



*City of Tualatin*

## **CITY OF TUALATIN Staff Report**

**TO:** Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council  
**THROUGH:** Sherilyn Lombos, City Manager  
**FROM:** Nic Westendorf, Deputy Public Works Director  
**DATE:** June 13, 2022

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### **SUBJECT:**

Authorization for the City Manager to execute a Pilot License Agreement with Bird Scooters

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends Council authorization, allowing the City Manager to execute a 12-month Pilot License Agreement for e-scooter operation.

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

City staff have worked closely with internal stakeholders from various City Departments including Parks, Police, Community Development, Public Works, and Administration, along with Bird Scooters to draft a pilot license agreement that meets both the City's and Bird's need for operational rules and processes to guide successful operation of e-scooters within the City.

The Agreement would allow the operation of e-scooters for a 12-month period to test the public's interest and viability of a more permanent 5-year license. The development of the pilot agreement was based on guiding principles which include protecting the public, allowing flexibility for responsiveness to issues throughout the term of the pilot program, and fostering the successful use of e-scooters.

The overall intent of this pilot program is to determine the feasibility of e-scooters in Tualatin. The pilot license allows for the City to make adjustments throughout the term of the pilot program, as the need arises. The language within the agreement allows the City and Company to be flexible, nimble, and collaborative in our approach, but still places solid expectations on Bird to ensure the scooters are managed/operated appropriately within the City. The agreement can be terminated if the pilot program is unsuccessful.

The pilot will begin with a small fleet of 50-75 e-scooters. The City will work with Bird to determine an appropriate fleet size, identify parking locations, and provide outreach/education to riders around safe and respectful operations.

For the purpose of this pilot program, the City will regulate e-scooters like bicycles. E-scooters should be ridden on streets where available and safe, within existing bike lanes or paths, or in the right lane/shoulder where no bike facilities exist. Helmets will be encouraged (riders get a discount for wearing a helmet) and enforcement will be similar to that of bicycles, education-based and on an as-need basis. E-scooters are to be parked in designated locations throughout the City placed

near the curb, not blocking pedestrian access to facilities like bus stops, bike racks, ADA ramps, or business accesses.

Any complaints of broken or improperly parked scooters will be handled by a local contractor hired by the scooter provider. Each scooter will have a sticker with a phone number and email that can be used to report issues. Issues will be resolved within four hours, or during the next business day if reported outside of normal business hours.

Other noteworthy items included in the Pilot License Agreement include:

- A revenue share of \$0.10 per ride for the City
- City ability to reasonably limit hours or areas of use for e-scooters
- Timely correction of issues from Bird for things such as improperly parked scooters
- Educational materials and an in-person safety event provided by Bird to help educate riders on how to safely access and use e-scooters
- Generalized data sharing of things such as ride mapping, trip start/end locations, and levels of utilization. Staff hopes this data can aid in transportation planning and pursuing grants, in addition to gauging the success of the pilot.

## **HISTORY OF THE PROJECT**

Bird Scooters approached the City in 2021 to begin a conversation about the operation of e-scooters in Tualatin. Staff met with Bird, internal City staff, other Oregon cities currently allowing Bird operations, and Council to learn more about e-scooters, collect feedback, and gauge interest in moving forward.

In January 2022 City staff and a representative from Bird came to Council to get further direction on e-scooter operations in Tualatin. Council showed interest and directed staff to draft a pilot agreement, paying close attention to safety, aesthetics, and impacts to City staff.

## **OUTCOMES OF DECISION:**

If approved, staff will enter into a pilot License Agreement with interested e-scooter providers for a period of 12-months to gauge the interest and feasibility of a longer-term agreement allowing e-scooter operation in the City.

After the pilot program, staff will come back to review the program and determine next steps for the long-term management of e-scooters.

## **ALTERNATIVES TO RECOMMENDATION:**

Council could choose to not allow e-scooter operations in the City.

## **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:**

There are no noteworthy financial implications. The City will receive a small revenue share from scooter operations but the exact amount is unknown at this time.

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## **ATTACHMENTS:**

- Proposed Pilot License Agreement
- PowerPoint Presentation