

# AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

## City Council



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### STAFF

Rachel Ruhlen, Transportation Planner, FC Moves

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### SUBJECT

**Second Reading of Ordinance No. 094, 2025, Amending Chapters 15 and 23 of the Code of the City of Fort Collins Regarding the Requirements of Shared Micromobility Operations.**

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### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This Ordinance, unanimously adopted on First Reading on June 3, 2025, addresses a potential regulatory gap under City Code by defining clear requirements applicable to the operation of shared micromobility services within Fort Collins. These requirements will allow FC Moves to ensure that operators of shared micromobility services in the city consistently provide robust and reliable service and mitigate negative impacts on the community and other right-of-way uses.

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### STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends adoption of the Ordinance on Second Reading.

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### FIRST READING BACKGROUND / DISCUSSION

Shared micromobility is a service that makes bikes, e-bikes, e-scooters, etc. available for rent by the public, typically via a smartphone app, with devices parked in the public right-of-way when not actively rented. Shared micromobility supports mode shift which aligns with goals of Our Climate Future, Active Modes Plan, and Vision Zero Action Plan. It also provides an accessible transportation option for people who do not otherwise have access to a motor vehicle.

However, if unregulated, shared micromobility services can cause problems for cities. Improperly parked shared micromobility devices can be obstacles in sidewalks, ADA curb ramps, and other paths. Other communities have faced abandoned systems and unresponsive, absent providers, leaving obstacles and unsightly clutter and an unusable system.

As a Platinum level Bicycle Friendly Community and with a Platinum level Bicycle Friendly University (the highest level awarded to any city and university in the nation), Fort Collins is a leader in micromobility and a model to other communities. Fort Collins adopted shared micromobility in 2016 starting with station-based bike share (Pace) and adding dockless e-scooters in 2019 (Bird). Since 2021, dockless shared e-scooters and e-bikes services in Fort Collins have been combined into a single services contract for shared micromobility services provided by the same vendor (Spin). FC Moves has managed these programs in partnership with Colorado State University (the University) and the vendors.

In 2022, FC Moves surveyed shared micromobility riders, who cited “fast”, “fun”, and “reliable” as benefits of the service. Additionally, the current vendor provides discounted shared micromobility services for riders

with low income, and a survey of those riders found that 20% live with a disability (compared to 6% of the general population). Survey results also indicated that many riders receiving the discount rely on shared micromobility services.

Currently, the regulation of shared micromobility services under City Code is unclear. There are no Code requirements specific to shared micromobility services, and it's unclear whether the outdoor vendor license requirements (under Chapter 15) or the encroachment permit requirements (under Chapter 23) apply to shared micromobility operations. The lack of clear regulation puts the City at risk for unregulated shared micromobility vendors, who are unresponsive and allow riders to park shared micromobility devices improperly. It also could hinder the City-University coordination that is essential to a thriving shared micromobility program in Fort Collins.

Creating a clear regulatory framework for shared micromobility operators is in the City's best interest in order to ensure that operators adhere to City standards, promote City goals for mode shift and safety, and protect the public right-of-way. FC Moves staff has determined the best way for the City to promote a fair operating environment for all residents, visitors, and persons offering shared micromobility services in Fort Collins is to establish a clear regulatory framework under City Code, requiring a services contract with the City in order to operate any shared micromobility service in Fort Collins. The Active Modes Advisory Board supports this regulatory framework.

The City has had great success in using services contracts to manage shared micromobility services currently being operated in Fort Collins. The contract with the City's current shared micromobility vendor establishes expectations and requirements for the vendor to facilitate collaboration with staff. Requirements include responsiveness, communications, and data sharing, and the result has been a strong partnership with the vendor in which staff have an active role in communicating with residents and finding opportunities to improve the program.

This Ordinance will require any shared micromobility services operating in Fort Collins to have a services contract with the City. Additionally, the Ordinance will also clarify that shared micromobility services that have so contracted with the City need not also obtain a separate outdoor vendor license or encroachment permits for such operations, since all necessary requirements would be addressed in the services contract.

## **CITY FINANCIAL IMPACTS**

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None.

## **BOARD / COMMISSION / COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION**

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Staff presented the proposed Code changes to establish a regulatory framework to the Active Modes Advisory Board at their regular meeting on May 19, 2025. The Board unanimously agreed to recommend approval of the proposed Code changes. Minutes for this meeting are not yet available.

## **PUBLIC OUTREACH**

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None.

## **ATTACHMENTS**

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First Reading attachments available in June 3, 2025 agenda materials at the following link: <https://fortcollins-co.municodemeetings.com/>.

1. Ordinance No. 094, 2025