



Transportation Committee - Board of Representatives

David Watkins, Chair

Terry Adams, Vice Chair

Committee Report

Date: Tuesday, July 19, 2022
Time: 7:00 p.m.
Place: *This meeting was held remotely.*

The Transportation Committee met as indicated above. In attendance were Chair Watkins, Vice Chair Adams and Committee Member Reps. Gilbride, Grunberger, Moore, and Sandford. Absent was Rep. Di Costanzo. Also present were President Curtis and Reps. Boeger, Stella and Walston; Dana Lee, Law Department; Frank Petise and Luke Bittenwieser, Transportation, Traffic and Parking; Sgt. Jeffrey Booth; Philip Magalnick, Mayor's ADA Advisory Council; and William Wright, People Friendly Stamford.

Chair Watkins called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

Item No.	Description	Committee Action
1. T31.013	REVIEW; Micromobility Devices- Updating Code of Ordinances Chapter 231 – Vehicles and Traffic, Article VI to Allow Micromobility Devices (i.e Scooters and Ebikes). 04/06/22 – Submitted by Reps. Gilbride, Pollack and Boeger 04/11/22 – Held at Steering 05/09/22 – Moved to Pending 06/21/22 – Held in Committee 6-0-0	Report Made

Rep. Gilbride reviewed the [attached presentation](#) to explain her goals in introducing this item. This item relates to e-bikes and electric scooters, not gas powered scooters. The intention is to create rules for something that is already in use.

Mr. Magalnick stated that he has spoken with people in other municipalities with experience with micro mobility vehicles. The chief complaint has been of vehicles left or operated on the sidewalks. The vehicles move approximately 15 mph, which is 4 times faster than a pedestrian. A docking station would be required to keep scooters off of the sidewalk. Enforcement of restrictions to keep them off the sidewalks is difficult. In Hartford, the speed of the vehicles is restricted in congested areas. Geofencing and apps may be able to control some of these concerns. Some municipalities don't permit the vehicles near bars of after dark. There is a concern about drivers being drunk or inattentive. There should be adaptive devices so that people with disabilities can use them.

Mr. Wright stated that the current ordinance banned mini-motorcycles and almost all other small vehicles. These vehicles are already in use in Stamford; the ordinance should be brought up to date. The vehicles are good for the environments, cheaper to own and operate and connect neighborhoods. A share program could reduce the use of shuttles. The average trip on an e-scooter is 2.7 miles. It is illegal to park them on sidewalks under State law. The

vehicles should be regulated in the same way as bicycles. 10% of households in Stamford have no car (20% in some neighborhoods). Hartford has an equity program called "LinkUp". The industry has matured and the vehicles have gotten safer.

Committee members discussed this item with the invited guests. Items discussed included the following:

- There is a safety issue created by people riding on sidewalks or leaving scooters on the sidewalk
- People need a credit card for the scooter share program
- Bike lanes aren't safe
- Scooter Share is not part of the current proposal
- Helmets would have to be required for anyone under 16
- Scooters being left on the sidewalk only relates to scooter share programs
- Scooters are not expensive
- The issues of current users and scooter share programs need to be separated
- The current ordinance does not fit with State law
- There are already rules that regulate bikes, rollerblades and skateboards, which are not supposed to be on sidewalks
- The vehicles can be limited to certain areas of town
- This provides options to people who may or may not have cars; this is a real means of transportation for some people
- The current laws are outdated
- The concerns are valid, but scooter share programs should not be confused with updating the current ordinance
- Maybe the State law could be changed to require helmets by all users
- Should young children riding e-bikes be on the Street?
- These vehicles are already being used; amending the ordinance will permit enforcement
- The City needs to get ahead of the issue, empower police and traffic enforcement and educate the public
- Maybe streetcars would be better
- Scooters in Fairfield are being used by people of all ages
- This is not just about a scooter share program
- This is about removing e-bikes and e-scooters from the current prohibition

Chair Watkins adjourned the meeting at 8:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
David Watkins, Chair

This meeting is on [video](#).