

Draft Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

Between

Name of Company

and

City of Alexandria, Virginia

This Memorandum of Understanding (“MOU”) is entered into by and between the City of Alexandria, Virginia (the “City”) and [Name of Company] (“Operator”). Throughout this MOU, Operator and City may each be referred to as a “Party,” and may be referred to jointly as the “Parties.” This MOU governs the terms, responsibilities and performance measures between Operator and the City regarding Operator’s provision of shared mobility devices (SMDs) on property within City as part of a Citywide pilot program (the “Demonstration Project”).

RECITALS

WHEREAS, the purpose of this MOU is to permit Operator to operate under the Demonstration Project and ensure that Operator’s SMDs are used and parked appropriately without impeding pedestrian access, and/or obstructing access to fire hydrants and valves, street furniture, bus stops, driveways, crosswalks, intersections, traffic operations, outside dining or retail, building access, or any other public use of right-of-way in City of Alexandria; and

WHEREAS, the City owns, controls, and maintains the public space on which Operator shall park its SMDs; and

WHEREAS, Virginia Code §15.2-2001 enables the City to regulate its right-of-way; and

WHEREAS, the City’s Department of Transportation and Environmental Services (“T&ES”) and the Alexandria Police Department shall be the primary City entities that shall enforce the conditions set forth in this MOU; and

WHEREAS, Operator’s Shared Mobility Devices (SMDs) are designed such that users can park them in the public space, making the Operator’s devices available to other users; and

WHEREAS, Operator desires to operate under the Demonstration Project in the City of Alexandria; and

WHEREAS, the City desires to facilitate the Demonstration Project to assess the viability of SMD operations within the City and to understand the parameters that will allow SMDs to operate effectively and to avoid any public nuisance in the City of Alexandria.

NOW, THEREFORE, based upon the above recitals, Operator hereby agrees to the terms, responsibilities, and performance measures of this MOU as follows:

Article I. Responsibilities of City of Alexandria

The City by and through T&ES, shall, with good faith and in an effort to achieve the City’s policy goals, cooperate and communicate with Operator and the public to work towards a successful, safe, and sustainable regulatory environment for SMDs.

- A. The City shall notify enforcement agencies not to ticket or impound Operator's SMDs if they are parked according to performance measures of this MOU, the stipulations of the required Permit, and all applicable laws.
- B. The City may, as needed, establish and update parking requirements applicable to SMDs including identification through signage, striping or other means of areas that should serve as preferred parking locations for these devices.
- C. The City shall provide to Operator a City point of contact (POC) for the Demonstration Project.

Article II. Responsibilities of Operator Performance Requirements: Operator shall, in good faith, through its City POC, cooperate and communicate with the City and the public to work towards a successful, safe, and sustainable Demonstration Project, conforming to all State and local laws, permit requirements, and the performance responsibilities outlined below:

1. Authorization to Operate

- a. Prior to operating in the City right-of-way, Operator shall execute a copy of this MOU; complete and submit to City of Alexandria the required Permit Application; and pay the required fee to cover the anticipated costs to City of administering the Demonstration Project. All obligations of the City under this MOU shall be subject to and contingent upon the appropriation of funds.

2. Service Management and City Communication

- a. Upon executing this MOU, and as part of its permit application, Operator shall provide to the City a local General Manager who shall serve as a point of contact (POC). The POC shall have responsibility for, and control over, the services provided in this MOU for the duration of the Demonstration Project. If Operator changes their POC, they must immediately notify City of such change.
- b. Operator's representatives shall schedule a meeting with the City's POC within three days (or a reasonable amount of time) of any request by the City to review service status and issues. In addition to ad-hoc meetings, Operator shall meet with the City POC at least one week before launch, and in person or by phone monthly thereafter throughout the duration of the Demonstration Project.
- c. Upon the request of the City POC due to emergency, severe weather, construction, parade, public gathering, or other situation affecting the normal operation of the right-of-way including sidewalks and trails, Operator shall collect and secure all of, or a portion of, Operator's owned or controlled SMDs to a location outside of the public right-of-way or to a location that does not otherwise impede City's access and response to the situation for the duration of the situation.

- d. In the case of a critical issue or emergency situation designated by the City POC, Operator shall be available within the Response Time to respond to emergency needs and to coordinate with the City. City has the right to take appropriate actions to respond to an emergency if the situation poses an imminent risk to public health and safety or property damage.

