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MEMORANDUM BICYCLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

DATE:

May 22, 2023

TO:

City of Fort Collins – Transportation Board

FROM:

City of Fort Collins - Bicycle Advisory Committee

SUBJECT:

Expressing Support for Changing the Ordinance Affecting Parking of Electric

Scooters and Shared Micromobility

Dear Chair Brown,

The Bicycle Advisory Committee (BAC) has recently discussed the importance of providing better options for parking of shared micromobility such as Spin e-scooters and e-bikes because riders sometimes park them blocking paths and access. This can be a problem for everyone, and it can be a barrier for people with disabilities.

Parking of electric scooters and shared micromobility electric scooters, electric bicycles, and bicycles is currently regulated by §24-179 which dictates that "a user shall park shared mobility devices or an electric scooter upright on hard surfaces in the parkway, beside a bicycle rack, or in another area specifically designated for shared mobility device and electric scooter parking." Parking of personally owned electric bicycles and bicycles is regulated by Traffic Code §2108, which allows parking on sidewalks and on roads so long as it does not impede pedestrian movement on sidewalks or traffic on roads.

In collaboration with CSU Master's student Connor Stephens, FC Moves studied how riders parked Spin e-bikes and e-scooters, collecting data and photos on over 400 vehicles in 2022, including the legality of how the device was parked, whether it was blocking a path or access, and whether it was blocking a path or access for someone with a disability. In most of the City, there is no place to park that is compliant with §24-179. Many of the e-bikes and e-scooters were illegally parked on the street but were not blocking a path or access. Mr. Stephens' study calculated that allowing shared micromobility parking in unmetered, unmarked on-street parking spaces could potentially reduce vehicles that impede the path by 56% and vehicles that impede people with disabilities by 55%.

Removing §24-179 and adding electric scooters and shared micromobility to Traffic Code §2108 will allow Spin e-bikes and e-scooters to be parked on streets, which provides more legal parking options and is expected to reduce the number of parked micromobility devices blocking paths or access. The ability to educate riders effectively on appropriate parking behavior is limited because of the lack of legal parking options for shared micromobility devices. By contract, Spin enforces parking, and the City can require additional parking restrictions of Spin, such as restricting shared micromobility parking on streets with metered or marked parking, via contract



without changing the ordinance. The City should evaluate further whether Spin parking should be allowed by contract in on-street parking spaces in the residential parking permit zones or whether Spin parking boxes would be a better solution in these areas.

The BAC believes that changing the ordinance will improve dockless shared micromobility such as Spin in Fort Collins and reduce any negative impact on the public right-of-way. We ask for your support in forwarding this memo to Council to ensure the benefit of this change is recognized.

Sincerely,

Dave Dixon

Bicycle Advisory Committee, Chair