

Department of Transportation

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact:

Colin Heyne, Public Information Manager
408-975-3705 office
626-622-8923 mobile
colin.heyne@sanjoseca.gov

E-scooters and Other “Micro Mobility” Devices to be Regulated in San José Under New Permit Program

SAN JOSE, Calif. (December 19, 2018) – Following last night’s approval by City Council, the City of San José Department of Transportation (DOT) is moving forward with a permit program to regulate shared micro-mobility systems such as shared e-scooters. The program will go into effect in February 2019, giving the City regulatory authority over the operations of companies that are granted an operating permit.

DOT will be authorized to regulate several aspects of e-scooter companies’ operations, including the number of devices deployed, safety education efforts, parking and re-distribution of devices, customer service, and equitable access. The new rules will also require companies to develop and use technology to prevent people from using the devices in a motorized capacity on sidewalks.

“Here in the heart of Silicon Valley, we can leverage technology to improve safety risks, while supporting the mobility options that thousands of our residents clearly want,” said Mayor Liccardo. “We look forward to the continued evolution of this program, and making certain that this exciting mobility solution is one that is safe for all San José residents.”

“There is a lot of support for micro-mobility devices as a means to reach the City’s transportation, land use, and environmental goals,” said John Ristow, Acting Director of Transportation. “But we need to make sure these devices are being responsibly ridden, parked, and maintained. The permit program gives us the tools to manage the scooter companies who want to operate in San José today, as well as the micro-mobility companies of tomorrow, who may develop technologies we haven’t even dreamt of yet.”

The City conducted extensive outreach while developing the regulations, a process that began in early spring 2018. DOT has consulted with partner agencies in the county

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and region, stakeholder organizations, and other cities grappling with the same issue. Staff have received dozens of emails from the public, and in June hosted a community outreach event that combined a vendor demonstration with a community workshop.

With the establishment of a regulated permit program, DOT will also launch an outreach and education campaign. The heart of that effort will be a website with information for the public and permitting resources for micro-mobility companies. The department will be developing educational messaging to clearly communicate the rules of the road to e-scooter riders. Once permits are issued, micro-mobility companies will be required to educate riders on state and local laws, as well as safe use of the devices, through messaging on mobile apps, websites, and the devices themselves.

Micro-mobility companies may request an application for a permit by emailing micro.mobility@sanjoseca.gov.

About the City of San José

With more than one million residents, San José is one of the most diverse large cities in the United States and is Northern California’s largest city and the 10th largest city in the nation. San José’s transformation into a global innovation center has resulted in one of the largest concentrations of technology companies and expertise in the world. In 2011, the City adopted Envision San José 2040, a long-term growth plan that sets forth a vision and a comprehensive road map to guide the City’s anticipated growth through the year 2040.

About the Department of Transportation

The San José Department of Transportation (DOT) plans, develops, operates, and maintains transportation facilities, services, and related systems that contribute to the livability and economic health of the city. Our goal is to provide a transportation system that is safe, efficient, and convenient for all modes of transportation, and which supports San José’s livability and economic vitality.

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