For the purposes of this MOU, the “Response Time” shall mean, based on the time of report:

- 1) When reported between 6 AM and 8 AM – 2 hours from the time of report
 - 2) When reported between 8 AM and 9 PM – 1 hour from the time of report
 - 3) When reported between 9 PM and 11 PM – 2 hours from the time of report
 - 4) When reported between 11 PM and 6 AM – Prior to 8 AM
- e. The Operator’s POC shall respond within five business days regarding non-emergency issues or questions raised by City in meetings, through telephone inquiries, or other correspondence.
 - f. Operator shall be solely responsible for providing information to its customers on proper SMD parking prior to the launch of the Demonstration Project, and throughout its duration.

3. Safety

- a. Bicycles shall meet the federal standards under the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) [Title 16, Chapter II, Subchapter C, Part 1512 – Requirements for Bicycles](https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/CFR-1998-title16-vol2/xml/CFR-1998-title16-vol2-part1512.xml).¹
- b. Bicycles and Scooters shall meet the Code of Virginia [Section 46.2-1015](https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/title46.2/chapter8/section46.2-1015) requiring both headlight and taillight.²
- c. Any electric Bicycles used in systems issued a permit under this pilot program shall meet the [Consumer Product Safety Commission](https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2003-02-12/pdf/03-3423.pdf) definition of *low-speed electric bicycle*; and shall be subject to the same requirements as ordinary Bicycles.³ This means that electric Bicycles shall have fully operable pedals, an electric motor of less than 750 watts, and a top motor-powered speed of less than 20 miles per hour when operated by a rider weighing 170 pounds. Additionally, the City reserves the right to terminate any permit issued under this pilot program if the battery or

¹ <https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/CFR-1998-title16-vol2/xml/CFR-1998-title16-vol2-part1512.xml>

² <https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/title46.2/chapter8/section46.2-1015>

³ <https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2003-02-12/pdf/03-3423.pdf>

motor on an electric Bicycle is determined by the City to be unsafe for public-use.

- d. Any electric Scooters used in systems issued a permit under this pilot program shall meet [section 46.2-100](#) of the Code of Virginia definition of *motorized foot-scooter* in that it is powered by an electric motor having an input of no more than 1,000 watts⁴, and a top motor-powered speed of less than 15 miles per hour when operated by a rider weighing 170 pounds.
- e. All SMDs shall have front and rear standing lights that flash or illuminate for at least 90 seconds after the SMD comes to a complete stop.
- f. All SMD shall have brakes and a bell.
- g. Operator shall provide visible safety language on Bicycles and Scooters.
- h. Operator shall not deploy any device or device component before receiving approval by the City POC. To obtain approval, Operator shall furnish design specifications, any applicable certifications of compliance with safety standards, and illustrative images of the device or device components. Upon City request, Operator shall provide an opportunity for City POC to physically inspect and test-ride the same model proposed for deployment.
- i. Operator shall ensure each SMD deployed and used is fully operable, free of defects, conforms to relevant safety standards, and is well-maintained and clean.
- j. If an Operator SMD is reported in need of maintenance and/or cleaning in violation of the terms and performance measures in this MOU and all laws, Operator shall immediately prevent further use the device, and within one day of notification, shall remove it from City right-of-way.
- k. Operator shall inform its customers that Scooters are prohibited from operating on sidewalks in Virginia per [section 46.2-903](#) of the Code of Virginia.⁵

4. Operations

- a. Operator is responsible for maintaining their fleet size within City of Alexandria at or below the maximum permitted fleet size.
- b. Operator shall have a staffed operations center in the Washington, D.C. region.

⁴ <https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/title46.2/chapter8/section46.2-100>

⁵ <https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/title46.2/chapter8/section46.2-903>

- c. Operator shall have a customer service phone number for reporting safety concerns, complaints, and questions that is live 24 hours a day. This phone number and its website shall be clearly visibly posted on every SMD that is in service within the City of Alexandria.
- d. Operator shall provide their preferred contact information for SMD parking issues to the City of Alexandria Police Department at 703.746.4444.
- e. Operator shall affix its logo and unique identifying number for the device to each SMD in the City so that it is clearly visible and shall not allow other logos or advertisements to appear on any of its SMDs.
- f. Operator shall regularly monitor the deployment and dispersion of its SMDs to maintain service throughout City of Alexandria.
- g. Operator must notify SMD users of City and state regulations applicable to operating SMDs in the City. These notifications must at minimum be received through the mobile app and website for the service.
- h. Operator shall promptly respond directly to City of Alexandria residents and all users reporting problems, issues and/or requesting information regarding services.

