

Micro-Mobility Committee Meeting Notes March 6, 2020

Prepared by: Scott Trudeau

In attendance:

Committee Members: Molly Kleinman, Lisa Solomon, Scott Trudeau

Staff: Kayla Coleman, Eli Cooper, John Fournier, Raymond Hess

Public: Jesse Halfon, Jim Summers

We reviewed proposed ordinance under light of federal definitions of vehicle types, include Consumer Product Safety Act low-speed electric bicycle definition; and leeway for the City to regulate under State law.

Jim Summers spoke to subcommittee about his experience with building vehicles to meet standards of existing state & federal regulations. He suggests relying on existing State law: if State requires registration/licensing of vehicle to operate then it is not permitted in bike/mobility lanes; everything else can use the lanes.

We discussed how the State Law would impact experimental vehicles like delivery drones or very small engine gasoline powered scooters (which are not permitted on public streets but may be allowed in bike lanes under certain existing State definitions). Staff will ask City Attorney to make list of vehicle types that the State requires to be registered to operate in some form.

The most frequent type of complaint City has received about scooters has been taking up spaces at bike racks in places where bike rack space is stressed/inadequate (e.g., Farmer's Market). Spin is adding spaces on private property for scooters. Point raised that contracts are the appropriate place to control specific parking behavior we want to encourage for scooter company scooters vs privately owned vehicles.

We discussed approaches to creating expectations of safe behavior on sidewalks. Sidewalk speed limits seem impractical to enforce & different parts of town have different reasonable standards. Would prefer to consider a standard based on recklessness.

Public comment: Jess Halfon acknowledged the wide array and kinds of vehicles continuing to appear on the market that will be hard to categorize and regulate clearly.