

# **Micromobility Code Amendment**

## *Transportation Commission*

March 27, 2025

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# Purpose

Council directed the Transportation Commission to work with staff to review and, as deemed appropriate, recommend revisions to City Code regulating the use of **motorized foot scooters in Bellevue.**

# Agenda for today

- Background and work till date
- Goals for code change
- Timeline for code change
- Key regulatory considerations
- Q & A

## Definition ([BCC 11.48.210](#))

“Motorized foot scooter means a device with no more than two 10-inch or smaller diameter wheels that has handlebars, is designed to be **stood or sat upon** by the operator and is powered by an internal combustion engine or **electric motor** that is capable of propelling the device **with or without human propulsion.**”

# Background

## **BCC 11.48.210**

- Responded to community safety, noise concerns
- Council-directed staff work began in 2005
- Ordinance adopted in 2007

## **Implications of current code**

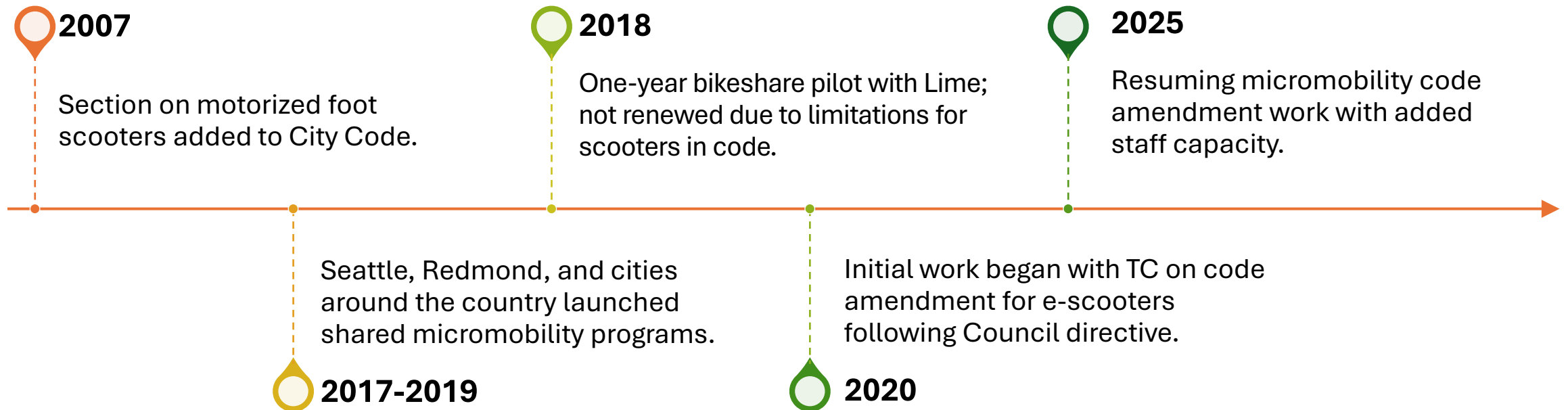
- Functionally illegal transportation mode
- Regional patchwork of laws not intuitive to the public
- Precludes shared mobility option for e-scooters available in neighboring and peer cities



*Go-Ped gas-powered scooter from early 2000s*

# Journey thus far

Years of work lead up to this logical next step:

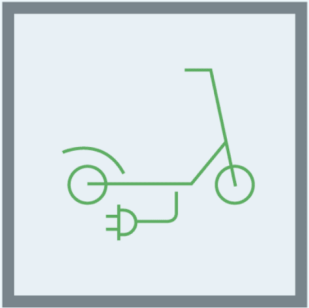


# Goals of code change

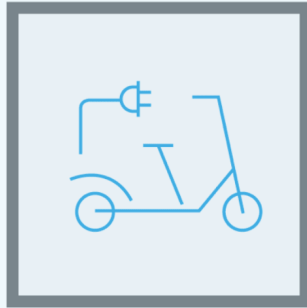
- **Promoting Public Safety:** Encouraging safe riding practices and providing clarity to law enforcement to address traffic violations.
- **Addressing Community Needs:** Supporting emerging mobility trends including the recent rise in personal scooter use by providing clarity to the public and city staff on where and how these devices are allowed or restricted.
- **Expanding Transportation Options:** Enhancing first-mile/last-mile solutions in coordination with light rail development and Transportation Demand Management (TDM) partnerships.
- **Aligning with State Regulations:** Addressing gaps in understanding the use of e-scooters, including where, when, and by whom they can be ridden.
- **Coordinating with Neighboring Jurisdictions:** Ensuring consistency with regulatory frameworks in nearby cities such as Redmond, Seattle, and Kirkland.

