

City of  
Bellevue



# Transportation Commission Study Session

**DATE:** November 5, 2020

**TO:** Chair Marciante and Members of the Transportation Commission

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**SUBJECT:** Micromobility: Regulation of Motorized Foot Scooters

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

\_\_\_\_\_ Action

X Discussion/Direction – *At this meeting, the Commission is asked to discuss and provide direction on the recommended work program and timeline.*

\_\_\_\_\_ X Information

## PROJECT SUMMARY

### Purpose

The use of motorized foot scooters in Bellevue is regulated by state and local vehicle codes. The Transportation Commission will review these codes and those in peer cities to determine how Bellevue City Code ([BCC 11.48.210](#)) should be amended. The purpose of this agenda memo is to share the direction received from the City Council and to review a work program to prepare a Commission recommendation.

### Council Direction

On October 19, 2020, the City Council directed the Transportation Commission to work with staff to review and recommend revisions to the City Code regulating the use of motorized foot scooters in Bellevue. Councilmembers identified specific issues and ideas for the Commission to consider (documented in the study session minutes, Attachment 2) in addition to those identified by staff. In addition to revising City Code, which applies to all users of motorized foot

scooters, the City Council has directed the Transportation Commission to consider whether and how motorized foot scooters may be included as part of a shared micromobility program.

### **Context**

Electric motorized foot scooters (i.e., “e-scooters”) have become increasingly popular in recent years, particularly since their mass deployment in 2018 by shared micromobility companies in cities worldwide. Washington State establishes a definition of “motorized foot scooter” and rules regarding where, when, how, and by whom motorized foot scooters may and may not be operated. It also authorizes local jurisdictions to amend various allowances and restrictions.

Bellevue City Code ([BCC 11.48.210](#)) defines “motorized foot scooter” differently than the state and modifies state regulations for where, when, how, and by whom a motorized foot scooter may be used. Each of these elements could be revised to the extent allowed by state code.

### **Work Program**

Staff recommends that the Transportation Commission address the City Council’s direction in a work program that consists of two phases:

- Phase one would focus on the review and revision of City Code. This would be addressed during two additional Transportation Commission study sessions, concluding in January 2021 with a recommendation on a draft ordinance to amend Bellevue City Code.
- Phase two would address including e-scooters as part of a shared micromobility program (currently only e-bikes are allowed). This phase of the work program could begin with the Transportation Commission in Q2 2021.

### **INFORMATION**

Background information about this topic is provided in the [agenda memo](#) for the October 19, 2020 City Council Study Session (see Attachment 1).

City Code includes a definition of “motorized foot scooter” that is different from the state’s definition. This difference could be eliminated (deferring to the state) or the definition could be revised to match the state’s definition. Further, new definitions could be introduced to differentiate specific types of motorized foot scooters within the context of the state’s definition (e.g. powered standing scooter, powered seated scooter).

City Code could be amended to change where, when, how, and by whom motorized foot scooters may be used. These regulations could apply consistently to all types of motorized foot scooter, or they could vary based on the specific type of scooter or within specific geographies.

These City Code revisions would have the potential to increase consistency with the state and neighboring jurisdictions, which may reduce regulatory ambiguity and improve the public's understanding of applicable rules. Code revisions also have the potential to position the city to adapt to technological innovation, to apply lessons learned by other cities to address common issues, and to test solutions to issues of specific local interest.

In this short work program, the Commission will consider policy priorities including safety, sustainability, equity, accessibility, innovation, regulatory consistency, community engagement, education, and parking impacts on the public realm. In preparing a recommendation, the Commission will also respond to specific issues and ideas identified by Councilmembers during their October 19 Study Session (see Attachment 2).

#### **NEXT STEPS**

At the Transportation Commission's December 10 study session, staff will discuss options and share a preliminary recommendation for regulating motorized foot scooters consistent with the direction from City Council. A public hearing is not required as part of this process; however, the Transportation Commission may choose to hold a public hearing. In January 2021, the Commission will prepare a final recommendation and transmittal of a draft ordinance to Council.

For more information or to seek clarification, please reach out to Andreas Piller, [apiller@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:apiller@bellevuewa.gov)

#### **ATTACHMENTS**

Attachment 1 – City Council Study Session Agenda Memo – October 19, 2020

Attachment 2 – Excerpt of City Council Study Session Minutes – October 19, 2020