

E Scooter Pilot Project

Unacceptable Risks to Pedestrian Safety & Other Negative Externalities

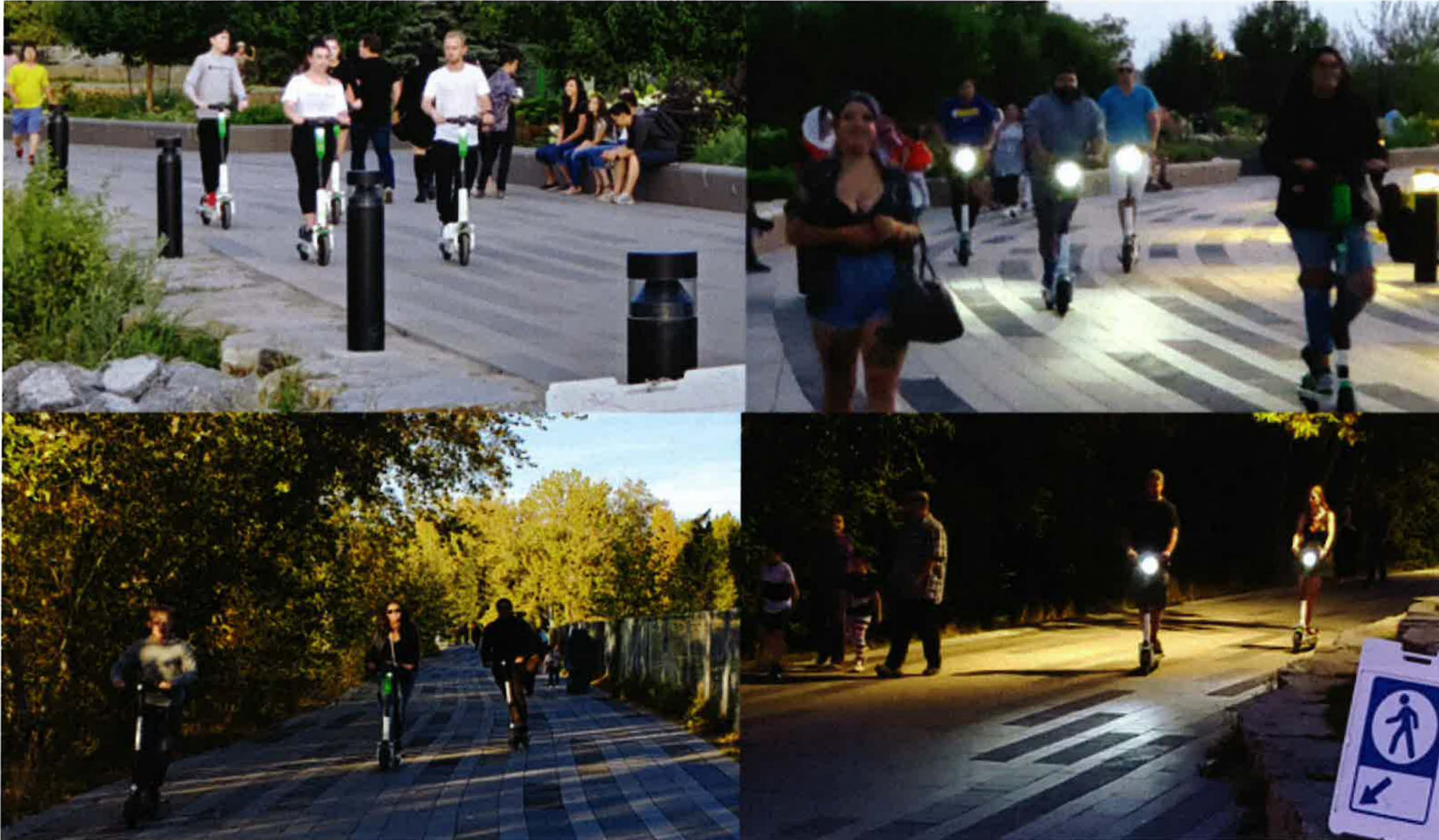
Prepared by Brent Lee for Presentation to the SPC on Transportation and Transit Meeting on December 16, 2020

