



# STATE SENATOR TOM NEUVILLE

**SERVING SENATE DISTRICT 25**  
RICE, LE SUEUR, SIBLEY, AND SCOTT COUNTIES

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## Neighborhood Electric Vehicles Slated to Meet the Slow Lane

*“Any vehicle that can tout 1.5 cents per mile is worth a test-run,” said Senator Neuville*

St. Paul – Minnesota lawmakers saw the rubber meet the road this week after passing legislation allowing municipalities to permit drivers to cruise city streets in neighborhood electric vehicles (NEVs). These environmentally-friendly vehicles are set to travel as fast as 35 miles per hour with a range of 55 miles on an overnight battery charge.

Before passing the legislation, Minnesota was one of only a handful of states still prohibiting anything but traditional motorized vehicles capable of high speeds.

“With a gallon of gasoline now peaking at almost 3 dollars, cheaper more efficient means of transportation just became that much more attractive,” said Senator Tom Neuville (R-Northfield). “The thought of charging your car’s battery at night instead of charging your credit card at the gas pump is very enticing.”

The NEVs are manufactured by Princeton-based E-Ride, which expects to assemble 200 electric-driven vehicles this year. The Minnesota company is one of several dozen manufacturers nationally that produce two and four-seat vehicles that meet federal safety standards and are approved in more than 40 states for driving on roads with posted speed limits of 35 mph or less.

From a modest, bare-bones model with a \$6,000 price tag to a full-size vehicle equipped with a heater, car tires, and roof for \$12,000, these electric vehicles make-up an affordable alternative to in-town commuting. Powered by batteries that use standard household outlets at a cost of about \$1 per eight-hour charge, the electric vehicles make a strong argument in favor of electric powered transit.

“This is beyond politics and what party you belong to, the Senate passed the provisions 64-1. This is an issue about alternative means of transportation, and making those alternatives advantageous for the people of Minnesota,” continued Senator Neuville. “There would be no incentive for makers or a buyer of electric vehicles if they weren’t allowed to drive them on city streets. This bill is common sense, and will get cheaper transportation on the road.”

Most NEVs are sold to golf courses, the military, private security firms and residents of planned communities. However, with higher-than-ever gasoline prices, manufacturers report a surging demand for them for in-town commuting.

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For additional information regarding prices, availability, and specifications of NEVs please visit [www.eere.energy.gov/cleancities](http://www.eere.energy.gov/cleancities) or [www.e-ride.com](http://www.e-ride.com).

*State Senator Tom Neuville is serving his fifth term in the Minnesota Senate. He encourages and appreciates constituent input, and can be reached at (651)296-1279, by mail at 123 State Office Building, 100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., St. Paul, MN 55155, or via email at [sen.tom.neuville@senate.mn](mailto:sen.tom.neuville@senate.mn).*

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