



**Council Member Motion
For the Committee of the Whole Meeting of October 21, 2021**

Date: October 18, 2021
From: Councillor Ben Isitt and Councillor Jeremy Loveday
Subject: Accessibility in Bike Lanes

Background:

Community organizations including Greater Victoria Acting Together and the Action Committee of People with Disabilities have written to Council, supporting the use of electric-powered wheelchairs and mobility scooters in bike lanes in the City of Victoria. (See Attachments 1 and 2)

In 2017, the Mayor wrote on behalf of Council to the provincial government, requesting amendments to Provincial legislation to permit this use. The provincial government responded by amending the Motor Vehicle Act in 2019 to define regulated motorized personal mobility devices and permit their use on highways subject to regulations. Authorization was also provided for pilot projects to pursue this use. (See Attachments 3 and 4)

The City of Victoria Strategic Plan 2018-2021 includes the ongoing Action to “Identify and remove barriers to make Victoria accessible and apply a barrier-free lens to all decisions we make to ensure we’re not creating new barriers.” The Strategic Plan also includes the 2019 action to “Develop and begin implementation of the Sustainable Mobility Strategy including improvements to pedestrian, cycling and transit travel.”

Improving accessibility of bike lanes is supported by City advisory committees including the Active Transportation Advisory Committee and the Accessibility Advisory Committee.

It is therefore recommended that Council provide direction to staff to engage the Provincial government and report back with a verbal update on next steps for permitting the use of electric-powered wheelchairs and mobility scooters in bike lanes in the City of Victoria.

Recommendation:

That Council direct staff to:

1. Engage the Provincial government on moving forward with permitted use of electric-powered wheelchairs and mobility scooters in bike lanes in the City of Victoria.
2. Provide a verbal update by Q1 2022 on next steps for moving forward with this accessibility action.

Respectfully submitted,



Councillor Isitt



Councillor Loveday

Attachment:

1. Letter from Greater Victoria Acting Together
2. Letter from Action Committee of People with Disabilities
3. Letter from the Mayor of Victoria to the Premier of BC
4. Letter from the Minister of Transportation to the City of Victoria