

## MEMORANDUM

To: Members of Committee of the Whole

From: Paul Jankowski  
Commissioner of Transportation Services

Date: December 13, 2019

Re: Ministry of Transportation Electric Scooter Pilot Framework

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This memorandum provides an update on the Ministry of Transportation's recently-announced five-year electric scooter pilot framework, to begin January 1, 2020. An electric scooter is a stand up scooter powered by an electric motor, as pictured in Attachment 1.

### **The Ministry of Transportation initiated a five-year pilot framework to permit electric scooters on Ontario roads starting January 2020**

In August 2019, the Ministry of Transportation requested feedback on the provincial regulatory registry for a proposed pilot and policy framework to allow kick-style electric scooters on Ontario roads. Comments were submitted in [September 2019](#), and a summary of the comments was provided to Council in [October 2019](#).

On November 27, 2019, the Ministry of Transportation announced a five-year electric scooter pilot framework commencing January 1, 2020. The purpose of this pilot framework is to allow for implementation of electric scooters by municipalities and to examine their ability to safely integrate with other vehicle types and determine whether existing rules of the road are adequate.

As part of the pilot framework, the Ministry of Transportation has set out rules and safety requirements, including the need for a helmet, equipment and age requirements (e.g. horn/bell, front and rear light, 16+ years old) and a maximum speed of 24 kilometres per hour. Additional safety requirements include prohibiting drug and/or alcohol use when operating an electric scooter. Similar to bicycles, electric scooters are required to adhere to the [Highway Traffic Act Pilot Project – Electric Kick-Scooters](#) and are subject to bylaw violations.

## **The Region and local municipalities can choose to allow use of electric scooters and determine where they can operate most safely by implementing bylaws**

Under the pilot framework, the Region and local municipalities can choose whether to allow electric scooters on their roadways. If permitted, bylaws will need to be enacted at both the local and regional levels. How electric scooters will be managed in each municipality and consistency among neighbouring municipalities will need to be considered, specifically around mobility hubs serving residents across municipal jurisdictions, such as the Richmond Hill/Langstaff Gateway Regional Centre.

## **Should municipalities move forward to permit electric scooters, parameters for operation will need to be considered with the creation of bylaws**

A best practice guideline has been developed by the Ministry to help municipalities integrate electric scooters in their communities (Attachment 2). However, further considerations will need to be explored by municipalities including:

- Parameters for operation by electric scooter companies and riders including permits, licencing for electric scooter sharing systems
- Whether to allow or prohibit them on municipal roads, limited to specific areas, parks and/or trails
- Designation of spaces for electric scooter parking
- Liability and insurance requirements
- Enhancing connectivity with other multimodal systems
- Regulation and enforcement

## **Staff continues to work with local and neighbouring municipalities to promote a consistent approach to the use of electric scooters across the Region and Greater Toronto Hamilton Area**

Through a coordinating committee, staff is working with local and neighbouring municipalities to promote an integrated approach for electric scooter use focused on addressing safety, business, liability, and user expectation issues. Although the electric scooter may offer a travel solution to address the “last kilometre” challenge for travellers, the potential benefits need to be evaluated against safety concerns and impacts to other travellers. Once appropriate suggested approaches have been developed, staff will report back to Council in coordination with local municipalities, with recommended next steps regarding pilot implementation.

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Paul Jankowski  
Commissioner of Transportation Services

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Bruce Macgregor  
Chief Administrative Officer

December 13, 2019  
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