5. Parking

- a. Operator shall ensure that SMDs are parked in accordance with the terms and performance measures outlined in this MOU, permit requirements, and in compliance with all state and local laws.
- b. Operator shall work to ensure that SMDs are parked in a manner that does not impede pedestrian access; does not obstruct access to fire hydrants and valves, street furniture, crosswalks, driveways or private property; does not damage landscaping, street trees or other aesthetic features; and does not interfere with traffic or bus stop operations or operation and use of Capital Bikeshare stations. Operator shall conduct outreach and education to its users on proper parking practices, and shall continue developing and implementing technical solutions to ensure good parking behavior.
- c. The Operator shall include language in the terms and conditions of any contract with its customers to inform them of the following parking requirements:
 - 1) The operator shall inform its customers of the requirements of [Section 10-7-10](#) of the Alexandria City Code and instruct customers to park Bicycles only at bicycle racks, street signs, and

light posts,⁶ in order to minimize obstruction to pedestrian and vehicular traffic. The same shall apply to Scooters.

- 2) SMDs shall not be parked with any part of the vehicle extending over the face of curb.
 - 3) SMDs shall be upright when parked.
- d. Any SMD parked on private, federal, or military property is subject to the requirements of that property owner and may be towed at any time at Operator's expense.
 - e. Within two (2) hours of reporting by the City or others, Operator shall remove SMDs parked in violation of the parking requirements outlined above, or otherwise in conflict with applicable laws and regulations, or in violation with other SMD or bicycle parking standards to be developed and periodically updated by the City
 - f. SMDs are not permitted to park in one location in the public right-of-way longer than seven consecutive days without moving.
 - g. Failure to adhere to these parking performance measures may result in the City removing the SMD and storing it in a City facility. Operator shall be required to pick up SMDs from such a facility and shall pay all costs associated with removal and storage of the devices, in addition to any applicable fines or fees, or other penalties as appropriate under the law. Subject to applicable laws and regulations, The City shall consider Operator's SMDs abandoned and dispose of them as the City deems fit in the event of that Operator fails to retrieve the device in due time upon being notified of the removal and storage.
6. Data
- a. Without prejudice to Operator's rights and interest to its commercially privileged and sensitive information, Operator shall provide to the Bikeshare Manager the following data in a Monthly Report by the 15th of each month for the previous month's activity:
 - i. Total active customers who reside in the City
 - ii. Trips starting and trips ending, separately, in the City during the month, and trips starting and trips ending in the City since launch (raw trip data)
 - iii. Average trip duration in minutes
 - iv. Average and total distance of trips (if this is calculable from provided raw trip data, no need to provide separately)

⁶https://library.municode.com/va/alexandria/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=PTIITHCOGEOR_TIT10MOVETR_CH7BI_S10-7-10PA

- v. Daily SMDs in service in the City
 - vi. A map of trip route data for all trips starting, ending, or passing through Alexandria (especially to understand the equity implications of coverage of these services), by month
 - vii. Crashes – giving time, date, precise location, and number of parties impacted
 - viii. Injuries – giving time, date, precise location, and cause (if known)
 - ix. Number and precise location of SMDs that were towed after seven (7) consecutive days in one location
 - x. Complaints received – giving the reason with date and location, if available/appropriate
 - 1. Incorrectly parked SMD reports – giving time, date, and precise location
 - 2. Speeding reports
 - 3. Other complaints
 - xi. Other feedback received – by date, time, and precise location, if applicable
- b. If Operator collects de-identified demographic data from their customers, including age cohort, gender, and general trip purpose, such data shall be provided by Operator to the City, upon request.
- c. Operator shall provide a publicly-accessible application program interface, clearly posted on the company’s website that shows, at minimum, the current location of any dockless vehicles available for rental at all times.
- d. A smart phone-based application used to rent dockless vehicles does not qualify as a publicly accessible application program interface.
- e. Operator shall use the General Bikeshare Feed Specification (GBFS) as documented at <https://github.com/NABSA/gbfs/> for its devices. Operator shall inform the City of the location of the gbfs.json file on the Internet. The gbfs.json file contains the necessary information to find other files related to the GBFS data. If a token or authentication is required to view that file, the location to apply for the token must also be submitted to the City.
- f. The City requires that Operator publish in a location accessible by City staff six of the GBFS v1.1 draft files. Below are the required files that must be published:

