



City of Toronto
100 Queen St W
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

October 3rd, 2025

Subject: Moving Beyond Enforcement Blitzes — Why Toronto Needs an Enforceable Micromobility Framework, Not a Permanent Ban

Dear Mayor Chow and Members of Toronto City Council,

On behalf of Bird Canada, the country's largest and only Canadian-owned operator in our industry, I am writing to respond to the City's recent enforcement blitz on personal electric scooters and other micromobility devices.

Bird Canada shares the City's commitment to safe streets for all road users. We understand and support targeted enforcement when it protects pedestrians, cyclists, and vulnerable road users. However, a permanent ban on e-scooters continues to be an incorrect long-term solution. Instead, Toronto would benefit from clear, enforceable legislation and a regulated shared e-scooter and e-bike program — the approach successfully adopted in almost all other major North American cities.

Why a Permanent Ban Fails

- **Demand Persists Despite Prohibition:** The blitz confirmed what we and City staff have long observed — thousands of residents and visitors continue to use personal e-scooters even under a ban. Prohibition has not eliminated use; it has simply driven it underground and outside any enforceable safety rules.
- **Lost Safety Controls:** Without a legal framework, the City cannot require speed caps, sidewalk detection, parking compliance, insurance, or operator accountability — all of which are standard in regulated programs.
- **Missed Accessibility & Climate Benefits:** E-scooters & e-bikes provide an affordable, low-carbon first- and last-mile option, reducing car dependency and supporting Toronto's climate targets.

A Proven Alternative: Regulated & Enforceable Micromobility

Across Canada, cities such as Vancouver, Ottawa, Calgary, Edmonton, Halifax, and Hamilton have introduced e-scooter & e-bike programs with enforceable operating rules. These include:

- Speed and geofencing limits (including sidewalk detection and automatic slow zones).
- Clear rider age and helmet requirements.
- Parking standards with rapid response times for mis-parked vehicles (Bird Canada's standard is under 30 minutes).
- Insurance coverage and data sharing with municipalities.
- Penalty structures and permit suspension for non-compliance.

The result has been improved safety outcomes, reduced sidewalk clutter, and robust enforcement tools — without denying residents a sustainable, low-emission travel choice.



Our Request

We urge Council to move away from blanket prohibition and direct City staff to draft enforceable regulations for both personal and shared micromobility devices. Bird Canada is ready to work with the City to:

- Provide data on ridership patterns and safety performance.
- Pilot advanced sidewalk detection and speed-management technologies.
- Support enforcement through fleet controls, fines, and responsive field teams.
- Understand how a docked e-scooter program could exist within the Toronto Bikeshare System.

Toronto has an opportunity to move beyond reactive blitzes and adopt a modern, safe, and enforceable micromobility framework that protects pedestrians, reduces car trips, and advances the City's climate and transportation goals.

We appreciate your consideration and stand ready to collaborate on a path forward that prioritizes safety while meeting the mobility needs of Torontonians.

Sincerely,

Pat Graham
General Manager
Bird Canada