



**TOWN OF LOS GATOS  
COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT**

MEETING DATE: 11/2/2021

ITEM NO: 14

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DATE: October 28, 2021  
TO: Mayor and Town Council  
FROM: Laurel Prevetti, Town Manager  
SUBJECT: Discuss and Provide Direction Regarding Shared Mobility Devices

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Discuss and provide direction regarding shared mobility devices.

**BACKGROUND:**

Shared mobility devices (SMD), such as electric scooters and bikes, experienced a period of broad interest and deployment that has since consolidated back to more controlled implementation in cities throughout the State. These mobility devices can be rented by the public via a smartphone application that unlocks the motorized devices and lets the user park it when the rider arrives at their chosen destination. The positive element of increased accessibility to mobility devices that can encourage the use of alternative transportation is juxtaposed with the challenges in managing the safe public use of the street and sidewalks.

On September 18, 2020, the Governor signed Assembly Bill (AB) 1286, which limits shared mobility device providers to deploying only where the local jurisdiction is in support. The local jurisdiction can manage the deployments through ordinance, permit, or agreement.

**DISCUSSION:**

The free-for all type deployments that surrounded SMDs in their original introduction have changed drastically. Current deployments allow for greater structure around how the devices are used. The main tool that has been developed is the use of geofencing, allowing for detailed limits on such elements as:

- Speed – device speed can be limited in specific geographic areas.
- Parking – the devices can require users to drop them off in designated SMD parking areas only.

**PREPARED BY:** Matt Morley  
Parks and Public Works Director

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Reviewed by: Town Manager, Assistant Town Manager, and Town Attorney

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DISCUSSION (continued):

- Restricted Areas – locations can be identified where the devices will not function.

In addition to the potential for local controls, the California Vehicle Code also governs usage, restricting use on sidewalks, for example. Company policies may also restrict usage further, for example to users 18 and older.

Recently one company, Bird, approached Town staff with an interest to discuss a deployment in Los Gatos. This issue is not currently on the Strategic Priorities workplan, but is on the Town Attorney list of ordinances to address. Because of AB 1286 the need for an ordinance (or other permitting mechanism) is no longer necessary, unless the Town wishes to allow SMDs. Staff opted to bring this item to Council to determine the Council's and the public's level of interest in pursuing this deployments and developing the necessary tools for implementation in the Town.

A number of unanswered questions remain, including the number of SMDs that might be allowed in Town, how management or enforcement of the devices would occur, what revenue could be attained, what limits on use might be put in place, etc. If the Council is interested in pursuing this item, staff would work with the Complete Streets and Transportation Commission to develop a structure around potential implementation recommendations which could then be considered in an ordinance or other mechanism.

CONCLUSION:

Staff recommends the Council provide direction on its interest in the deployment of SMDs in Los Gatos.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There may be an opportunity for monetization of deployments through permitting or agreements.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT:

This is not a project defined under CEQA, and no further action is required.