



# **REGULATION OF E-SCOOTERS IN HAMILTON**

**Presentation to Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities**

**September 8, 2020**

# Outline of Presentation

- Current Provincial Regulations
- Practices in other Jurisdictions
- Considerations for Hamilton
- Next Steps

# What is an E-Scooter?

- Electric kick scooters (e-scooters) are typically a two-wheeled device a rider stands on, holding a handlebar
- E-scooters are powered by an electric motor and are limited to speeds of 24 km/h
- Commercially operated e-scooters have ability to be imminently shareable through app-based technology.



# Ontario E-Scooter Legislation

- In January 2020, the Province of Ontario (the Province) announced that it would begin a five-year pilot program which would permit e-scooters on municipal roads throughout the Province, if a municipality passed a by-law to “opt in”.
- E-scooter use within a municipality is not allowed unless a municipality permits their use by municipal by-law
- By-law may restrict where scooters operate (e.g. on restrict their use on sidewalks) and where they may be parked

# Practices in other Jurisdictions

- E-scooters have been launched in more than 125 cities across the United States and starting to launch in Canada
- E-scooters currently permitted in Ottawa Windsor, Calgary, Edmonton and Kelowna, for example
- Commercially operated e-scooters were recently banned in Montreal
- The use and parking of e-scooters is currently prohibited in Toronto. A July 2020 staff report recommended further measures be put in place to ensure safe operations and enforcement prior to the introduction of commercial operators.

# E-scooter Operations

- E-scooters are seen as a potential mode for facilitating first-mile, last mile connections
- Benefits of e-scooters include reduced auto reliance, reduced air pollution, reduced GHG impacts and overall convenience
- Challenges include:
  - User safety
  - Pedestrian safety
  - Parking on sidewalks and abandon scooters
  - Responsibilities for enforcement
  - Lack of clarity on liability and collision reporting

# Considerations for Hamilton

- Council has not yet been asked to make a decision on “opting in” to allow e-scooters on municipal roads
- Possible options include:
  - Do nothing (e-scooters would not be permitted)
  - Creating by-law to permit personal use e-scooters
  - Developing a framework and permit system for commercial operators

# Next Steps

- Continue to seek feedback from various stakeholders including ACPD
- Present report to Public Works Committee outlining options and potential direction (Target date for Report is October 5<sup>th</sup>, 2020)
- Continue to gather experiences from other municipalities that have opted in to pilot





Hamilton

THANK YOU