



Walk Toronto's Response: E-Scooter Consultation Ontario Ministry of Transportation - September 2019

Walk Toronto welcomes the opportunity to respond to the government regarding an e-scooter pilot project in Ontario. Walk Toronto, a grass roots advocacy group, advocates for and inspires walking — in the interest of health benefits, cleaner air, and vibrant neighbourhoods. Almost all Ontarians are pedestrians at some time each day.

We understand that personal transportation solutions need to be considered as a part of the overall transportation system to reduce GHG emissions and congestion. However, the introduction of any new mobility device requires careful examination to protect the safety and well being of all Ontarians.

Putting a machine that weighs 45 kgs, is capable of going 32 km per hour, with an untrained operator needs to be a public safety concern. What is the impact when such a vehicle rams into a cyclist, or a pedestrian or a baby in a stroller? While we note that there is a requirement for brakes, what is the required stopping distance?

Given the potential safety risks that e-scooters could pose to pedestrians with sight loss, hearing loss, balance issues and general frailty, **we recommend against introducing e-scooters to Ontario sidewalks.** It is just too dangerous for all concerned.

Our recommendations focus on the need for greater safety:

1. **Prohibit e-scooters on sidewalks;**
2. Reduce the power from 500W motors, the speed from 32km/h, and the weight from 45 kg. **Speeds should be restricted to 25 km/hr** or lower to make their speed more comparable with bicycles and other devices that use bike lanes;
3. Require devices to be audible when ridden so that others sharing the road are aware of their presence;
4. Minimum operating age should be 18, in line with other jurisdictions that permit e-scooters;
5. Ensure that e-scooters cannot be left loose on the sidewalk, but rather are required to have designated docking stations. We are opposed to any system where riders can leave a scooter in any location. It is dangerous for people who are visually impaired or blind.
6. Explore the need for liability insurance in the case of collisions with cyclists or pedestrians.
7. Explore the addition of regulations regarding distracted operation of e-scooters .

Thank you for the opportunity to pass on our concerns.

Sincerely,

Judith Kidd

Member of Steering Committee on behalf of Walk Toronto