

Report to Council



Date: June 22, 2020
To: Council
From: City Manager
Subject: Shared E-scooters in Downtown Kelowna
Department: Integrated Transportation

Recommendation:

THAT Council receives for information, the report from the Integrated Transportation Department, dated June 22, 2020, with regard to shared e-scooters in downtown Kelowna;

AND THAT Council direct staff to prohibit shared e-scooter services from operating within and along the Waterfront Walkway from the Bennett Bridge to the Rotary Marsh and on Bernard Avenue for the length and duration of the temporary closure, once shared e-scooters return to regular operation in Kelowna.

Purpose:

To restrict the operation of shared e-scooter services in downtown Kelowna.

Background:

Due to COVID-19, shared e-scooter services have not been operational since March 2020. Staff will continue this pause until the Province grants the City the ability to regulate e-scooters, similarly to bicycles, in Kelowna so that they can be used for a variety of trip purposes.

Discussion:

Based on Council discussion, staff are recommending the prohibition of shared e-scooters from the Waterfront Walkway, and also along portions of Bernard Avenue during its temporary closure.

Motor Vehicle Act Pilot Project

The City of Kelowna has submitted a proposal to the Province for a pilot project allowing e-scooters to be used similar to bicycles. The City has been in discussion with the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure and a decision will likely be made on the proposal this summer. Should the Province grant the City the ability to regulate e-scooters similarly to bicycles, Staff will bring forward an amendment to the Traffic Bylaw No. 8120 to allow their use within bike lanes and on the road network. The intent, however, would still be to restrict shared e-scooter operations from the prescribed areas of the Waterfront Walkway and Bernard Avenue (during its temporary closure).

Internal Circulation:

Communications
Office of the City Clerk

Considerations applicable to this report:***Existing Policy:***

The Kelowna On The Move: Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan recommends Staff “research and develop a strategy to demonstrate which programs would be most effective in achieving behavioural change to grow the share of residents selecting active modes of transportation.”

Considerations not applicable to this report:

Legal/Statutory Authority
Legal/Statutory Procedural Requirements
External Agency/Public Comments
Communications Comments
Financial/Budgetary Considerations


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Reviewed and Approved by:

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Approved for inclusion:



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cc: Divisional Director, Corporate Strategic Services
Divisional Director, Infrastructure