

City of Ann Arbor Transportation Commission -- Micro-Mobility Committee Statement of Values

Prepared by: Scott Trudeau and Molly Kleinman
December 2018

The recent emergence and arrival of micro-mobility platform operators presents the City with both promising opportunities to improve our transportation systems while presenting a set of novel challenges. These platforms offer the potential to expand the utility of our existing transit and active transportation networks and replace automobile use for some trips.^{1,2} They also present a number of challenges, including user and public safety, accessible and appropriate use of the right-of-way, equity considerations, and requirements upon the City to manage negative impacts.

The technologies and companies providing micro-mobility platforms are rapidly changing. We will require a flexible and adaptive approach to determine the most effective operations, management and regulations both to realize the benefits of these services while mitigating downsides.

As the City works with the community and interested operators to establish and evaluate operations and appropriate regulatory framework for these platforms, we recommend the City prefer performance standards for operators (rather than exclusive contracts) to encourage optimal operational behavior in service of user needs and city goals. To these ends, the City should prioritize these values, in order of priority:

1. Maintain & improve safety of all transportation system users, including users of these services
2. Identify opportunities for enhanced physical accessibility in vehicle types while preventing and mitigating negative impacts to physical accessibility of our transportation system (e.g., improperly parked vehicles in the right-of-way obstructing other modes of transportation)
3. Ensure equitable economic access to innovative micromobility platforms for all potential users (e.g., alternative payment/unlocking options, balancing policies for the potentially under-served)
4. Make gains in mode shift from automobiles to micro-mobility services, other active transportation, and to enhance & extend our public transit systems in order to further progress to achieving mobility, environmental and climate change mitigation goals
5. Identify & track metrics for use, vehicle maintenance and safety records as areas of concern, and opportunity to inform ongoing updates to operator regulation
6. Promote outreach and education enhancing compliance with both rules of use and personal and community safety

As this committee learns more, along with the community and the City, we expect to continue to make additional, specific recommendations for operations, management and regulatory approaches, and provide input for consideration within the Transportation Plan update.

1. *PBOT E-Scooter User Survey* - <https://www.portlandoregon.gov/transportation/article/700917>
2. > 21% of personal automobile trips in the US are under 1 mile. *Federal Highway Administration National Household Travel Survey* - <https://nhts.ornl.gov/vehicle-trips>