



Transportation Services

September 12, 2019

Ministry of Transportation
 Road Safety Policy Office
 Safety Policy and Education Branch
 87 Sir William Hearst Avenue
 Building "A", Room 212
 Toronto ON M3M 0B4

**RE: York Region Response – Development of Regulatory and Policy Framework
 Regarding Use of Electric Scooters – Proposal 19-MTO026**

York Region staff thank the Province for the opportunity to provide feedback on the development of a regulatory and policy framework for the use of electric scooters (e-scooters) on Ontario roads. Included below are our initial comments, based on the information provided in the provincial Regulatory Registry posting (Proposal 19-MTO026).

Due to the short consultation timeframe, it was not possible to bring this response to York Regional Council for endorsement prior to submission; however, should Council have any additional comments, staff will forward them to the Province.

York Region staff support the use of micromobility technologies to help address Ontario travellers' priorities

York Region staff recognize the value of innovative micromobility technologies, such as e-scooters and e-bikes, to help provide alternatives for Ontario's travellers. Travellers that lack a convenient, affordable way to get on transit often use a single-occupancy vehicle, contributing to peak-hour travel delays and impacting air quality. Micromobility services have the potential to enhance this connectivity to public transit, reduce dependence on single-occupancy vehicles, and lower greenhouse gas emissions. Over the last two years, Region staff have undertaken studies on the potential of a bike share in York Region to determine appropriate types, location and other requirements. The findings of these studies may be adapted and assist in setting a foundational framework for how e-scooters can be integrated effectively into our road networks to provide options for travellers.

Municipal leadership is key to ensuring the successful integration of e-scooters into the road network

There are nine local municipalities included within the Regional Municipality of York, with varied geographies, infrastructure and populations. To ensure the effective implementation of the e-scooter pilot, the provincial regulatory and policy framework

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should provide municipal discretion to “opt-in”, through the passing of bylaws, the use of e-scooters within their boundaries. This would provide municipalities with the ability to address local community needs while ensuring a consistent provincial approach to micromobility regulation.

Similar to the Ontario government, promoting road safety is a fundamental priority for York Region. To further ensure the safety of our road users, York Region staff suggest that the Province lower the maximum speed for e-scooters. A reduced speed limit would keep the Ontario e-scooter pilot in alignment with other jurisdictions. If, as proposed by the Province, e-scooters operate on-road or in-boulevard similar to where bicycles can operate, including bicycle lanes, multi-use pathways and sidewalks (depending on the municipality), a lowered maximum speed would also help address potential safety challenges due to the difference in e-scooter, bicycle and pedestrian speeds.

Regulatory requirements for e-scooter companies are necessary to protect against municipal liability

York Region staff have concerns regarding municipal liability in the event of an e-scooter accident. Similar to the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, York Region staff recommend that the provincial pilot require e-scooter companies to have insurance, with mandatory minimum coverage. This would protect municipalities and e-scooter riders.

As noted above, micromobility technologies offer York Region an opportunity to help tackle several significant regional priorities. York Region staff thank the Province again for providing an opportunity to give feedback, and look forward to further consultation as the Province moves ahead with the e-scooter regulatory and policy framework and related pilot.

If you have questions regarding this response or would like to further discuss these recommendations, please contact John Kazilis, Manager – Transportation Development Planning, at John.Kazilis@york.ca or (905) 830-4444 ext. 71578.

Sincerely,



Paul Jankowski
Commissioner

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