

April 27, 2021

Delivered by E-mail; iec@toronto.ca

To Councillor McKelvie and members of Committee,

Re: Agenda Item IE21.7 Concerning E Scooters

York Quay Neighbourhood Association (YQNA) represents residents and businesses along the waterfront from Yonge Street to Spadina Avenue. This is a neighbourhood of high rise housing, with many offices, restaurants and other businesses serving the area. Residents comprise a wide range from young families to older people with mobility issues. The area is also a major attraction to Torontonians and visitors alike who come to enjoy the waterfront, the ferry ride to the islands, and the various facilities and attractions to be found here. On a typical summer weekend there are thousands of people strolling and cycling along the ample spaces provided for them.

Therefore, we are very pleased to find that staff are recommending AGAINST participating in the Provincial pilot project to permit e-scooters. We agree with the concerns raised in the report and in the letter (7a) from the Toronto Accessibility Advisory Committee dated February 25, 2021. We are already seeing a proliferation of privately-owned e-scooters around the Downtown and Waterfront. Some use the bike paths and lanes, but many use the sidewalks where they are a silent menace to pedestrians. Most seem to be painted black, not all have lights, and they can be hard to see.

As for docking stations, in this area it appears that almost every available piece of roadside is already occupied by Bike Share stations. We suggest that if people wish to ride on two wheels, they can very easily rent a bicycle.

We wish to thank the staff who have worked hard to reach this conclusion, and we encourage all concerned to safe-guard the interests of the citizens of Toronto as they go about their daily lives. We also encourage all members of Council to resist the blandishments of the lobbyists for e-scooter rental companies, as indeed have we.

Sincerely,



Carolyn Johnson
Co-chair of YQNA



Angelo Bertolas
Co-chair of YQNA