



External Briefing Note

GEORGINA

Subject: Electric Scooters

To: Mayor and Council

From: Mike Hutchinson, Manager, Municipal Law Enforcement

Date: August 13, 2025

Briefing:

Across the region and Greater Toronto Area there has been an increase in micromobility options becoming available to the public. These options include power assisted bicycles and electric scooters. Power assisted bicycles are currently permitted on most highways; however, electric scooters are not. Staff have received questions about the use of electric scooters as there seems to be some confusion with their legality. Currently, the provincial government has enacted a Pilot Project, in which municipalities may pass a bylaw to permit electric scooters on their highways and within their parks. If a municipality does not enact an electric scooter bylaw, then electric scooters will remain illegal on roads under the municipality's jurisdiction and in their parks and on their trails. If a municipality enacts a bylaw to permit electric scooters, electric scooter operators must follow the rules and regulations for electric scooter use found in Ontario Regulation 389/19: Pilot Project – Electric Kick-Scooters. These rules and regulations include the following:

- Electric scooters shall be operated in a bike lane while on a roadway;
- If there are no bike lines, electric scooters shall be operated on the right side of the roadway, as close to the edge as possible;
- Electric scooters operators shall keep a safe distance from pedestrians and give way to pedestrians and cyclists as necessary;
- Electric scooters shall be equipped with a horn or bell;
- Electric scooters shall be equipped with a light if operated one-half hour before sunset to one-half hour after sunrise;
- The operator of an electric scooter must be sixteen years of age or older;
- The operator of an electric scooter must not carry a passenger or tow another person; and
- An Electric Scooter must not be able to travel at a speed greater than 24 kilometres per hour.

Several municipalities in the Greater Toronto Area have passed bylaws to participate in the provincial Pilot Project, including here in York Region. The municipalities of Markham and Vaughan have entered into agreements with private companies for electric scooter rentals, which can be picked up and dropped off on municipal properties. Representatives from these municipalities have reported the pilot to be successful, although some members of the public have voiced their concerns with fast-moving electric scooters driving erratically on sidewalks, pathways, and trails.

As provisions for electric scooter usage falls under regulation of the *Highway Traffic Act*, current enforcement on roadways is the responsibility of York Regional Police. If Council decided to enact an electric scooter bylaw, enforcement could be shared by the Municipal Law Enforcement Division and the Police, although staff anticipate difficulties with enforcement. For example, riders refusing to stop and use of scooters by those under the age of sixteen.

As the popularity of micromobility devices continues to rise, so do injuries related to the use of electric scooters. In a recent article on yorkregion.com, Southlake Health Trauma Medical Director Dr. Leeor Sommer indicated that the region is seeing an increase in electric scooter injuries, some of them life-altering, particularly in the last 3 years. In May 2025 alone, the Southlake emergency room treated 14 electric scooter injuries. These injuries may create a liability for municipalities participating in the Pilot Project.

Currently, staff have been instructed to refer any complaints relating to electric scooters on Town roads to York Regional Police. Electric scooters are prohibited in Town parks and on Town trails under the Parks Bylaw, which prohibits motorized vehicles in these areas. The Municipal Law Enforcement Division has the authority to enforce the Parks Bylaw.