

Motor Vehicle Act Pilot Program

May 21, 2020

Committee of the Whole

Engineering & Public Works Department



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PURPOSE

To provide an overview of the Motor Vehicle Act Pilot Program and set up the City of Victoria to successfully and sustainably participate in order to support goals and targets outlined in GO Victoria and achieve Council's Strategic Priorities.



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BACKGROUND

- The Provincial Motor Vehicle Act was developed in 1957.
- Municipalities have authority to regulate the use and enforcement of traffic on roads through their streets and traffic bylaw.
- Local governments in BC have been seeking fulsome updates to the MVA in order to better reflect the current mobility environment and changing technology landscape.
- A new Motor Vehicle Act Pilot Program has been established for municipalities to understand how to better regulate matters related to transportation that are currently not provided for or addressed under the Act.



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BACKGROUND

- The first pilot “call”, announced in January 2020, focuses solely on the use of electric scooters and other zero emission motorized personal mobility devices.



- Future pilot opportunities are anticipated and will address other road safety topics like default speed limits as well as micro-mobility devices.



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POLICY CONTEXT

- GO Victoria, the City's Sustainable Mobility Strategy, promotes a vision of *clean, seamless mobility for everyone* by advancing strategies which support key initiatives such as:
 - Achieving Vision Zero
 - Accelerating active and accessible transportation
 - Shifting to zero emissions mobility
- Council's Strategic Plan identifies a 2021 Action to "lower speed limits on local neighbourhood streets to 30 km per hour"



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PILOT PROGRAM

- The provincial model requires each participating municipality to define their own scope under the pilot theme.
- All pilot projects have a maximum duration of 3 years.
- Cabinet must approve regulations to allow participating municipalities to move forward with their initiatives
- There are no dedicated road safety or active transportation resources for this program
- Planning, implementation, and evaluation must be undertaken by each local government



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MVA PILOT CONSIDERATIONS

- **Remembering our 5 E's**
 - engineering, education, encouragement, enforcement and evaluation
- **Scope and extent of pilot**
 - Topics could include default local speed limits, micro-mobility devices, accessible transportation options, and more
- **Resource requirements from across the organization**
 - Transportation, engagement, bylaw, legislative services, and Victoria Police
- **Overall road safety, consistency and predictability of the experience for residents and visitors**



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TIMELINES

- MoTI is moving forward with developing a regulation for the micro-mobility pilot in Quarter 3, 2020.
 - All pilot communities must be approved and require a formal motion to proceed.
- A second MVA Pilot call is expected in Fall 2020
 - There is interest from other local governments in CRD to collaborate on scoping a project
 - This would allow the City to identify and evaluate resource requirements to undertake program and consult with key stakeholders



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RECOMMENDATIONS

That Council direct staff to:

- Communicate with the Province of British Columbia that the City of Victoria will work collaboratively with other municipalities and the Capital Regional District to explore a proposal for the second call under the Motor Vehicle Act Pilot Program focused on reduced speed limits and new mobility devices.
- Prepare the associated corporate resourcing requirements to participate in the Motor Vehicle Act Pilot Program for consideration by Council as a part of the 2021 Financial Planning process.
- Request expansion of provincial road safety and active transportation grant funding programs to support municipal participation in the Motor Vehicle Act Pilot Program.



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