# The micromobility landscape is rapidly evolving

Powered Standing Scooter



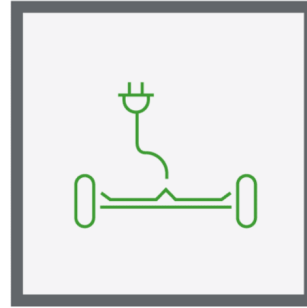
Powered Seated Scooter



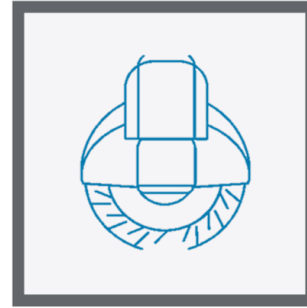
Powered Bicycle



Powered Self-Balancing Board



One-Wheel/ Electric Unicycle





# Current trends

E-scooters are already on Bellevue streets.

Scooter use increasing after the pandemic.

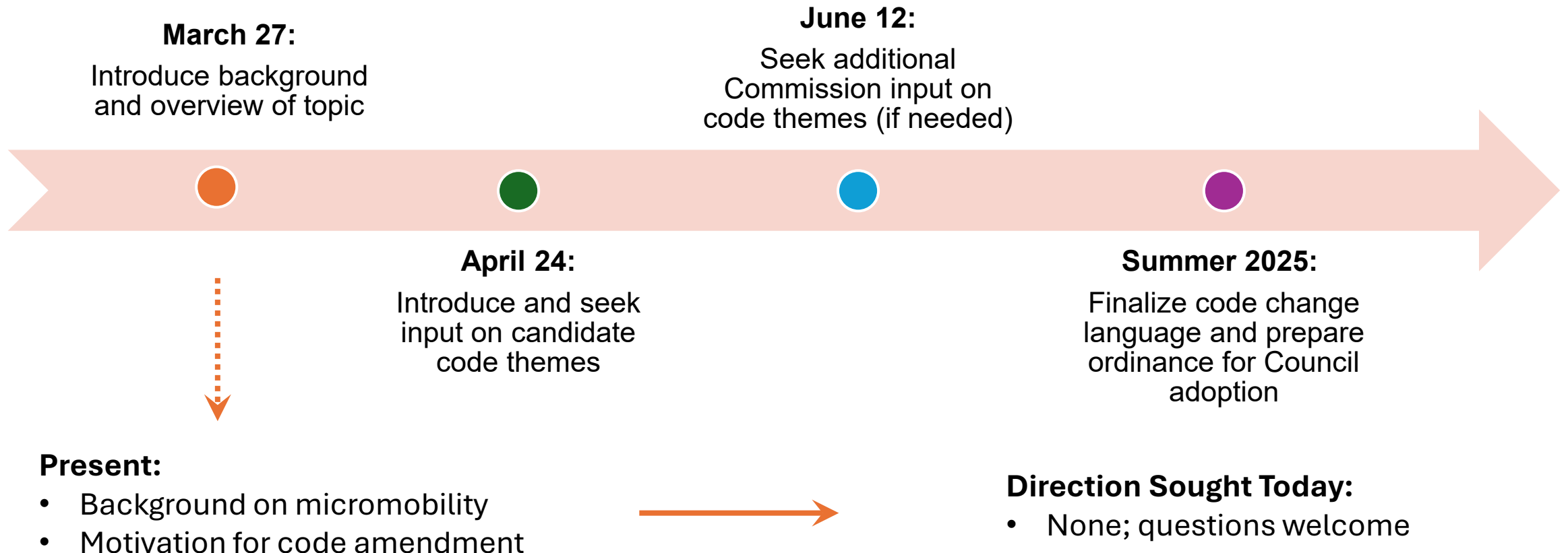
Scooters providing first mile/last mile connections.





