



The Corporation of the District of Central Saanich

REGULAR COUNCIL REPORT

For the Regular Council meeting on Monday, April 22, 2024

Re: E-Kick Scooter Pilot

RECOMMENDATION(S):

Authorize the Electric Kick Scooter Pilot Project taking place within the District of Central Saanich that started on April 5, 2024.

PURPOSE:

Seek approval from Council to opt-in to the E-Kick Scooter pilot conducted by the Province from April 5, 2024, to April 5, 2028.

BACKGROUND:

In 2021 the province of BC, Ministry of Transportation Infrastructure (MoTI) initiated a pilot program for municipalities to legally have e-kick scooters on roadway. The pilot was an application based and required temporary changes to municipal bylaws to accommodate the variance to the BC Motor Vehicle Act.

In 2024, MoTI looked to extend the pilot due to insufficient information and have made the application process easier by allowing municipalities to opt-in with a resolution passed by Council provided the municipality follows the E-Kick Scooter Regulations. The regulations allow e-kick scooters to be operated with the following conditions:

- By persons older than 16;
- On municipal roads with speed limits of 50 kph or lower, unless on a designated bicycle lane;
- E-kick scooters have a maximum self-propelled speed of 25 kph;
- E-kick scooters follow the same rules and regulations as bicycles;
- E-kick scooters are to make hook turns at intersections when making left-hand turns.

DISCUSSION:

The change in the application process removes resource requirements in applying to the pilot. There are no changes to existing bylaws required now, no changes to use of bike lanes, travelled lanes, or additional signage should be required to implement.

The annual reporting form has not been released, but it is anticipated that information like the following would be required:

- How many and nature of accidents occurred with e-kick scooters;
- How many stops due to improper operation/exceeding speed/not having safety equipment.

Central Saanich Police have indicated that they do not anticipate an additional burden on enforcement, but depending on the annual reporting requirements may have to change their reporting and record keeping.

Bylaw have indicated the potential for an increase in complaints, especially in areas where the District already receives traffic safety concerns where there are existing bicycle/vehicle/pedestrian conflicts.

The rules allow the District to use typical traffic signage to control areas that e-kick scooters cannot operate. Currently, staff do not anticipate areas that require additional signage.

IMPLICATIONS:

Strategic

The E-Kick Scooter pilot program fits within the District’s efforts to be multi-modal and supporting active transportation, participation will aid in the final determination by MoTI whether to make permanent changes to the BC Motor Vehicle Act to allow e-kick scooters.

OPTIONS:

Option 1 (recommended):

Authorize the Electric Kick Scooter Pilot Project taking place within the District of Central Saanich that started on April 5, 2024.

Option 2:

Do not authorize the Electric Kick Scooter Pilot Project.

CONCLUSION:

The current implementation of the BC E-Kick Scooter pilot program has a low barrier to apply and participate in, participating continues the District’s efforts in promoting multi-modal and active transportation.

Respectfully submitted by:	Dale Puskas, Director of Engineering
Concurrence by:	Ian Lawson, Central Saanich Police Chief
Concurrence by:	Jarret Matanowitsch, Director of Planning & Building Services
Concurrence by:	Christine Culham, Chief Administrative Officer

ATTACHMENTS:

Appendix A: E-Kick Scooter Regulations

Appendix B: E-Kick Scooter Pilot Program FAQ