



Alexandria Waterfront Commission

Attachment 7

Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities

1108 Jefferson Street

Alexandria, Virginia 22314

Honorable Mayor and Members of City Council
301 King Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

October 25, 2019

Re: Dockless Mobility Pilot Program Recommendations

Dear Mayor Wilson and Members of City Council:

At its October 15, 2019 meeting, the Alexandria Waterfront Commission received an update from staff on the evaluation and proposed draft recommendations for the Dockless Mobility Pilot Program. The Commission had several questions, provided comments and discussed challenges with the Pilot Program and how the draft recommendations seek to address their concerns with staff.

Key to the Commission are mitigating impacts from scooters that directly impact the waterfront including unsafe riding, improper parking, and excessive riding/parking in the waterfront parks. Specifically, the Commission cannot support a program allowing scooters on public sidewalks within historic Old Town.

The Commission was supportive of changes to the City Code to provide better regulation of scooters and limitations to scooter usage in parks if signed by the Department of Recreation, Parks & Cultural Activities. In addition, the Commission was generally supportive of efforts to create more parking corrals, assuming impacts to vehicular parking was minimized.

The Waterfront Commission was mixed in opinions on whether to continue the pilot program. Some members noted the value the scooters provide as an additional transportation mode, while others emphasized the safety and parking issues as significant reasons to ban scooters in the City. The Commission did not take an official position on the recommendations but urges continued coordination between staff and the Commission if the pilot program is continued in 2020.

The Commission appreciates your consideration of its input on this project.

Sincerely,

Steve Thayer
Chair, Alexandria Waterfront Commission

cc: Alexandria Waterfront Commission
Yon Lambert, Director, T&ES
Hillary Orr, Deputy Director, T&ES
Katy North, Division Chief, Mobility Services, T&ES
Jack Browand, Division Chief, Liaison to the Waterfront Commission



Alexandria Transportation Commission
301 King Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

Phone: 703.746.4025

www.alexandriava.gov

Honorable Mayor Wilson and Members of City Council
City Hall
301 King Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

October 20, 2019

Re: Dockless Mobility Pilot Program Recommendations

Dear Mayor Wilson and Members of City Council:

At its October 16, 2019 meeting, the Alexandria Transportation Commission was asked to consider whether it would support staff's proposed draft recommendations for a Phase 2 of the Dockless Mobility Pilot Program. Staff presented the draft recommendations, and the Commission held a public hearing at which there were two speakers.

The Transportation Commission recommends that City Council approve a Phase II Pilot Program for Dockless Mobility to allow staff to continue to work through identified challenges and develop a path forward for a feasible permanent program. Of key interest to the Commission are 1) stricter requirements of vendors which support desirable community outcomes, 2) updates to the City Code which more clearly outline the rules of the road for users of shared mobility devices, and 3) continued effort by staff and vendors to educate members of the community through outreach and engagement with an emphasis on safety. In particular, the updates to the City Code provide the Alexandria Police Department more authority to enforce these rules, and an increased ability to enforce was a key concern from the community. Also included by the Commission in its motion was an interest in the City pursuing changes to State legislation which would delegate further regulatory authority over scooters as well as other dockless mobility devices, so that the City may be better equipped to respond productively to technological innovations and community transportation needs.

It is worth noting that the Commission held a detailed discussion about the merits of prohibiting dockless mobility devices from riding on *all* sidewalks, which would have marked a major change from staff's recommendations for the Phase II Pilot. The topic was raised out of a commissioner's concern that there may be no speed at which these devices are compatible with pedestrians, and that the sidewalks should first and foremost be a safe place for people to walk. Ultimately, the Commission did not support this proposed amendment to staff's recommendation, for the three main reasons that 1) there are many streets in the city which lack on-street bicycle infrastructure and on which it is dangerous to ride scooters and even bikes, 2) there are many neighborhoods where sidewalk pedestrian activity is quite sparse, and dockless mobility device use may well be a compatible use on those sidewalks, and 3) due to their similar size, speed, and character, it makes sense to regulate the use of these devices on sidewalks in largely the same way that Alexandria regulates bicycle use on sidewalks, which is what staff proposes in their recommendation.

