

# Follow-up on TAQC Scooters Discussion



Credit: Travis Salters/Emily Hoberman, via Atlanta City Council Twitter

**TAQC**  
**March 14, 2019**

# E-Scooter Use

- Most E-scooters cost a \$1 flat fee and 15 cents for each minute; 10 minute trip = \$2.50
- Average trip time in Atlanta is 10 minutes, longer than most other regions (Lime)
- “People are riding scooters really from one pocket of density to another” - Todd O’Boyle, Lime’s development director for the Southeast (AJC - Nov 13, 2018)



Credit: AJC

## A few facts...

- For some companies, Atlanta is the second-largest scooter city globally, behind San Diego (Bird), 1,500 scooters in Atlanta
- Technically not allowed to ride on sidewalks
- State law prohibits motorized devices from driving on sidewalks
- Ford bought electric scooter company Spin
- Uber owns electric scooter company Jump
- Almost 46 percent of Americans' vehicle trips are 3 miles or less, according to the 2017 National Household Travel Survey.

# Safety Issues Being Raised with Scooters



Opinion » Doctor: Do something about the dangers of e-scooters

Live TV

## Doctor: Do something about the dangers of e-scooters



By **Ford Vox**

Updated 10:45 PM ET, Thu August 16, 2018



People ride Lime scooters along Venice Beach on August 13 in Los Angeles, California.

**Editor's Note:** Ford Vox is a physician specializing in rehabilitation medicine. He is also a journalist for National Public Radio affiliate WABE-FM 90.1 in Atlanta. He writes frequently for CNN Opinion. Follow @FordVox. The opinions expressed in this commentary are his. View more opinion articles on CNN.

## E-Scooter Ride-Share Industry Leaves Injuries and Angered Cities in its Path

A Consumer Reports investigation finds 1,500 e-scooter injuries across the country, and many hospitals still don't track them

By Ryan Felton  
February 05, 2019

598 SHARES



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# Safety and Potential State Regulations

- On March 4, 2019, Atlanta City Council asked hospitals and healthcare outlets to voluntarily track scooter-related injuries
- Grady Hospital estimates it receives between 80 and 100 scooter-related injuries per month, ranging from serious head injuries to broken limbs
- GA HB 454 (2019) would prohibit users of scooter services from parking the devices on sidewalks and other places where they would obstruct pedestrians or vehicles:
  - Allows anyone who encounters a device parked in a dangerous manner to move it.
  - Would allow people to ride electric scooters on bike paths, in bike lanes and on roads with a speed limit of 35 mph or less if no bike lane or path is available.
  - The bill would not pre-empt local regulations.

# City of Atlanta Regulations



Credit: Curbed Atlanta

# City of Atlanta Regulations

- Passed January 7, 2019
- Require operators to pay \$12,000 for permits for up to 500 vehicles. (Each e-scooter after the first 500 will cost companies \$50)
- Requires that scooters are used on streets and avoid sidewalks
- Scooter companies can be fined up to \$1,000 per day for violations
- Speed limit: 15 miles per hour
- Mandates e-scooters be parked upright on sidewalks in a manner that allows pedestrians five feet of space

# Why are E-scooters Important to the Atlanta Region?

- While experts have differing opinions, E-scooters may be the best option to address one of the greatest challenges in planning: how to cost-effectively provide for “first mile/last mile connectivity”
- Scooters could fill a huge niche in serving shorter distance trips (1-2 miles)
- Continued ARC research is needed, but E-scooters are a potential gamechanger in supporting regional transit strategies – if safety issues can be managed