Observations on E Scooter Pilot Project

- E scooters have caused huge problems for Calgarians
 - Unacceptable risks to pedestrian safety due to non-compliance and bad behaviour
 - Abandoned and littered e scooters ruining neighbourhoods
 - Delinquents on e scooters terrorizing neighbourhoods at nights/early mornings
- E scooter ridership alone does not define success
 - Most ride for fun, not for green micro mobility reasons
 - Many ride in a manner that imposes significant risks to pedestrians
- City Administration tried but could not resolve the e scooter problems during the Pilot Project
- Similar to other cities, the social cost of e scooters on ordinary citizens has been very high

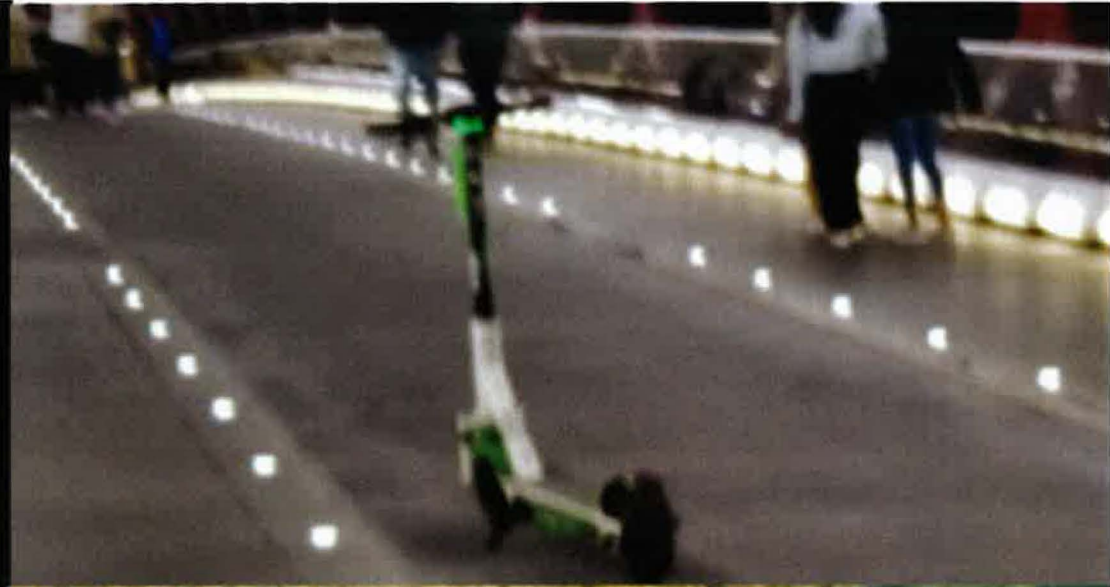
E Scooters on Bow River Pedestrian Only Pathway

Despite signages and bylaws, they knowingly choose to ride on pedestrian-only pathways



Abandoned & Littered E Scooters

Sidewalks, Roads, Bridges, Ponds, River, Trees, etc



E Scooters Are Problems in Cities Worldwide

Cities either (i) ban e scooters or (ii) implement effective, technology based regulations

CNN: E-scooters Face Bans and Restrictions Around The World

(<https://www.cnn.com/travel/article/electric-scooter-bans-world/index.html>)

Montreal: Banned e-scooters in 2020, citing mass noncompliance with the city's rules for the vehicles (<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/montreal/scooters-banned-1.5468206>)

Edmonton: “From my point, it’s not going well, and users are not abiding by the rules”. Mayor Iverson (<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/edmonton/e-scooters-on-sidewalks-cause-headaches-for-pedestrians-politicians-1.5287650>)

Los Angeles: “LA Leaders Say Scooter Companies Must ‘Step Up and Do Better,’” Elijah Chiland, Curbed Los Angeles, June 14, 2019

San Diego: Revamped rules & regulations to control ‘wild west’ e scooter environment, including banning e scooters on boardwalk using geofencing (<https://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/news/environment/story/2019-10-14/new-rules-shaping-scooter-use-in-san-diego>)

What Cities Are Doing to Protect Citizens

Implementing geofencing to ban e scooters in restricted areas & other effective regulations

Austin, TX: “Geofencing Aims to Stop People Riding Scooters in Austin Parkland,” Kate Winkle, KXAN, September 4, 2019.

