

PROPOSED NOTICE OF MOTION

E-Scooter Safety Education and Operator Certification

An example of a motion Stacey Lepine-Fisher would bring forward, if elected, on behalf of Pickering residents.

Preamble

WHEREAS electric kick-scooters provide a transportation option for residents, and their safe operation requires an understanding of traffic rules, permitted riding locations and responsibilities toward other road users;

AND WHEREAS the City of Pickering has a responsibility to advance community safety for all residents and visitors, including pedestrians, cyclists, e-scooter riders, drivers and passengers, with particular consideration for children, older adults, people with varying abilities and others who may face greater risks when travelling through the community;

AND WHEREAS Canada's recreational boating framework provides a useful example of requiring operators to demonstrate basic safety knowledge and carry proof of competency;

AND WHEREAS an accessible online safety course, followed by a knowledge assessment and operator certificate, could support safer e-scooter use and greater understanding of applicable rules;

Direction to City Staff

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

- 1. Develop the program.** That Council direct the Chief Administrative Officer, through the Office of the CAO and in coordination with the appropriate departmental Directors, to develop a proposal for a mandatory e-scooter safety education and operator certification program, covering privately owned and shared rental electric kick-scooters operating in locations under the City's jurisdiction. That the proposal assess a phased approach, beginning with mandatory safety training for shared rental users through lawful operator requirements, alongside options for extending certification to privately owned scooters, including any provincial changes needed.
- 2. Pursue funding and operator contributions.** That staff pursue external funding, including consultation with the Ontario Trillium Foundation on project eligibility and an eligible nonprofit or charitable lead applicant, and identify alternative grants or partnerships if OTF funding is unavailable. That staff recommend a requirement for shared e-scooter operators serving Pickering, including those participating in Durham-area programs, to contribute a portion of the costs of developing and delivering the safety program as a condition of new or renewed operating agreements, or amendments where legally permissible, subject to legal review and existing contractual obligations. Staff shall recommend the contribution amount and enforceable terms.
- 3. Establish course content.** That the proposed program include a short, accessible online course and knowledge assessment addressing permitted riding locations, speed and age requirements, helmet and equipment rules, intersections, pedestrian safety, responsible parking, impairment and emergency procedures.
- 4. Issue proof of competency.** That the proposed program provide successful participants with verifiable digital and printed proof of completion, with the objective of establishing a mandatory operator certificate, permit or licence where legally authorized, consistent with the phased approach.
- 5. Confirm authority and enforcement.** That staff consult the City Solicitor and Ontario's Ministry of Transportation to establish authority for mandatory certification and penalties, identify necessary by-law amendments, and recommend provincial changes where additional authority is required.
- 6. Consult community partners.** That staff consult Durham Regional Police Service, Durham Region, the City's Accessibility Advisory Committee, riders, community road-safety organizations and shared e-scooter providers on delivery, enforcement and implementation.
- 7. Ensure equitable access.** That the proposal prioritize free access, provide assisted and offline completion options, and recommend public education and a transition period before enforcement begins.
- 8. Report through Executive Committee.** That the CAO report to the Executive Committee, for recommendation to Council, on funding options, legal findings, development and ongoing operating costs, a phased implementation timetable, proposed enforcement measures and a plan to evaluate safety outcomes. The objective shall be to report within 120 days of adoption, with the specific meeting date confirmed in consultation with the CAO before submission, taking account of existing staff workplans and priorities.