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## SOUTH JERSEY TRAFFIC SAFETY ALLIANCE

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### Low Speed Vehicle Opinion February 1, 2008

In response to several inquiries about the use of Low Speed Vehicles (LVS) on public roadways, the South Jersey Traffic Safety Alliance would like to caution municipalities when considering their use and permitting them to enter the traffic mix.

LSVs are defined as small, 4-wheeled motor vehicles with top speeds of 20-25 miles per-hour and weighing less than 1,800 pounds. As such, they are required to have additional operating equipment, such as, turn signals and stop lights but not safety equipment, such as, the three point harness system, airbags, crumple zones, impact absorbing bumpers or re-enforced door panels. With only minimal safety equipment, the operator and passengers of LSVs are at tremendous risk of serious injury or loss of life in the event of a crash. Additionally, adding these vehicles to the traffic mix without proper education for the operators and awareness for other motorists, especially visitors and vacationers, is a recipe for disaster.

As with any highway issue, “safety” should always be the primary concern. As traffic safety advocates we encourage pedestrians to use sidewalks and crosswalks for safe travel. We also advocate the construction and use of bike paths for bicyclist. Therefore, the Alliance recommends that LSVs be prohibited from public roadway networks until proper engineering studies and municipal infrastructure upgrades can be completed to ensure their safe integration into the current traffic safety mix. Additionally, we would also recommend that municipalities seek legal opinion as to their liability should they decide to permit their operation.