London, UK: E Scooters not allowed on sidewalk and the e scooter companies must “...demonstrate they have plans in place to keep our streets clear and protect riders, pedestrians and other road users, including more vulnerable Londoners”

UCLA: “...minimize the impact on pedestrians, improve safety and benefit students.” “...the e-scooter vendors are implementing more sophisticated geofence software on their apps, which will prevent students from parking in restricted areas and keep e-scooters off sidewalks and pedestrian areas.”

Geofencing Application by Various US Cities

Source: California Department of Transportation (PI-0246)

State	Agency	Vehicle Type	Prevent Access to Specific Roadways, Trails or Geographic Areas	Delineate Operational Boundaries for a Pilot Program	Limit Device Speed in Geographic Areas, Roadways or Trails	Reduce Riding on Sidewalks	Designate Approved or Prohibited Parking Areas
California	Los Angeles Department of Transportation	E-bikes and e-scooters	X	X	X		X
	City of San Diego	E-bikes and e-scooters	X	X	X		
Colorado	Denver Public Works	E-bikes and e-scooters	X				X
	City of Fort Collins	E-scooters only	X	X	X	X	X
Oregon	Portland Bureau of Transportation	E-scooters only	X		X		X
Total			5	3	4	1	4

Eau Claire Bow River Pedestrian Only Pathway Problems

- Calgary's busiest e scooter route, most e scooter problems & most complaints from Calgarians
- Bow River Pathways in Eau Claire are very popular and hence very congested. Due to the risk to pedestrians, the City separated the paths to a pedestrian only and bike pathway. BUT now there is a constant flow of e scooters on the pedestrian only pathway despite the bylaws and signages.
- Most e-scooter riders knowingly choose to ride on the pedestrian only pathway – likely because the pedestrian pathway is wider so they can race and joyride, vs the narrower bike path busy with cyclists
 - e-scooter race and joyride at 15 to 20 km/h amongst walkers, putting them at significant risk
 - These e-scooter bad actors cause confrontations with walkers
 - Seniors, disabled and young children can't use the pedestrian only path because they are afraid of e-scooters
- City Administration was aware of the problems but was unable to resolve problems arising from non-compliance and bad behavior
- Near accidents and actual accidents with pedestrians have occurred due to reckless e scooter riders – a serious accident is inevitable if allowed to continue
- **SOLUTION: Geofencing, so e scooters cannot enter the Bow River Pedestrian Pathway**
(if geofencing prevents e scooters on certain sections of the bike path, they can ride east west on 1,2 or 3 Ave SW)

Suggested Guiding Principles for E Scooter Policy

1. Focus on actual, observed rider behavior, rather than fictional, make-believe rider behavior
 - Vast majority of e scooter riders knowingly ignored regulations and signages during the Pilot
2. Protect pedestrians from dangerous, non-compliant e scooter riders
 - Ban e scooters from sidewalks, pedestrian only pathways and City parks
3. Address negative externalities
 - Eliminate abandoned and littered e scooters from our neighborhoods
 - Eliminate delinquents on e scooters causing problems at night/early morning in our neighbourhoods
4. Make e scooter companies accountable for their impact on all Calgarians
 - Fine companies for all rider infractions – e scooter companies know their clients engage in non-compliant and dangerous behavior – these companies cannot just cause problems and walk away with profits, they must be involved in finding solutions to the problems/costs they've created.
5. Promote e scooters as green micro mobility by enabling cycle track and street usage

Main E scooter Problems & Proposed Solutions

These proposed solutions have been successfully adopted by many cities

1. E scooters racing and joyriding on Bow River pedestrian only pathway
 - Solution: Geofencing to restrict e scooters from entering pedestrian only pathways
2. E scooters racing and joyriding in Calgary parks (eg Prince's Island)
 - Solution: Geofencing to restrict e scooters in park pathways, except in commuter corridors
3. E scooters racing and joyriding on sidewalks
 - Solution: Change the regulation to ban them from sidewalks
4. E scooters abandoned and littered everywhere
 - Solution9: (i) Geofencing to enforce proper e scooter parking & (ii) fine e scooter companies for infractions
5. Delinquents on e scooters terrorizing neighbourhoods at night/early morning
 - Solution: Disable e scooters at certain time (eg 10 pm) except in commuter corridors