gbfs.json	Auto-discovery file that links to all of the other files published by the system. <i>This file is optional in the GBFS, but required by the City.</i>
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system_information.json	Describes the system including system operator, system location, year implemented, URLs, contact info, and time zone.
station_information.json	Mostly static list of all stations, their capacities and locations. <i>(Note: This file may contain no information in a dockless system but is required by the City in order to maintain compliance with the GBFS standard.)</i>
free_bike_status.json	Describes bicycles that are available in non-station-based systems. <i>This file is optional in the GBFS, but required by the City.</i>
geofencing_zone_information.json	Mostly static list of all geofencing zones, their capacities, locations and areas. <i>This file is optional in the GBFS, but required by the City.</i>
geofencing_zone_status.json	Defines geofencing zones available in the system and their link to physical stations if any. <i>This file is optional in the GBFS, but required by the City.</i> Elements within the num_bikes_available_types array are required by the City and should be set to 0 if not applicable.
system_regions.json	Describes the regions the system is broken up into. <i>This file is optional in the GBFS, but required by the City.</i>
vehicle_type.json	The field “vehicle_type” shall be added to the public API to describe the vehicle type. This may be either “bicycle,” “e-bike,” “scooter,” or another type of permitted vehicle that must be specified.

7. Penalties and Fines

Operator shall be financially responsible for any/all penalties, fines, and other costs to City of Alexandria as a result of illegally parked SMDs, including but not limited to, parking tickets or other enforcement actions against Operator.

8. Surety Bond

Operator shall maintain a \$5,000 surety bond which the City may use to pay costs related to removing and storing devices that do not comply with these permit requirements, if such costs are not born by Operator.

9. Advertising

Operator shall not advertise or publish City's participation in or endorsement of the Operator on its SMDs or promotional material without the written consent of City of Alexandria.

Operator shall not utilize its SMDs for the sale or display of third-party advertising.

10. Remedies

If Operator violates its obligations under this MOU and such violation is not corrected within one week's time following written notice by the City, the City may immediately terminate Operator's participation under the Demonstration Project, this MOU, and/or suspend or revoke Name of Company's permit.

11. No Right, Title or Interest

Operator expressly acknowledges that this MOU does not constitute any conveyance, title, or interest in real property, in whole or in part.

Article III. Duration

- A. This MOU shall become effective upon the City's signature and shall remain in effect for an initial term of nine (9) months and may be renewed by Operator for an additional three (3) months upon ten (10) days' notice to, and the written consent of, City of Alexandria. This MOU may be modified only by mutual consent of authorized representatives from both parties, in writing.
- B. Upon expiration of the Permit, Operator shall remove all of its SMDs from the City right-of-way.

Article IV. Service Area

This MOU, in conjunction with a completed and approved Permit Application, authorizes Operator to operate within any portion of City of Alexandria.

Article V. Insurance and Indemnification

- A. Insurance.

(Appropriate level of insurance to be determined by Risk Management)

- B. Indemnification.

Operator covenants for itself, its employees and its subcontractors to save, defend, hold harmless and indemnify The City and all of its elected and appointed officials, officers, current and former employees, agents, departments, agencies, boards and commissions (collectively the "City Indemnitees") from and against any and all claims made by third parties for any and all losses, damages, injuries, fines, penalties, costs (including court costs and attorneys' fees), charges, liability, demands or exposure resulting from, arising out of or in any way connected with the Operator's acts or omissions, including the acts or omissions of its employees and/or subcontractors, in performance or nonperformance of the MOU. This duty

to save, defend, hold harmless and indemnify shall survive the termination of this MOU. If Operator fails or refuses to fulfill its obligations contained in this section, the Operator must reimburse the City for any and all resulting payments and expenses, including reasonable attorneys' fees. Operator must pay such expenses upon demand by the City.

Article VI. FOIA

The Operator acknowledges that documents submitted to the City by Operator—both during the term of this MOU and/or as part of any proposal, quote, or presentation made by Operator to the City—constitute public records that may be subject to public disclosure and/or production under the Virginia Freedom of Information Act (VFOIA). Any information contained in any document or record, which Operator considers confidential or of a proprietary nature must be noted at the time of submission. If the City receives a public disclosure request, whether informally or formally, from any person or entity, for such information or documents, the City agrees to immediately notify Operator. The City also agrees to work with Operator to determine whether any information and/or documents may be protected from disclosure or production under VFOIA; and will act reasonably in this regard. Nothing contained in this MOU shall affect the City's rights and obligations with respect to disclosure or production of records in accordance with VFOIA or other applicable law.

Article VII. Termination

Either party may terminate this MOU (and in doing so, the associated Permit) with 10-days' notice to the other party. Upon termination, Operator shall remove all of the SMDs under its ownership or control within five (5) business days of the date of termination and shall cease all operations within the service area once the devices have been removed. City of Alexandria shall consider any of Operator's SMDs not removed as abandoned property and shall dispose of them as it deems fit.