



Council Member Motion For the Committee of the Whole Meeting of 14 March 2024

To: Committee of the Whole **Date:** March 14th, 2024
From: Councillor Jeremy Caradonna and Councillor Dave Thompson
Subject: Motor Vehicle Act (MVA) advocacy

BACKGROUND

Now is a perfect time to advocate to the Province and request that diverse forms of transportation, including mobility scooters and micro-mobility devices (e.g. electric unicycles, electric mopeds, e-kick scooters, etc.) be permitted in bike lanes.

The City has made this request before, in 2021, but the updates to the Motor Vehicle Act (MVA) were delayed due to the pandemic. The Province is now back to working on the MVA and it is important that policymakers hear constructive feedback from local governments. What is lacking are regulations that clarify the place for alternative modes of transportation (other than bicycles) in cycling facilities.

Similar advocacy is taking place at the CRD, which manages the regional cycling network that is soon to be widened and improved.

It is essential that our bike and roll lanes welcome people of all ages and abilities, and that the use of the lanes be safe and regulated. Issues such as maximum speeds, signage, and accessibility need to be considered in the MVA, which is now very out of date, and has struggled to keep up with the new transportation inventions that are already in use on Victoria's roads, lanes, and pathways.

One example is electric skateboards. Another is electric mopeds, which use both pedals and an electrified pedal assist. Electric unicycles are another example of a hard-to-categorize mobility type. The Province should be taking stock of, and ideally supporting, the diverse range of micromobility options that advance both provincial and municipal active transportation goals.

Finally, electric wheelchairs and mobility devices – which are essential to accessibility for a growing number of people - also inhabit a regulatory grey zone. Advocacy to the Province could help clarify and enable their permitted use in the bike and roll lane network, thereby advancing accessibility, road safety, and transportation objectives.

Active transportation is for everyone, and we want provincial law to reflect this value.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council direct the Mayor to send an advocacy letter to the Province by the end of March requesting the following: That the Province:

- permit the use of electric wheelchairs and mobility devices on local streets and in the bike and roll lane network via the Motor Vehicle Act and associated regulations;
- include new micro-mobility devices, including electric skateboards and mopeds and other difficult-to-categorize devices, into the update of the Motor Vehicle Act and associated regulations;
- ensure that the MVA and associated regulations support active transportation, multi-user road safety, and accessibility.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "J. Caradonna", written over a light blue dotted background.

Councillor J. Caradonna

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "D. Thompson", written over a light blue dotted background.

Councillor D. Thompson