

City Council Work Session:

Shared Mobility / E-scooters



Shared Mobility with E-Scooters

- E-scooters emerged in September 2017.
- Small, battery-powered, two-wheel scooters to rent for one-way trips.
- App-based business model, same as dockless bike share.
- Rapid evolution of the industry, many competitors.

Observations – Other cities:

- Increase in user, pedestrians and traffic-related injuries and deaths.
- Illegal sidewalk riding creates pedestrian conflict.
- Inappropriate e-scooter parking creates hazards and accessibility constraints.
- Parks and Park Trail system impacts.
- Use of streets creates traffic conflicts and challenges with a lack of proper infrastructure.

Legislation and Authority

- **HB4499 & SB549:** are identical bills and the last page clearly allows municipalities to restrict and regulate the use of scooters.

“A county or municipality may prohibit the operation of a motor-assisted scooter on a street, highway, or sidewalk if the governing body of the county or municipality determines that the prohibition is necessary in the interest of safety.”
- **SB2715:** calls for a study to be completed and presented to the legislature by end of 2020.
- **City Authority:** The current authority to ban is based on San Marcos being a home rule city and the fact that there is no law that currently prohibits a home rule city from enacting a ban. In other words, San Marcos has the authority and will continue to have it unless/until the legislature takes it away by adoption of a preemption statute.

City / Texas State Partnership

1. Coordinated Transit Plan.
2. Joint RFP for single provider for bike share program.
3. Working collaboratively with City on E-Scooters.

Council Options:

1. Establish regulations and a pilot program.
2. Amend VeoRide bicycle contract to include e-scooters.
3. Issue Joint RFP for single provider for e-scooter program.
4. Prohibit e-scooters in the public right-of-way and sidewalks.
5. Take no action.

Staff Recommendation

- Staff recommends prohibiting scooters in the public right-of-way streets and sidewalks.

Questions / Discussion