



July 6, 2020

Infrastructure and Environment Committee  
City Hall  
100 Queen Street West  
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

Dear Committee Members,

**Re: IE14.10 E-Scooters - A Vision Zero Road Safety Approach**

As Chair of the Toronto Accessibility Advisory Committee (TAAC), I am writing to share our advisory committee's concerns about the introduction of e-scooters, and the impact the pilot will have on persons living with disabilities.

As you will no doubt recognize, TAAC provides advice to City Council on the elimination of barriers faced by people with disabilities and acts as a liaison with external bodies on barriers to participation in public life and to the achievement of social, cultural and economic well-being of people with disabilities. We further provide advice to City Council about the requirements and implementation of accessibility standards and the preparation, implementation and effectiveness of accessibility reports as required by the *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005 (AODA)*.

Our advisory committee shares many of the concerns brought to this committee in the open letter sent by the AODA Alliance on January 22, 2020 and again, recommends that City Council does not permit the use of e-scooters. E-scooters are virtually silent and pose a threat to anyone who is blind, or has mobility issues navigating the sidewalks. Additionally any e-scooters randomly abandoned in the public right-of-way as witnessed in other cities create barriers for persons with disability, seniors, or anyone with mobility issues.

# **TORONTO** Councillor Kristyn Wong-Tam

Ward 13, Toronto Centre  
City Hall, 100 Queen Street West  
2nd Floor, Suite A5  
Toronto, Ontario M5H 2N2

Tel: 416-392-7903  
Fax: 416-696-4300  
councillor\_wongtam@toronto.ca  
www.kristynwongtam.ca



According to this February 19, 2020, CBC article, <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/montreal/scooters-banned-1.5468206>, the City of Montreal banned the use of shared e-scooters after they experienced mass non compliance of users returning the e-scooters to their docking station, nor did the operators ensure that their city regulations were respected. It is my fear that if we don't learn from these lessons, people living with disabilities in Toronto will experience the same hardship as that of those who lived in Montreal.

The City Staff report does not adequately address the safety concerns of the community, and acknowledges that any mitigation strategy is still in its infancy. There is no structure or formal process to reduce the dangers, or even eliminate them. Why waste time and limited energy, to knowingly create a project that has already produced harmful effects for the most vulnerable population in other Canadian cities.

As the Toronto Office of Rebuild and Recovery brings forth a report at the end of the month, the City of Toronto has been rushing to address the evolving needs of our communities. In doing so, we have left behind some of our most vulnerable populations, namely people living with disabilities. Virtually, we are missing many valuable opinions on this matter as city technology is prohibitive for some people living with disability, leaving remote deputations from people with lived experience unavailable. The City of Toronto has the opportunity to be a leader in Ontario by listening to this community, and removing current barriers, rather than adding new ones.

The City of Toronto is facing a substantial budget deficit. Fiscally, at this time, we cannot afford the massive investment, to implement the dedicated infrastructure and enforcement required to protect vulnerable pedestrians and eliminate the dangers posed to those who share the road. The staff report also outlines several disturbing concerns, including the lack of no-fault, medical and rehabilitation health insurance coverage; the absence of a clear vehicle status definition from the Ministry of Transportation, and lax standard and specification requirements for e-scooter manufacture.

 **TORONTO** Councillor Kristyn Wong-Tam

Ward 13, Toronto Centre  
City Hall, 100 Queen Street West  
2nd Floor, Suite A5  
Toronto, Ontario M5H 2N2

Tel: 416-392-7903  
Fax: 416-696-4300  
councillor\_wongtam@toronto.ca  
www.kristynwongtam.ca



In consideration of these many unresolved concerns, and in keeping with our duty as lawmakers to value the safety of our most vulnerable citizens, over corporate profits, I stand behind the recommendation of the Toronto Accessibility Advisory Committee, and call on this Committee to prohibit the use of e-scooters in our shared public roadways.

Respectfully submitted,



Kristyn Wong-Tam  
City Councillor  
Ward 13, Toronto Centre  
Chair, Toronto Accessibility Advisory Committee