



Date: June 19, 2018

To: Patrick H. West, City Manager *PW*

From: *CB* Craig A. Beck, Director of Public Works

For: Mayor and Members of the City Council

Subject: **Electric Scooter Pilot Program**

Over the past few months, various electric scooter (e-scooter) rental providers have approached City staff expressing an interest in deploying their programs in Long Beach. Similar to the City's Bikeshare, the vendors propose placing e-scooters in the rights-of-way that would be available for use by program members for a fee. While innovation in battery technology have made e-scooters a low-cost mobility option, it is important to prescribe how best to provide access to the community at large, while also minimizing impacts to our residential and business districts.

Other large cities, such as San Francisco and Santa Monica, are experiencing initial challenges with e-scooter programs. To address impacts, such as over saturation, indiscriminate placement, dangerous riding, and blocking of ADA path-of-travel, many cities are opting for a formal permit process.

Currently, Long Beach doesn't have regulations that provide for deployment of e-scooters. While staff closely watches the evolution of e-scooter regulations in other cities, additional time is needed to properly develop a process for Long Beach. In the interim, staff is moving forward with a pilot program allowing vendors to deploy for up to 120 days, beginning in July and ending in October.

The e-scooter pilot program will include the following:

- Vendors must have a Long Beach business license
- Vendors must limit the speed to a 15mph max
- Vendors must provide a helmet program and riders must sign a liability waiver to wear a helmet
- Riders must be at least 18 years old
- Vendors must apply for a right-of-way use permit through Public Works (permit fee will be based on the number of locations)
- Vendors must identify primary deployment locations where e-scooters will be stationed (similar to BikeShare stations where anyone can pick-up or drop off e-scooters)
 - Staff will encourage vendors to partner with private property owners for station placement

- Stations located in the right-of-way will be reviewed by the City for ADA accessibility and physically marked with temporary paint
- Vendors must develop a fee structure that encourages users to return e-scooters to station locations
- Vendors will initially be limited to 150 e-scooters, but can request a second permit for an additional 150, for a total of 300 total
 - Issuance of a second permit will be based on the vendor's demonstrated ability to provide good program management and following the City's pilot program
- The City has full discretion to limit the number of vendor locations in any given area
- No riding e-scooters on sidewalks
- Riders may only park e-scooters outside of the sidewalk path-of-travel, allowing a minimum clearance of four feet as required by ADA
- Vendors must provide a customer service program (call-in phone number, online help, etc.)
- Vendors must provide \$1 million liability insurance that lists the City as additionally insured
- All e-scooters operating in Long Beach must have proper safety equipment (lights and reflectors)
- Vendor must provide active monitoring and rebalancing of e-scooters to avoid over-saturation in any given neighborhood
- The City has full discretion to remove a vendor from the program for non-compliance

Next Steps

Staff will continue to work with e-scooter vendors to prepare for the pilot program implementation in July. Once implemented, staff will monitor vendor compliance and management of their e-scooter program. Staff will also track complaints and responsiveness to address concerns. The results of the pilot will be used to prepare a formal, regulated program.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please call me at (562) 570-6771.

CB:MM; JC
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