portion of such shared-use path extending west from Lindgren Boulevard to a point directly across from Dixie Beach Boulevard.

Request: Allow tours along shared-use path, public roads and rights-of-way to encompass historical areas of Sanibel. The addition of special tours in cooperation with each area would include, for example, Historical Cemetery, Bailey Tract, and Historical Village. The tours would pause at Gazebo to present information about the protected lands and history of Sanibel. These tour choices would provide increased opportunities for tourists to learn local history and have a positive impact on businesses located on the east end of the island.

We want to thank you for your confidence in us and our business to have allowed the tours since 2005. Now, we hope you will take these recommendations under serious consideration. We feel the above requested changes would benefit our tour riders, island businesses and would promote and educate others about Sanibel and what the entire island has to offer.

Sincerely,

Billy Kirkland