

Summary of Suggestions from 4/27/20 Public Hearing on Permit Terms and Conditions for Scooter Sharing Operators

Suggestion	Source	Response
Could exclude Beaverbrook from the map of operating areas.	Ted Cochran, Multimodal Transportation Board	Agreed. This can be excluded.
County should be able to cancel the permit at any time.	Alan Schneider, Howard County Citizens Association	Revocation is already covered in section J
Helmets should be mandatory.	Alan Schneider, Howard County Citizens Association	Disagree. Vendors should recommend helmets and make them easily accessible. Mandating helmets for adults goes above and beyond current legislation for bicycles and causes confusion since scooters are defined as bicycles in law. Mandatory helmets for scooters and bicycles has negative implications such as reduced ridership and making the activity seem more dangerous than it is. County will monitor safety statistics and report out to the MTB and County Council after six months of operation.
Vendors should take out comprehensive insurance to cover the cost of rider injuries.	Alan Schneider, Howard County Citizens Association	Disagree. Vendors are unlikely to be able to obtain such broad insurance coverage and if they could, it would lead to exorbitant cost per ride. Most health insurance and vehicle insurance covers injury through bike and scooter crashes. The County can make a requirement for vendors to remind users about risks and possible insurance options at the time of sign up. The County will continue to monitor this evolving field to determine if insurance availability changes prior to the next permit period in 2021.
Permit should require vendors to obtain permission from architectural review groups of private property owners.	Joel Hurewitz, resident	Disagree. Permit already requires approval from private property owners in section 1C4, 2A11, 2A24, 2B1h. The details of what the private property owner needs for their approval is up to the private property owner.
The whole of Cedar Lane Park should be included in operating area.	Joel Hurewitz, resident	Agree. This can be added.
B8: Scooters may not move for 5 days if they are in a dock.	Joel Hurewitz, resident	Disagree. The vendors move the scooters around regularly for charging and to find better usage locations.
Starting without the approvals from Columbia Association would be a problem.	Joel Hurewitz, resident	Agree. No permit will be issued without approvals from Columbia Association.
Enforcement is important and all related agencies (Columbia Association, Rec and Parks, Office of Transportation, etc) need to support the rules.	Sharon Maneki, National Federation of the Blind	Agree. These agencies will assist in oversight.
The permit should state that the company must force the user to confirm knowledge of the laws in the app each time the user rents a scooter.	Sharon Maneki, National Federation of the Blind	Agree. Can be added. Additional reminders can be added to ensure frequent review and acknowledgement.
A25 should read: Permit holder shall provide and maintain a publicly accessible website that is compliant with both the Americans with Disabilities Act and section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.	Sharon Maneki, National Federation of the Blind	Agree. Can be added.
Electric scooter sharing will provide a valuable transportation option for Downtown Columbia and contribute to a more vibrant downtown area. This is needed more than ever as people return to activity after the stay at home period and some people will be less inclined to ride mass transit.	Phillip Dodge, Downtown Columbia Partnership	Agree.
Helmets should not be mandatory.	Will Burns, SPIN (E-Scooter Sharing Company)	Agree. See above.
Min fleet size should be reduced to 50.	Will Burns, SPIN (E-Scooter Sharing Company)	Agree. Multimodal Transportation Board also made this suggestion. Can be changed.
Spin does cooperate with police but needs a subpoena to provide personally identifying information. Permit should clarify.	Will Burns, SPIN (E-Scooter Sharing Company)	Agree. Can be clarified.