



July 7, 2020

Infrastructure and Environment Committee  
C/O Nancy Martins  
10th floor, West Tower, City Hall  
100 Queen Street West  
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2  
Email: [iec@toronto.ca](mailto:iec@toronto.ca)

## Re: E- Scooters in the City of Toronto

Dear Chair and Members of the Infrastructure and Environment Committee:

Following the Government of Ontario's launch of a five-year pilot program for e-scooters, the City of Toronto is faced with a decision on the implementation of bylaws for e-scooters. We are writing on behalf of the University of Toronto to provide feedback to the City of Toronto on this issue.

The wide commercial introduction of e-scooters into the City of Toronto will transform our public streets, roadways and cycle tracks, sidewalks and adjacent private properties. As a major property owning stakeholder, with considerable public realm in both the City's downtown core and at our U of T Scarborough campus and a community of over 100,000 students, faculty and staff, there are a number of considerations we feel are important to be addressed if the City proceeds to participate on the Province's pilot.

Below are a number of considerations from the University of Toronto as you discuss a regulatory framework for e-scooters in the City of Toronto:

### 1. The current City regulations now in effect

We support a continuation of the prohibition of the parking, storage, or leaving of scooters on any street, sidewalk or pedestrian way (unless in a designated zone or docking station). We also support the continued prohibition against the use of e-scooters on sidewalks.

## **2. A phased-in approach**

We support the approval of a phased approach to the implementation of a e-scooters. We encourage the City to take the necessary time to get implementation right and benefit from data and experiences from other Ontario pilots and from other jurisdictions around the world.

## **3. Leveraging synergies with the City's Toronto Parking Authority**

We support the coordination of mobility policy goals. Accordingly, we encourage the Committee to consider the Toronto Parking Authority as the umbrella entity for the management of bike-sharing, e-bikes, e-scooters, etc to support the coordination of micro-mobility policy and programs.

## **4. Implementation of an RFP process for e-scooter fleets**

We support establishment of an RFP process to ensure that commercial operators be required to meet a set of qualifications to operate e-scooter fleets, and that certain conditions to be met include: insurance coverage; the sharing of data with the City, and compliance matters (i.e. user education; scooter parking; geo-fencing; social equity; and service standards).

## **5. Continuing Research on Best Practices**

The University of Toronto, as Canada's top research university, supports ongoing research efforts to ensure evidence-informed policy development on the range of mobility-related initiatives at the City of Toronto.

Through our world-class faculty, and research institutes such as the University of Toronto Transition Research Institute and the University of Toronto School of Cities, we continue to welcome collaboration with the City on research initiatives, including micro-mobility (cycling, e-scooters), related safety issues, social equity, enforcement, etc.

## **6. Evaluating data from the pilot program**

Just as the City has done with the regulation Airbnb and the regulation of ride-sharing vehicles, we support a requirement that commercial e-scooter fleet operators share usage data with the City and the public. These data will help operators, policy makers and community partners make informed decisions about a range of issues relating to e-scooter service.

We also support a proper method to track and report on data such as Emergency Room (ER) incidents (such as was seen in the Calgary pilot), and open data reporting of calls to 311 re scooter issues.

Thank you for considering these issues. We would be pleased to discuss these issues further with members of the committee.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "A. MacDonald." The signature is cursive and somewhat stylized.

Anne MacDonald  
AVP, Ancillary Services  
University of Toronto

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Andrew Arifuzzaman". The signature is very stylized and fluid.

Andrew Arifuzzaman  
Chief Administrative Officer  
University of Toronto Scarborough