



Safe streets
Healthy city
Vibrant voice

192 Spadina Ave, Suite 215
Toronto, ON M5T 2C2
416-644-7188 | cycleto.ca

April 27, 2021

Infrastructure and Environment Committee
10th floor, West Tower, City Hall
100 Queen Street West
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

RE: IE21.7 E-scooters - Accessibility and Insurance Issues

Dear Members of Infrastructure and Environment Committee,

While Cycle Toronto is supportive of new modes of active and e-mobility in the long-term and have supported the exploration of an e-scooter pilot managed by the Toronto Parking Authority in a similar way to Bike Share Toronto, we do not want to see a program move forward at the expense of the safety of both e-scooter users and those they interact with on sidewalks and roads.

We support the **recommendation by Transportation Services not to move forward at this time in the provincial e-scooter pilot project** as the issues identified by City of Toronto staff surrounding safety have not been adequately resolved.

The safety and accessibility concerns raised by organizations such as Walk Toronto and the Toronto Accessibility Advisory Committee must be taken seriously; we cannot prioritize the desires of e-scooter operators to move ahead as soon as possible over the safety of our city's most vulnerable road users. As noted in the City staff report, the use and parking of e-scooters on sidewalks pose safety risks for pedestrians and people using mobility devices.

As noted in the City's report, e-scooters have significantly increased the number of head and neck injuries in cities that have piloted similar programs. With the public healthcare system currently under strain from the pandemic, it is not an appropriate time to introduce a new mode of transportation to our roads which carry such a high risk to the health and safety of its users.

We urge City Council request that Transport Canada regulate harmonized micromobility vehicle safety, standards, testing and labelling, and conduct robust consultation with key stakeholders in universal accessibility, active transportation and road safety, given the importance of consumer safety and protection, as well as clarity for businesses that manufacture, import, distribute, retail and provide insurance products for micromobility.

As our streets get busier and denser, they must evolve to accommodate many types of mobilities. Electric bikes, e-skateboards, and e-scooters are increasing in popularity. The conversation around e-mobility further highlights the need for a citywide network of safe, high-quality infrastructure that can support modes of travel that aren't appropriate for sidewalks, but need protection from car, bus, or truck traffic.

Cycle Toronto will continue to evaluate the potential of e-mobility and how it can complement active transportation.

Sincerely,



Keagan Gartz
Executive Director
Cycle Toronto

Cc: Mayor John Tory, City of Toronto
Barbara Gray, General Manager, Toronto Transportation Services

Cycle Toronto is a member-supported, charitable organization that works to make Toronto a safe, healthy, and vibrant cycling city for all.

