



To: Members of the Sustainability Board

From: Chief Tim Styka

Date: September 11, 2012

RE: Neighborhood Electric Vehicles

The Board has been charged with the task of looking at possibly requesting an ordinance to be passed by the Common Council which would allow for the use of Neighborhood Electric Vehicles (NEV) or as the State refers to them as Low Speed Vehicles (LSV). The LSV term is probably a bit more accurate because in 2010 the State changed the law to also allow for some gas powered vehicles to be legal under the Statute as well.

Should the Board decide to move forward with a recommendation requesting an ordinance I would suggest using the Town of Menasha ordinance as a guide. Due to the jurisdictional borders between the two communities it would be confusing for the public to have two different sets of rules in an area where the jurisdiction can change frequently. The Town's ordinance does meet the requirements needed by the State to allow for the vehicles. I do believe a wise provision to the ordinance is under (f). This map provides for a municipality to easily demonstrate the area(s) which operation is prohibited. I have attached the Town's map and the only area on the east side of the Town where the vehicles are prohibited is 441 and the highway on/off ramps. There are some areas east of Oneida St in the City which do have a speed limit above 35 mph which these vehicles would not be allowed and listed on a Menasha LSV map. In addition, with input from Community Development, Public Works and the Police Department should a roadway be determined for some reason to be unsafe for the operation of these vehicles they could be prohibited on the roads of concern and added to the map.

I did have concerns on some roads with a 35 mph limit, which also happen to be joint-jurisdictional with the Town of Menasha. In checking with Associate Planner Ria Hull, with the Town, she indicates there have not been any issues at all with these types of vehicles. Therefore, should the board decide to move ahead with this topic, I do not see a need to be more restrictive than what is in the Town's ordinance.

4.11 ALLOWING NEIGHBORHOOD ELECTRIC VEHICLES

(1) Authority.

Pursuant to the authority granted to the Town of Menasha by Wisconsin Statute 349.26(2), the following sections are hereby created to read as follows.

(2) Definition.

Neighborhood Electric Vehicle shall have the definition provided in Wisconsin Statutes Section 349.26(1), including any amendments thereto.

(3) Regulation.

(a) Neighborhood electric vehicles may be operated on all streets and connecting highways within the municipal boundary of the Town of Menasha, except as limited by State law and this section.

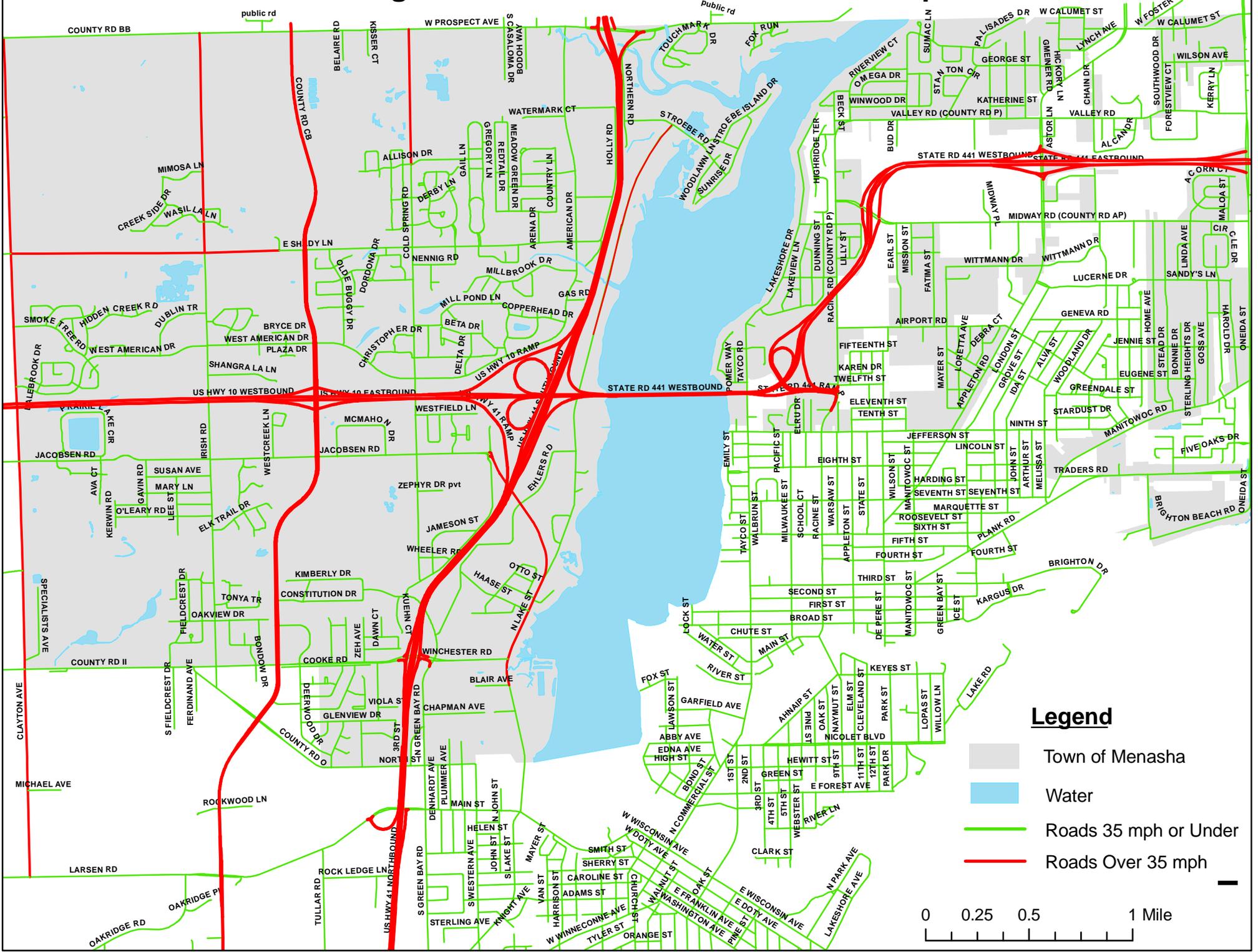
(b) Each person operating a neighborhood electric vehicle on a public street in the Town of Menasha shall possess a valid driver's license.

(c) Each person operating a Neighborhood Electric Vehicle on a public street in the Town of Menasha shall be granted all of the rights and be subject to all of the duties applicable to a driver of any motor vehicle in the State of Wisconsin, including maintaining insurance as required by State law, except as to the special regulations in this section, and except as to those provisions which by their nature do not apply to the operation of a neighborhood electric vehicle.

(d) Each person operating a neighborhood electric vehicle on a public street in the Town of Menasha shall observe all traffic laws and local ordinances regarding the rules of the road. A neighborhood electric vehicle shall not be operated on any public roadway with a posted speed limit greater than thirty-five (35) miles per hour.

(f) The Town shall create, and the Community Development Department shall, at all times, maintain a map highlighting those roadways within the Town boundaries on which neighborhood electric vehicle use is prohibited.

Neighborhood Electric Vehicle Roads Map



Legend

- Town of Menasha
- Water
- Roads 35 mph or Under
- Roads Over 35 mph

