



Recommendation for Action

File #: 19-1933, **Agenda Item #:** 59.

5/23/2019

Posting Language

Approve an ordinance amending City Code Chapters 12-1 (*Traffic Regulation and Administration*) and 12-2 (*Bicycles*) relating to the operation of micro-mobility devices and bicycles on sidewalks and roadways.

Lead Department

Austin Transportation Department

Fiscal Note

This item has no fiscal impact.

For More Information:

Robert Spillar, 512-974-2488; Jason Redfern, 512-974-7020; Cheyenne Krause, 512-974-7907; Gilda Powers, 512-974-7092

Council Committee, Boards and Commission Action:

May 14, 2019 - Reviewed by the Urban Transportation Commission - They did not take a specific vote on the item. They made a recommendation on all three items that were presented to incorporate the BAC comments, so no vote on what we presented.

Additional Backup Information:

Shared bicycles and shared micro-mobility devices are short-trip and transit first/last mile transportation solutions that have resulted in over four and a half million bicycle and scooter trips since early 2018. In the Austin market, public adoption has been rapid and wide spread. That success however has highlighted challenges that many cities face with managing this emerging micro mobility option.

With the City's focus on successfully managing personal mobility options for our community, the Austin Transportation Department in conjunction with the Austin Police Department, is proposing new regulation, to recognize the presence of new micro mobility devices in Austin's transportation system, to include scooters and other devices, as well as to provide regulatory framework for managing the use of these new modes within our existing transportation system.

Traffic Regulation and Administration

- Adds definition for micro-mobility device that brings most low powered devices that are not recognized as a motor vehicle, into a common definition.
- Removes riding restrictions on sidewalks around City Hall.
- Makes it illegal to ride on outdoor appurtenances such as landscaping and street furniture.
- Makes it illegal to ride while using a cell phone.
- Defines scooter riders as a vulnerable road user, similar to other devices and pedestrians.

Micro-Mobility Devices

- Adds definition for shared micro-mobility service.
- Adds the term "reasonable and prudent", for better ability to enforce.
- Removes sidewalk riding restrictions on all streets.
- Adds responsibility for riders to yield to pedestrians.
- Establishes safe parking practices, that do not obstruct key right of way elements (exits, doorways,

- alley, fire hydrants, etc.)
- Reverting to riders complying with State law when riding.
- Disallows wrong-way riding
- Updates helmet product standards.
- Disallows multiple riders.
- Allows parking officer to issue citations.

Shared micro-mobility device means a scooter or other compact device designed for personal mobility either privately owned or part of a shared mobility service. Shared bicycle means a bicycle, either privately owned or part of a shared bicycle mobility service.

This action does not include Transportation Network Carriers (TNC's) or electric personal assistive mobility devices under Texas Transportation Code Section 551.201.