



MEMO

To: Chair and Members, Integrated Transportation Community Advisory Committee

From: Climate Change & Environmental Stewardship staff with input from others

Date: September 18, 2024

Re: Update: Provincial E-scooter Pilot Project and Enforcement

This memo provides an update on e-scooter enforcement as requested by the Road Safety/Vision Zero Sub-committee. To help with context, it also includes background information on the City's participation in the provincial e-scooter pilot.

A full report on the City's e-scooter pilot experience is targeted for a Quarter 1 (January to March, 2025) Civic Works Committee meeting.

Background

An e-scooter is a stand-up scooter powered by an electric motor. They are generally designed for use by adults with a large deck in the centre upon which the rider stands. They are a micromobility option that is becoming more popular in many North American cities.



Pilot overview

In January 2020, the Province of Ontario launched a five-year e-scooter pilot program. It ends November 27, 2024. The Province is currently seeking public input on extending the pilot to November 27, 2029. No changes are proposed to the existing e-scooter pilot program rules and requirements. Details are here: <https://www.ontariocanada.com/registry/view.do?language=en&postingId=48513>

The pilot is intended to evaluate the use of both personal e-scooters (the ones that can be purchased in Ontario right now) and shared e-scooters systems, to examine their ability to safely integrate with other vehicle types, and determine whether existing provincial rules of the road are adequate. As part of the pilot, Ontario municipalities first need to pass by-laws to define where e-scooters can operate and be parked. Since the pilot launched, 16 Ontario municipalities have opted in to the pilot, covering shared and/or personal e-scooters.

All the details on the provincial pilot are available at:

<https://www.ontario.ca/page/electric-kick-style-scooters-e-scooters>

City participation in pilot

City Council approved joining the pilot in 2023. At the time, a new Electric Kick-Scooter and Cargo Power-assisted Bicycle By-law was created. In addition, these existing municipal by-laws were updated:

- Streets By-law
- Traffic and Parking By-law
- Parks and Recreation Area By-law
- Administrative Monetary Penalty System (AMPS) By-law

Enforcement During the Pilot Project

At this point in time, focused enforcement of e-scooters has not been provided by either London Police Services (LPS) or Municipal Compliance (by-law enforcement) due to other priorities and available resources and funding. The ability to participate via short-term blitzes remains a possibility should need be demonstrated.

The number of issues that have been recorded by the City with respect to e-scooters has been minimal. The main concerns raised are the speed of the e-scooters and the quiet operation which could lead to potential collision occurrences with pedestrians and motor vehicles.

There have been comments made by others in regard to potential violations of the by-law including use of e-scooters on sidewalks, speed, lack of sound emitted by e-scooters, lack of proper equipment being worn, etc.

Further discussions will occur with LPS and Municipal Compliance based on available details from London and other communities participating in the pilot.

City Actions – Awareness, Education and Information

To accompany the update of municipal by-laws, Council approved assigning City staff resources during the first summer season to undertake an education and awareness-raising campaign. The purpose was to ensure users understood their responsibilities and to ensure Londoners knew where to expect e-scooters to operate and the rules in place.

In addition, a data collection program was carried out to get a sense of how many personal e-scooters were in use and any recurring issues.

It is important to note that data on 2023 injuries and collisions is not yet available. It will be available in winter 2025. Injury and collision data continues to be gathered by London Health Sciences Centre and London Police Service.

City staff continue to distribute e-scooter informational posters and postcards to ensure Londoners and visitors to London are aware of the local rules for their operation.

Province-Led Activities

Provincial staff have held meetings with the Ontario municipalities participating in the pilot program, including those municipalities with shared and/or personal-use e-scooters. The focus of discussions has been on shared services and data collection on injury and collision rates. At this point in time, less emphasis is being placed on personal e-scooters.

City staff has benefited from these meetings by learning from other Ontario municipalities' pilots and their municipal by-law updates.

Next Steps

City staff is targeting a report to Civic Works Committee in Quarter 1 2025 (i.e., potentially February 19th 2025 meeting), following the conclusion of the pilot on November 27, 2024 (current Provincial Pilot Project end date). The report will include a description of local pilot activities, findings and results of data gathering activities, and any updates shared by the Province.