



COUNCIL REQUEST FOR DECISION

MEETING DATE: December 12, 2022

SUBMITTED BY: S. Olson, Director, Engineering and Environment

PREPARED BY: N. Schaper, Municipal Energy Project Manager

REPORT TITLE: Shared E-Scooter (Micro-Mobility) Pilot Program 2022 Update – December 12, 2022

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Bird Canada completed the first year of a 2-year shared e-scooter pilot program which operated from May to October of this year. The following details the results of Year 1 of the pilot and what is proposed to change for Year 2, including a request to increase the maximum e-scooter speed to 20km/hr.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council approve the increase of maximum speed in the e-scooter pilot project to 20km/hr.

COUNCIL HISTORY

First Reading of Bylaw No. 1112-2022, a Bylaw to Amend the Traffic Bylaw and the Parkland Bylaw was approved at the February 7, 2022, Council meeting. Second and Third Readings of Bylaw No. 1112-2022 were approved at the February 28, 2022, Council meeting.

BACKGROUND / RATIONALE

Following approval of Bylaw No. 1112-2022, Administration drafted a permit with Bird Canada for the e-scooter pilot program in Leduc. At the conclusion of the first year of operation, residents were consulted on the program. The following details the results of Year 1 of the pilot and what is proposed to change for Year 2.

KEY ISSUES

The permit for Bird Canada to operate in Leduc included restrictions on the number of e-scooters permitted at any given time in Leduc, regulated maximum speeds (15km/hr governed by the e-scooter), stipulated parking requirements and locations, and operation requirements and locations. Operating under those conditions, Bird Canada experienced a successful first year in Leduc. 18,336 Bird Canada trips were recorded in Leduc in the first year of the 2-year pilot.

As indicated in the previous reports, following the 2-year pilot project, council will be approached to determine whether to make the program permanent. Feedback received towards the end of year 1 of the pilot indicated 65% of people were in favour of the e-scooters, an increase from 51% prior to the pilot. The main comments heard during the most recent survey were a request for more affordable options, to monitor parking concerns and to increase the speeds of the e-scooters. As a result of those comments, and in consultation with the Leduc Parks, Recreation and Culture Board and Bird Canada, the recommendation is to increase the speed of all e-scooters from 15 km/hr to the more common speed used in other Alberta and Canadian municipalities of 20 km/hr. Administration is also working with Bird Canada to ensure parking locations are monitored for

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inappropriate parking, and are requesting that Bird Canada investigate more costing options on their app. Both a summary of the survey results and the raw data are attached.

LEGISLATION, POLICY AND/OR BYLAW

Under the *Alberta Traffic Safety Act (Act)*, privately owned e-scooters are permitted only on private property; however, micro-mobility companies with permits under the *Act* can offer rentable, battery-powered scooters in accordance with all rules issued by the municipality hosting the program. Leduc has issued such a permit to Bird Canada and if council authorizes the speed increase, the permit will be amended.

STRATEGIC / RELEVANT PLANS ALIGNMENT

Support for this initiative is listed below:

- Municipal Development Plan (2020): 2.5 Transportation and Mobility: “Encourage the provision of choice between active transportation modes, the private automobile, and transit.”
- Environmental Plan (2012): 9. Air: “The City of Leduc could develop an active transportation and transportation demand management plan that includes an outreach campaign to support the use of emissions-free transportation”
- Greenhouse Gas Reduction Action Plan (2019): 7.3 Transportation Actions: provide alternatives to single-occupancy vehicle travel, develop and implement an education campaign to promote active transportation <https://www.leduc.ca/our-climate-solutions>.
- Transportation Master Plan (2018) – 2.4 Active Transportation: “Many residents work in or around the Leduc area, and the municipality’s size and flat topography would serve to encourage active transport modes for many trips in the area”

ORGANIZATIONAL IMPLICATIONS

ADMINISTRATION:

Advertising and administrative enforcement have been the responsibility of Bird Canada as a private business in order to maintain its permit to operate in Leduc.

RISK ANALYSIS: FINANCIAL / LEGAL:

There is no financial commitment for Leduc, outside of minimal Administration time to report on the pilot.

IMPLEMENTATION / COMMUNICATIONS:

Prior to implementing the program, there was an in-person/virtual engagement at the Leduc Recreation Centre on November 30, 2021 and an online survey open from November 19, 2021, to January 10, 2022. From August through October, a survey was posted to garner feedback on e-scooter use in Year 1. Following the second year of the pilot, there will be another survey to gauge support prior to bringing this back to council to determine the permanency of the program.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Council Presentation - E-Scooter Pilot Program December 2022
2. E-Scooter Survey Results Summary - Fall 2022
3. E-Scooters Pilot Feedback Data Fall 2022