



CITY AND BOROUGH OF SITKA

A COAST GUARD CITY

MEMORANDUM

To: Mayor Eisenbeisz and Assembly Members

From: Assembly Members Ystad and Pike

Date: December 28, 2023

Subject: Proposed amendments to All-Purpose Vehicles code

Background

Sitka General Code Chapter 11.75 “All-Purpose Vehicles” (APV) has been in place since February 2022. While successful, some of the rules have proven to be limiting to some citizens in the way/time they may use their APVs. The President of the Sitka All-Terrain Riders and others have asked the sponsors of this ordinance to make some code amendments to allow more freedom of access and time of use. The amendments presented in this memo are ones the sponsors felt were fair and reasonable to ask the Assembly to consider.

- To include exceptions of hours of operation when traveling to and from the airport or ferry terminal for departures and arrivals, without detour or stop, or when snow plowing.
- To allow ATVs equipped with two seats by the manufacturer.

Analysis

Dozens of APVs have been licensed and driving Sitka’s roadways safely and successfully. Much of the worry about the users of APVs and APVs themselves has been for naught. Some of the APV users have made APVs their daily drivers and in doing so have discovered some restrictions in our current APV code. Considering the success of the program and the safe and responsible operation APV users have demonstrated the sponsors ask the Assembly to consider some exceptions when it comes to our curfew policy and which types of APVs we allow on our roadways.

Considering the current APV users track record and that some have begun using their APVs as daily drivers it is reasonable to ask for more accommodation of APV users’ times of use. Some of the departure and arrival times for the airlines and ferry occur outside of our current ordinance’s hours of operation. Additionally, snow waits for no one and snow removal is very important for safety. Many driveways and sidewalks are

near impassible without snow removal. Having the ability to remove snow from these driveways and sidewalks at all hours of the day provides safe conditions for drivers and pedestrians alike. APVs are a big part of that snow removal service. The sponsors ask the Assembly to consider allowing some exceptions when it comes to Sitka's APV hours of operation to address these concerns.

One class of ATV has been left out of the original APV ordinance and that is the factory purpose built 2-up ATV. The sponsors see no reason these ATVs should not be allowed on our roadways. These 2-up ATVs have a longer frame and wheelbase to accommodate a passenger on the back. For passenger comfort and safety, they include a seat with backrest attached to the frame along with raised foot pegs and grab bars attached to the frame. The longer frame and wheelbase provide these quads with much better handling characteristics than their single rider counterparts. Not only does the longer frame help from flipping over backwards but also gives much better side to side stability than their single rider ATVs. The 2-up class ATV is a relatively new category of ATV and to the sponsors' knowledge all come equipped with modern suspension, shocks, and brakes like most cars on the road today. The sponsors believe this class of ATV to be as safe to operate as currently permitted APVs on Sitka's road system and recommend they should be allowed within our APV ordinance.

Fiscal Note

No additional costs anticipated.

Recommendation

The sponsors recommend the assembly approve these amendments to Sitka's APV code to allow more time lenience and access to Sitka's roadways.

Encl: Photo of single person ATV and 2-up class ATV