The Transportation Commission was created by Council to advocate and promote the development of balanced transportation systems in the City through oversight of the Transportation Master Plan and the mobility goals established therein. The Commission appreciates your consideration of its input on this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Melissa McMahon', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Melissa McMahon
Acting Chair, Alexandria Transportation Commission

cc: Alexandria Transportation Commission
Yon Lambert, Director, T&ES
Hillary Orr, Deputy Director, T&ES
Katy North, Division Chief, Mobility Services, T&ES



Alexandria Commission on Persons with Disabilities

Jeffrey Pool, Chair
202-669-0848

Office of Human Rights
123 N. Pruitt Street, Suite 230
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

711 Virginia Relay
703.838.4976 Fax

October 18, 2019

Re: Dockless Mobility Pilot Program - Phase II

Mayor Wilson, Members of Council—

In its mission to serve and inform the Mayor and City Council, the Alexandria Commission on Persons with Disabilities (ACPD) presents the following concerns and feedback on the proposed second phase of the Dockless Mobility Pilot Program:

1. Regarding the proposal to permit scooters on sidewalks except where explicitly banned, it is the opinion of the ACPD that, in light of the inherent safety risks to people with sensory or mobility impairment posed by the use of dockless scooters on sidewalks, such use should be strictly **prohibited**. Recognizing the vulnerability of scooter riders who share the roadway with automobiles, the ACPD recommends that scooters be required to utilize bike lanes wherever they exist in the City of Alexandria, and to share the roadway where they do not.

It is vital that Alexandria introduce an ordinance specifically prohibiting scooter use on sidewalks before the following article of the Virginia Code enters into effect on January 1, 2020:

§ 46.2-903. (Effective January 1, 2020) Riding or driving vehicles on sidewalks; exceptions.

No person shall ride or drive any vehicle on the sidewalks of any county, city, or town of the Commonwealth other than (i) an emergency vehicle, as defined in § 46.2-920; (ii) a vehicle engaged in snow or ice removal and control operations; (iii) a wheel chair or wheel chair conveyance, whether self-propelled or otherwise; (iv) a bicycle; (v) an electric personal assistive mobility device; (vi) an electric power-assisted bicycle; or (vii) unless otherwise prohibited by ordinance, a motorized skateboard or scooter.

2. On the issue of establishing a streamlined reporting process for improper use or parking of scooters, such a solution must address the safety hazards and reporting challenges of persons with sensory or mobility impairments.

In order to guarantee access to public sidewalks, reporting must be accessible by all residents. As such, ACPD supports the City proposal that all scooters be marked with their unique ID number and instructions in Braille and contact links to the city or scooter company in the form of QR codes. In addition, response times should be well under two hours if the service is to have meaningful impact on access.



3. **If sidewalk use is permitted**, Alexandria must either implement a technologically feasible solution to cap speed at the proposed 6mph, or demand that scooter operators equip their hardware with speedometers. The proposed top speed for street riding is 15mph, which would be more than enough speed to injure pedestrians on sidewalks- particularly if they do not see an oncoming rider or lack the ability to step out of the way.

The ACPD applauds efforts taken by the City of Alexandria to designate parking corrals, which have already led to a reduction in sidewalk obstructions in Old Town. This initiative should expand into any areas with a high volume of scooter ridership.

In addition, the creation of geofenced areas around Market Square, the City Marina, Waterfront Park and the construction site at the King St. Metro station have improved the situation for pedestrians in those areas.