# Timeline and next steps

Public outreach: Inform based approach (webpage, FAQs) for the code change



# Current regulatory landscape

	Bellevue City Code	State RCW	Neighboring Jurisdictions
<b>Age requirement?</b>	14 and older	16 and older	<b>R:</b> 16 and older <b>K:</b> 15 and older <b>S:</b> None specified
<b>Helmet requirement?</b>	Required	Not required	<b>R:</b> Encouraged <b>K:</b> Required <b>S:</b> Required
<b>Hours of operation</b>	Dawn to dusk (with reflectors req'd)	Anytime (with reflectors req'd)	<b>R:</b> None specified <b>K:</b> Anytime (with lights & reflectors req'd) <b>S:</b> Anytime (with lights & reflectors req'd)
<b>Location restrictions</b>	Local streets (<25 mph) & bike lanes only	Most streets	<b>R:</b> Roadways, bike lanes and trails <b>K:</b> Local streets (<25 mph) only <b>S:</b> Roadways, bike lanes and trails
<b>Sidewalk riding</b>	Not allowed	Not allowed* (except if no other safe alternative)	<b>R:</b> Not allowed <b>K:</b> Not allowed <b>S:</b> Not allowed* (except if no other safe alternative)

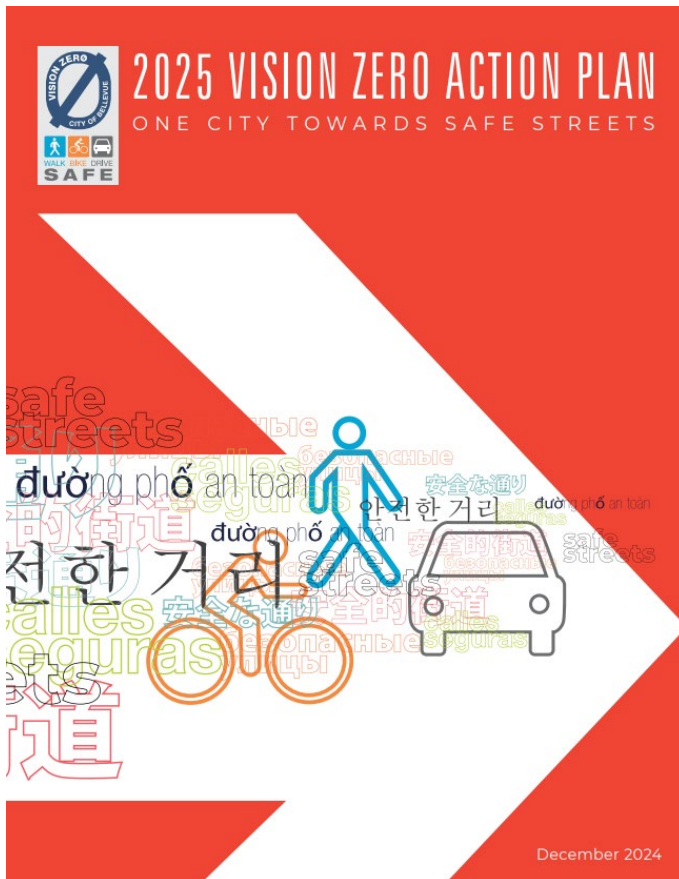
Key: **R:** Redmond | **K:** Kirkland | **S:** Seattle

# Questions

Akshali Gandhi, Mobility Planning & Solutions

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# Safe System Approach



20	Establish safe environment for the use of micromobility devices in Bellevue through evaluating and revising city code, establishing data share requirements, and promoting educational materials to ensure the safety of riders and all road users.	SP2, SP3, SS3, SS4, SV1, SV3, L4, C4, P3	<b>Task 20.1:</b> Evaluate city code regulating the use of micromobility devices in Bellevue and revise as warranted to ensure the safety of riders and all road users.	<p><b>Target:</b> Complete code evaluation for micromobility devices.</p> <p><b>KPI:</b> Finalized summary of findings and recommendations for future actions.</p>	TRANS (Lead) + PD, CAO, DS (Support)
		SP2, SP3, SS3, SS4, SV1, SV3, L4, C4, P3	<b>Task 20.2:</b> Share educational materials on the safe use of micromobility devices with delivery companies using micromobility devices, micromobility companies, identified priority community groups, and private micromobility users.	<p><b>Target:</b> Contact entities with educational materials.</p> <p><b>KPI:</b> Number of entities reached with educational materials.</p>	TRANS (Lead)
		SP2, SP3, SS3, SS4, SV1, SV3, L4, C4	<b>Task 20.3:</b> Investigate municipal best practices for collaborating/regulating delivery companies using e-bikes and scooters to ensure safety of people walking on sidewalks.	<p><b>Target:</b> Evaluate regulatory best practices to ensure safe operations by delivery companies using e-bikes and scooters.</p> <p><b>KPI:</b> Finalized technical memo with findings and recommendations for future actions.</p>	TRANS (Lead) + DS, CAO (Support)