

E-BIKES & E-SCOOTERS ON PARK CYCLING PATHS

By-Law Amendment

Park Board Committee Meeting Monday, April 8, 2024



Purpose of Presentation



- The purpose of the presentation is to:
 - Seek the Board's decision to allow e-bikes and e-scooters on cycling paths in Parks, in alignment with the updated City of Vancouver Street & Traffic By-Law, City's Shared E-Scooter Service (SES) and the Province's e-scooter pilot program.
 - Update the Board on the use of geofencing for the e-scooter program, and the City's plan for safe riding practices through collaborative communications strategies

E-Mobility in Vancouver

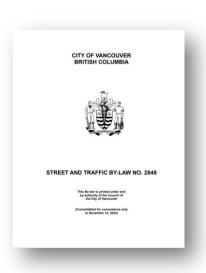




Motor Assisted Cycles ("E-bikes")



Electric Kick Scooters ("E-scooters")

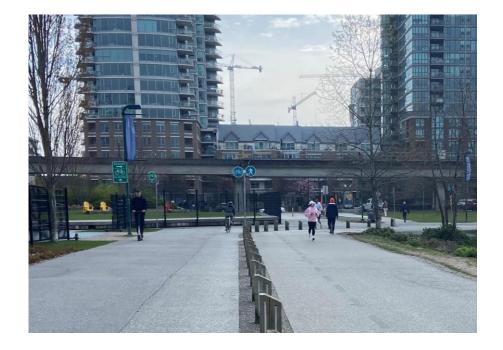


Before March 2024, COV's Street & Traffic Control By-law prohibited the use of electric assist devices such as ebikes and e-scooters on the seawall

E-Mobility in Vancouver

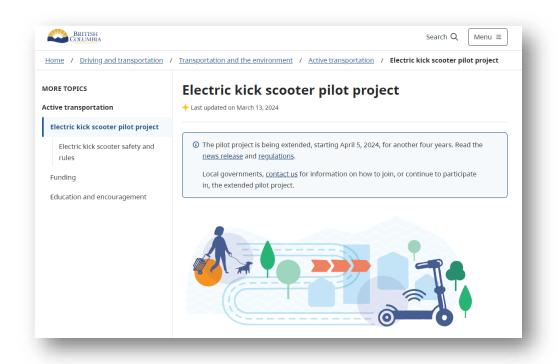


- Restrictions since early 2000s to minimize conflicts on seawall
- Seawall has been separated between walking and cycling/rolling modes, reducing conflicts
- UBC Research people using bicycles, pedal-assisted e-bikes, and e-scooters are comfortable sharing a path



Provincial Pilot & Regulations



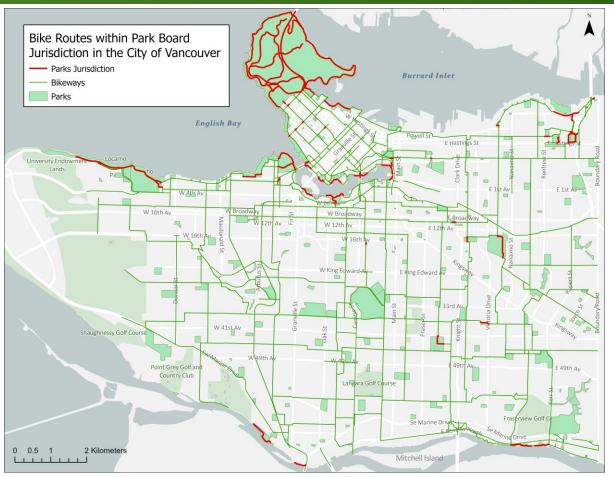


- Extended another 4 years starting April 2024
- COV Council passed a resolution to continue participation in the pilot
- Includes kick scooter regulation and rules for safe riding and operating
- 13 of BC's cities (including Vancouver) participated in the original pilot

Vancouver Cycling Paths



Of the 330 km bike path network in the city, about 38km travels through parkland (11%)



Seaside Greenway ("Seawall")



Of the 28 km seaside greenway, about 12km travels through parkland (43%)



Geofencing & Speed Control







- 1. Regulations on manufacturing in B.C. cap speeds for e-scooters at 25 km/hr and e-bikes at 32 km/hr
- 2. Geofencing can be used for escooter share program (slow down zones in park cycling paths or no ride zones in pedestrian areas)

Summary



- 1. Sustainable Mode: E-scootering and e-biking are part of the active transportation suite of options that offer the same benefits of cycling/walking
- 2. Alignment with Council & Provincial Policy: Provincial Regulations now support it. COV is creating a scooter share program, which will see an increase in e-scooter usage and COV now allows e-scooters and e-bikes on the seawall
- 3. Culture of Safe Riding: Use of Geofencing to control speeds of e-scooter share program, and regulations on e-scootering and e-biking manufacturing to limit speeds. Safe riding behaviors can be encouraged through communications campaigns, etc, joint with the City

Parks Control By-Law



Parks Control By-Law – Section 14(h)

14. No person shall, without permission of the General Manager first had and obtained:

(h) ride any bicycle upon any sidewalk, footpath or promenade in any park unless such sidewalk, footpath or promenade has been so designated as a cycle path and specifically provided therefor, and in this respect the provisions of the Street and Traffic By-law shall apply mutatis mutandis

Replace "bicycle" with "bicycle, motor assisted cycle, or electric kick scooter" to align with provincial language

Recommendation



- A. THAT, the Board approve the proposed change to the Parks Control By-Law, section 14 (h) to allow electric motor assisted bicycles and electric kick scooters to use designated cycling paths.
- B. THAT the Board direct staff to work with the City's Engineering department to establish geofencing to digitally control speeds of devices from the City's upcoming electric kick scooter-share program.
- C. THAT the Director of Legal Services be instructed to bring forward the proposed by-law amendments as outlined in Appendix A of the Report dated March 28, 2024, titled "E-Bikes and E-Scooters on Park Cycling Paths By-Law Amendment", for enactment by the Park Board.

