

Transportation Committee
Report 15
10 February 2021

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Comité des transports
Rapport 15
Le 10 février 2021

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procès-verbal 15
du Comité des transports
Le 3 février 2021

Transportation Services

2020 Electric Kick Scooter Strategy and Pilot Report

ACS2021-TSD-PLN-0002

City Wide

Report recommendations

That the Transportation Committee recommend that Council:

- 1. Receive the results of 2020 Electric Kick Scooter Strategy and Pilot, as outlined in the report; and**
- 2. Approve the continuance of Ottawa's Electric Kick Scooter Pilot in 2021 as detailed in the report, with the proposed changes to the pilot program, revised fee structure and procurement strategy; and**
- 3. Approve the implementation of a competitive procurement process and enter into Agreements with successful proponents of the process; and**
- 4. Direct staff to report back to the Transportation Committee and Council at the conclusion of the 2021 pilot project for consideration of future pilot seasons.**

At the outset, Vice-Chair Leiper introduced the following Motion:

Motion

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the following underlined recommendations be added to the report entitled "2020 Electric Kick Scooter Strategy and Pilot Report":

That the Transportation Committee recommend that Council:

1. Receive the results of 2020 Electric Kick Scooter Strategy and Pilot, as outlined in the report; and
2. Approve the continuance of Ottawa's Electric Kick Scooter Pilot in 2021 as detailed in the report, with the proposed changes to the pilot program, revised fee structure and procurement strategy; and
3. Approve the implementation of a competitive procurement process and enter into Agreements with successful proponents of the process; and
4. In recognition of the increasingly warmer seasonal weather and e-scooter industry operational practices of making e-scooters unavailable for rent while storing them in local warehouses during inclement weather, approve an extension of the 2021 season starting April 1st to November 30, 2021, with providers requiring the concurrence of City staff to deploy in the months of April and November; and
5. Direct staff to report back to the Transportation Committee and Council at the conclusion of the 2021 pilot project on the potential of extending it past 11 p.m., based on a review of any issues with e-scooters ridership from dusk to 11 p.m., as well as comparable data from other jurisdictions where riding is permitted past 11 p.m.; and
6. Direct staff to report back to the Transportation Committee and Council at the conclusion of the 2021 pilot project for consideration of future pilot seasons.

Prior to the Committee receiving the staff presentation, the Chair offered some opening remarks regarding the 2020 pilot project.

The Committee then received a slide presentation overview of the report from Kathleen Wilker, Project Officer, Transportation Services (TSD) and Jennifer Armstrong, Program Manager, Transportation Policy & Networks, TSD. A copy

of the presentation is held on file with the office of the City Clerk. Also present to respond to questions were:

- John Manconi, General Manager, Transportation Services
- Nazgol Namazi, Associate Legal Counsel, Innovative Client Services Department
- Court Curry, Manager, ROW, Heritage & Urban Design Services, Planning, Infrastructure and Economic Development
- Sergent Robert Cairns, Ottawa Police Services
- Bryden Denyes, Area Manager, Roads Services, Public Works and Environmental Services

The Committee heard from the following delegations:

Chris Schafer, Bird Canada*, indicated support for the report recommendations, and provided some highlights of the 2020 pilot project. Letters of support have been received from BIA's, Ottawa Tourism and Elgin Street businesses for expanding the e-scooter program in Ottawa. Bird would recommend that the program be extended to operate in March to November and outlined how they would manage weather events as well as asked staff to look at the possibility of extending the curfew past 11 pm following 2021 season.

Arda Ertürk, Roll* indicated support for the report recommendations and touched on safety, how social media was used to communicate and educate riders, sanitizing procedures and positive feedback received on the pilot. Roll would like staff to consider as part of the pilot in 2021 allowing shared e-scooters on a 24/7 basis and allow operations year-round.

Linda Williams expressed safety concerns and questioned who benefits as users. She felt there was an omission of certain demographic data in the report of the users, as well, identifying joy riding as a use should also have been

considered. In addition, the use of docking mechanisms would help to eliminate sidewalk clutter.

Jonathon Hopkins, Lime* presented in support of the report recommendations and spoke to the success of the pilot project in 2020 and identified goals and opportunities for 2021.

Phillip Turcotte, Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC), noted that the AAC had the opportunity to be consulted regarding this project, however, feels their concerns were not adequately addressed. Some concerns identified related to accessibility barriers, need for an improved complaints process and safety issues for visually impaired individuals.

Kathleen Forestell, Lead, Advocacy and Community Outreach, CNIB Ontario East, noted CNIB was included as part of a focus group and submitted findings that were included in the staff report. Safety concerns for the blind and visually impaired, scooters being left in the way of audible pedestrian signal buttons and use of scooters on sidewalks were some concerns identified. CNIB would like parking addressed, more penalties for riders and companies and would like to ensure residents are aware of how to report misuse.

Fran Cutler, spoke to safety concerns, providing the perspective of older Canadians with vision impairments and how many individuals could be seriously impacted by scooters.

Correspondence had been received from the following, as noted:

- Emails dated January 28 and February 2, 2021 from Wayne Angle, Alliance for Equality of Blind Canadians
- Email dated January 29, 2021 from Heather Stevens
- Email dated February 1, 2021 from Linda Williams
- Email dated February 2, 2021 from Floralove Katz
- Email dated February 2, 2021 from John Verbaas
- Email dated February 2, 2021 from Kim Kilpatrick
- Email dated February 2, 2021 from Kevin Morris
- Email dated February 2, 2021 from Johathan Hopkins
- Email dated February 2, 2021 from William Chong

[* Individuals / groups marked with an asterisk above either provided comments in writing or by e-mail; all submissions are held on file with the City Clerk.]

Following delegations and questions of staff, the Committee considered the following motion:

Motion

Moved by Vice Chair Leiper

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program, revised fee structure and procurement strategy; and

3. Approve the implementation of a competitive procurement process and enter into Agreements with successful proponents of the process; and
4. In recognition of the increasingly warmer seasonal weather and e-scooter industry operational practices of making e-scooters unavailable for rent while storing them in local warehouses during inclement weather, approve an extension of the 2021 season starting April 1st to November 30, 2021, with providers requiring the concurrence of City staff to deploy in the months of April and November; and
5. Direct staff to report back to the Transportation Committee and Council at the conclusion of the 2021 pilot project on the potential of extending it past 11 p.m., based on a review of any issues with e-scooters ridership from dusk to 11 p.m., as well as comparable data from other jurisdictions where riding is permitted past 11 p.m.; and
6. Direct staff to report back to the Transportation Committee and Council at the conclusion of the 2021 pilot project for consideration of future pilot seasons.

The committee CARRIED the staff recommendation as amended, with the following direction to staff from Councillor Menard:

Direction to Staff

That staff develop benchmark measures to assess progress during the pilot period with respect to accessibility that could inform future decision-making on extending the trial.

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