

Automated Micro-utility Devices

Introduction for the Toronto Accessibility Advisory
Committee

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Outline

- Context for pilot projects under the Highway Traffic Act
- Examples of automated micro-utility devices
- What's proposed by the province
- Discussion questions
- Next steps

Highway Traffic Act (HTA): Pilots

Excerpt from the HTA: Part XVI – Pilot Projects S. 228

(1) The Lieutenant Governor in Council [Cabinet] may by regulation authorize or establish a project for research into or the testing or evaluation of any matter governed by this Act or relevant to highway traffic. 2005, c. 26, Sched. A, s. 33 (1).

(2) Under a project authorized or established under subsection (1),

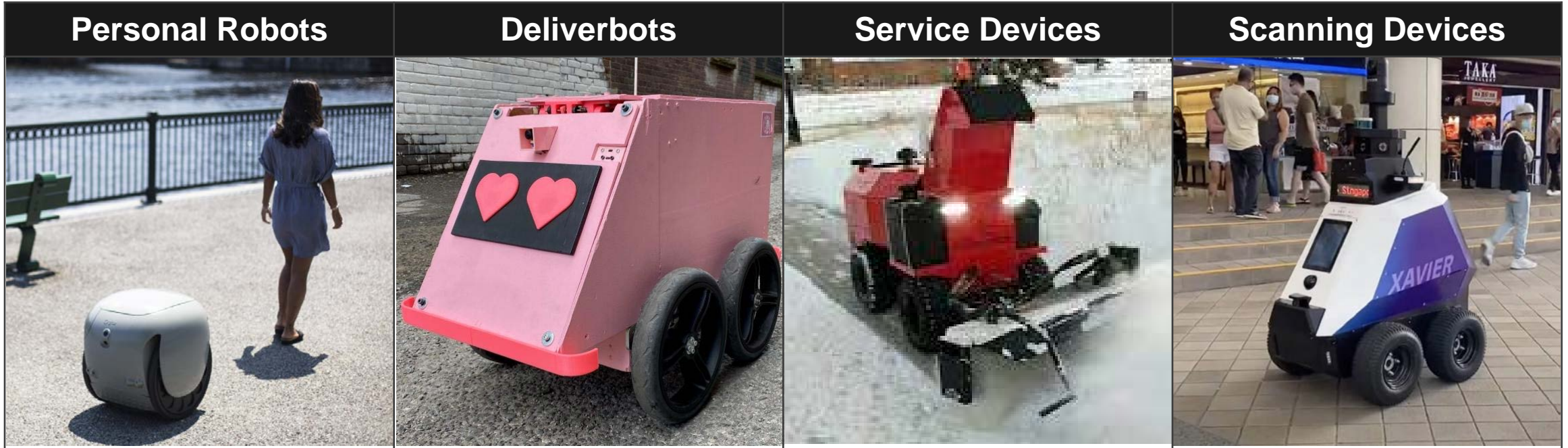
(a) **persons or classes of persons may be authorized to do or use a thing that is prohibited or regulated under this Act**, the *Dangerous Goods Transportation Act*, the *Motorized Snow Vehicles Act* or the *Off-Road Vehicles Act* or to not do or use a thing that is required or authorized by any of those Acts;

(b) **the Minister or Ministry or any person authorized** or required to do anything under this Act, the *Dangerous Goods Transportation Act*, the *Motorized Snow Vehicles Act* or the *Off-Road Vehicles Act* **may be authorized or required to do anything that is not authorized or required** under any of those Acts or to do anything that is authorized or required under any of those Acts in a way that is different from the way it is authorized or required. 2005, c. 26, Sched. A, s. 33; 2020, c. 34, Sched. 23, s. 7 (25, 26).

- Pilot regulations take precedence over other transportation-related Acts
- May be limited to any class of persons, type of vehicles, equipment, devices or highways, geography, time, activity, or other.
- May require a specified amount of insurance.
- Time limit up to 12 years.
- Enforcement is by fine of \$250-\$2,500.

Regulation	Pilot Topic	Effective Date	Duration (End)	Status in Toronto
473/06	Power-Assisted Bicycles	October 3, 2006	3 Years (October 2, 2009)	N/A
449/06	Low-Speed Vehicles	-	6 Years? (January 1, 2015)	N/A
556/07	Emergency Response Vehicles	-	3-4 Years? (July 1, 2011)	N/A
488/06	Segways	July 1, 2011	7 Years (October 19, 2018)	N/A
227/16	HOT Lanes	June 21, 2016	12 Years (June 21, 2028)	N/A (QEW and 403 only)
28/16	Three-Wheeled Vehicles	July 1, 2016	10 Years (March 1, 2026)	Active via Regulation
306/15	Automated Vehicles	January 1, 2016 (Amended January 1, 2019)	10 Years (January 1, 2026)	Active via Regulation; Participation via Supplier
389/19	Electric Kick-Scooters	January 1, 2020	5 Years (November 27, 2024)	Council Decision Not to Opt-in
141/21	Cargo Power-Assisted Bicycles	April 29, 2021	5 Years (March 1, 2026)	PABs Active via Regulation; Recommending Opt-in
407/21	Golf Cars	June 3, 2021	10 Years (June 3, 2021)	None
215/17	Low-Speed Vehicles	July 30, 2021	6 Years (June 29, 2027)	None
TBD	Large Cycles (Pedal Pubs)	TBD – Comments due November 8, 2021	TBD	TBD
TBD	Urban Mobility Vehicles	TBD – Comments due November 8, 2021	TBD – 10 Years Proposed	TBD
306/15 / NEW	Automated Vehicles (Amendment) + Micro-utility Devices	TBD – Comments due November 15, 2021	(January 1, 2016)	TBD

Micro-utility Devices (MUDs)



O.Reg 306/15 Pilot Project – Automated Vehicles includes testing Automated Micro-Utility Devices (MUDs)

Pilot Terms

- 10 years
- Municipal opt-in
- Not on roads – off-road, sidewalks, trails, shoulders
- No passengers
- Are “task-oriented”
- Special stream for snow plows

Device Specifications

- Maximum weight of 125kg*
- Maximum width of 74cm*
- Mandatory audible signals
- Reflectors and lights
- Maximum speed
 - 10 km/hr on sidewalks
 - 20 km/hr on shoulders/bike lanes
- Required yield to pedestrians

* Maximum weight and width does not apply to automated snow plows (under the proposed pilot regulation under the HTA)

Discussion

- Comments due November 15 to the Ministry of Transportation (deadline on Ontario's Regulatory Registry)
- Initial reactions?
- Opportunities to advance accessibility through the Pilot?
- Impacts to accessibility from the Pilot?
- What should the City consider when deciding to opt in or not?

Next Steps

- Submit comments to Province by November 15 deadline
- Monitor status of regulations
- Consult with stakeholders
- Determine opt-in assessment criteria based on policy research and stakeholder consultation
- Staff report on whether to opt-in and parameters of any proposed MUD pilots