



December 9, 2019

CITY OF SEATTLE NOTICE OF SEPA DETERMINATION FOR SCOOTER SHARE PROGRAM

SDOT proposes to implement a Scooter Share Program (SSP) that allows customers to locate and rent a motorized foot scooter and end the rental at an appropriate location near their destination. Under the SSP, SDOT will issue permits to private companies to operate motorized foot scooters. The combined total number of scooters and bikes will not exceed the 20,000 vehicles specified in the September 2018 DNS that was issued for the free-floating bike share permit. Vendors will be required to pay permitting fees that will be used to administer the SSP and its goals. The City will request a Seattle Municipal Code (SMC) Chapter 11.46 amendment to the City Council in Q1 2020 to allow motorized foot scooters to be operated on bicycle lanes and public paths (multi-use trails) but not on sidewalks. The City will also request approval from the City Council to amend SMC Chapter 15.17 in Q1 2020 to authorize vending of motorized foot scooters and other mobility devices in public places. Shared scooters will not be allowed to provide assistance propulsion beyond 15 miles per hour. In August 2019, SDOT began a public engagement process to build a community-driven SSP. SDOT is working with stakeholders and community groups to co-create a scooter share program that offers new mobility options while maintaining sidewalk comfort and the safety of pedestrians, people who are blind or low-vision, and people living with disabilities. Before establishing the SSP, SDOT will use lessons learned from the free-floating bike share program including requiring data from vendors, instituting rule consistency with Seattle's suburbs, maintaining the ability to reassess or restrict fleet size at any time, requiring response times for obstruction hazards, and monitoring compliance and enforcement with clearly defined targets and penalties. The SSP will require vendors to prioritize obstruction hazards in responding to reports that scooters are improperly parked or need maintenance. Vendors must have geofencing technology to virtually mark areas where scooters are restricted. The SSP will have permit conditions consistent with state, county, and local laws including requirements for helmet use and where scooters can be operated lawfully (e.g. not on sidewalks).

Comment Deadline: 5 PM, December 23, 2019

Appeal Deadline: 5 PM, December 30, 2019

The DNS, SEPA Checklist, and supporting information may be examined in the Seattle Department of Construction and Inspections Public Resource Center at 700 5th Avenue, Suite 2000, Seattle or at <http://www.seattle.gov/transportation/projects-and-programs/programs/new-mobility-program/scooter-share>. Documents are also available at the Seattle Central Library, 1000 4th Avenue, Seattle.

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