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Date: April 30, 2024

To: City of Toronto
Infrastructure and Environment Committee
Re: IE13.1 A Micromobility Strategy for Toronto

Dear Infrastructure Committee,

For the better part of a decade, Toronto City Council has been debating the legalization of Micromobility – and more specifically electric scooters and their impact on Toronto streets.

We estimate there are currently 50,000+ privately owned electric scooters on Toronto streets. The debate of legalization happened 6 years ago on the streets and the people won. Now it's up to you to catch up because we desperately need action on educating riders for safety and best riding practices.

Without legalization, you know as well as I do that your hands are tied.

I appreciate the effort that City Staff have put in over the years to navigate Toronto's Micromobility file – **but I strongly oppose their current recommendation to keep the status quo.**

We all want safer streets and that won't happen without a full-scale education campaign – for drivers & riders of all types of vehicles and devices. **But you know we must legalize privately owned electric scooters first to build the same types of education campaigns the city does for drivers, pedestrians, and cyclists.**

And these aren't the same scooters as 6 years ago.

The new generation of Segway-Ninebot electric scooters all feature front lights, braking lights, turn signals, horns, and dynamic braking. And unlike a 3-ton F-150, riders can set a reasonable maximum speed using their app. From the factory, Segway devices host more built-in safety features than almost every bicycle.

At this point, Segway-Ninebot scooter riders could simply attach a third wheel to meet the Ontario Low Speed Vehicle threshold. Perhaps we'll start offering that as a service so our thousands of customers aren't constantly criminalized for commuting to work – or for working in the precarious food delivery business. If you've ever ordered from SkiptheDishes or Ubereats – your lunch has likely arrived on an illegal device.

I urge this Committee and ALL of City Council to meet a new status quo that encourages a thoughtful and active micromobility strategy. **With 40k+ new residents to Toronto each year and diminishing street space, we need to encourage residents to commute small so we can grow big.**

Without legalization, there's no education. **Seriously consider passing Ontario's Micromobility Pilot in Toronto so we can educate & promote safer streets for everyone.**

Yours truly,
Aaron Binder
Chief Experience Officer
Segway of Ontario