



April 22, 2019

RE: Agenda item IE4.5, Proposed Regulatory Framework for Scooters, Cargo, and E-assist Cycles

Dear Members of the Infrastructure and Environment Committee,

Walk Toronto would like to express its support of the motion to develop a Regulatory Framework for Scooters, Cargo, and E-assist Cycles. Walk Toronto is aware that electric scooter (“e-scooter”) companies are looking to expand to Toronto.

While Walk Toronto welcomes the advent of new, non-polluting forms of transportation, we have serious concerns about the impact of e-scooters on pedestrians using the sidewalk.

In other cities where e-scooters have been introduced, they have had a detrimental effect on the comfort and safety of pedestrians, especially those with mobility disabilities and visual impairments.

Our concerns are twofold:

- 1) It is important that people on e-scooters do not use the sidewalk to travel, or use pedestrian crosswalks to cross intersections. E-scooters will move at higher speeds than pedestrians do, and the combination of momentum and weight will prove intimidating and dangerous to those on foot, especially the most vulnerable such as seniors, children, and those with mobility and visual impairments.
- 2) It is important that e-scooters not be left lying around the sidewalk, where they can cause blockages and tripping hazards to pedestrians. Toronto is currently working hard to ensure that sidewalks provide enough space to meet accessibility standards (for example, through the recently approved Harmonized By-law and Fees for Sidewalk Cafés, Parklets and Marketing Displays). That work could be undermined if, as has happened in other cities, e-scooters are left randomly or in clusters on the sidewalk.

Walk Toronto therefore urges the City of Toronto to, as soon as possible, get ahead of this issue by establishing regulations in advance that ensure that e-scooters cannot be used on the sidewalk, and cannot be left on sidewalk spaces when unused.

Walk Toronto also recommends that the list of City of Toronto bodies consulted on this matter be expanded to include Municipal Licensing & Standards, and the Toronto Accessibility Advisory Committee.



Walk Toronto is a grassroots, volunteer advocacy group working to make Toronto a better city for walking.

Thank you,

Dylan Reid

On behalf of Walk Toronto (www.walktoronto.ca)