City staff are working hard to create the new Alexandria Mobility Plan, with the stated vision: "Safe, seamless, and connected mobility options foster a thriving Alexandria for all". Two of the principles guiding that process are that transportation be Accessible and that it be Safe. We ask that you consider the above recommendations in order to honor that vision for all Alexandria residents and visitors.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey Pool
Chair, ACPD

From: Mike Doyle <mike@alxffss.org>
Sent: Wednesday, October 16, 2019 8:48 PM
To: Yon Lambert <Yon.Lambert@alexandriava.gov>; Christine Mayeur <christine.mayeur@alexandriava.gov>
Cc: Hillary Orr <Hillary.Orr@alexandriava.gov>; Norm Lisy <normlisy@gmail.com>; poolj@mac.com; m.e.b.mcmahon@gmail.com; bk 2013 <bk.2013@outlook.com>; nmeadb@gmail.com
Subject: AFSS's recommendation for scooter regulation

Dear Yon & Christine:

AFSS's Advisory Board meet last night and formulated the below recommendation regarding scooter traffic regulations for Alexandria. We support existing regulations such as scooters being parked in designated parking spots on the streets, geofencing and other existing scooter policies. However, we thought it important to delineate AFSS's thoughts regarding scooter traffic rules of the road.

- Scooters should not be allowed to operate on high pedestrian sidewalks traffic such as Old Town King and Union Streets.
- Scooters should not be driven on a sidewalk where a bike lane is available.
- Whenever being driven on a sidewalk, Scooters cannot exceed 6 mph.
- Scooter vendors must put speedometers on all scooters.

We hope that TE&S takes the above recommendations into consideration when developing updated guidance (and eventually an ordinance) for scooters. If you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact me. Thank you

Regards,
Mike

Mike Doyle
Founding Member - Alexandria Families For Safe Streets
211 N. Union Street, Suite 100
Alexandria, VA 22314
Phone: 703 946-8401

mike@alxffss.org
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Alexandria Bicycle and
Pedestrian Advisory Committee
622 Fort Williams Pkwy
Alexandria, VA 22304

(703) 508-0762
<https://alexandriabpac.wordpress.com/>

November 12, 2019

Director, Transportation and Environmental Services
301 King Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

Subject: Comments on a Shared Mobility Scooter Phase II Pilot Program

Mr. Yon Lambert,

Thanks so much for providing the opportunity to provide comments on staff recommendations for a Scooter Phase II Pilot program. Staff efforts to provide safe, equitable and accessible mobility options in Alexandria are greatly appreciated.

Our Scooter Phase II Pilot recommendations are aimed at achieving the following objectives:

- Protect all people who are walking throughout the city of Alexandria; and,
- Safely and equitably accommodate the needs of people who use alternative transportation such as walking, using an assistive mobility device, or riding a bike or motorized scooter.

We provide the following policy recommendations for consideration as part of a Scooter Phase II Pilot program.

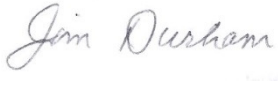
1. Prohibit motorized scooters from use on high pedestrian traffic sidewalks as is the case for bicycles in Alexandria.
2. Require companies operating motorized scooters to financially incentivize people to park scooters in designated places.
3. We endorse and strongly recommend adoption of staff proposals to address equity, such as income-based discount programs and equitable geographic distribution of scooters

We also recommend the following Encouragement, Education and Engineering (infrastructure) initiatives to improve traffic safety for people walking, biking and using motorized scooters:

1. Encourage motorized scooter riders to not ride on the sidewalk when there is a bike lane or a protected bike lane available; provide applicable signage to nearby bike lanes and trails.
2. Require Bikeshare and Scooter companies to implement more effective education and encouragement initiatives that will result in safer riders. For example, require users to watch a video with Rules of the Road, such as yielding the right-of-way to any pedestrian and giving an audible signal before overtaking and passing, and only one person riding a scooter at a time.
3. Accelerate building out the city's bicycle and trail networks to provide safe accommodations for both bicyclists and scooter users without using sidewalks.

Thanks so much for your continuing efforts to provide safe, equitable and accessible mobility options in Alexandria and for the opportunity to comment on staff recommendations for a Scooter Phase II Pilot program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jim Durham".

Jim Durham
Chair, Alexandria Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee

Copy to:
Mayor Wilson, Vice Mayor Bennett-Parker and City Council members
City Manager, Mark Jinks
Deputy City Manager, Emily Baker
Chief of Police, Michael Brown