Follow-up on TAQC Scooters Discussion



TAQC March 14, 2019



E-Scooter Use



Credit: AJC

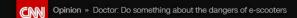
- Most E-scooters cost a \$1 flat fee and 15 cents for each minute; 10 minute trip = \$2.50
- Average trip time in Atlanta is 10 minutes, longer than most other regions (Lime)
- "People are riding scooters
 really from one pocket of
 density to another" Todd
 O'Boyle, Lime's development
 director for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

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 <u>motorized devices</u> from driving on sidewalks
- Ford bought electric scooter company Spin
- <u>Uber</u> 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



Doctor: Do something about the dangers of e-scooters



① 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. For @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













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 costeffectively provide for <u>"first mile/last mile</u> <u>connectivity"</u>
- 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

