

E-Scooter trial extension

Tuesday, 13 December 2022
Council

Strategic Alignment - Thriving Communities

Program Contact:
Mark Goudge, Associate Director
Infrastructure

Public

Approving Officer:
Tom McCready, Director City
Services

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The City of Adelaide (CoA) has been operating an e-scooter trial since February 2019. The current trial period is set to expire on 31 December 2022.

A Select Committee of the Legislative Council has been established to inquire into and report on Public and Active Travel which includes evaluating the use of e-scooters and potential opportunities for expansion or further regulation.

The Minister for Infrastructure and Transport has advised that the State Government is committed to conducting consultation on the desirability of a framework to recognise e-scooters and other personal mobility devices in South Australia, including a review of the legislation and road rules. Consultation is scheduled to commence in early 2023.

The CoA is currently developing a draft Micromobility Policy that considers the use of e-scooters.

It is recommended that Council authorise the Lord Mayor to write to the Minister for Infrastructure and Transport to request an extension of the trial for 12 months (to 31 December 2023). This will allow e-scooter operations to continue in the CoA whilst the State Government review is undertaken.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT COUNCIL

1. Authorises the Lord Mayor to write to the Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, requesting an extension to the e-scooter trial for a further 12 months until 31 December 2023 whilst the State Government review is undertaken.
2. Notes that the Administration will continue to review and amend the permit conditions as necessary to improve safety and efficiency of the e-scooter operations.
3. Notes that the Administration will continue to develop a draft Micromobility Policy that will consider:
 - 3.1. The report of the Select Committee on Public and Active Transport.
 - 3.2. The results of the CoA Your Say E-scooter Parking Trial consultation of May to August 2022.
 - 3.3. The improvement of comfort and safety for people walking/wheeling and using e-scooters.
 - 3.4. International best practice for the regulation of micromobility.

IMPLICATIONS AND FINANCIALS

City of Adelaide 2020-2024 Strategic Plan	Strategic Alignment – Thriving Communities A safe, affordable, accessible, well-connected city for people of all ages and abilities, and all transport modes.
Policy	Climate Neutral Strategy and the associated Draft Climate Action Plan includes an action to foster the uptake of electric or active micromobility devices and advocate to the State Government to provide for their safe use on city streets. A Micromobility Policy is currently in development.
Consultation	Not as a result of this report
Resource	Not as a result of this report
Risk / Legal / Legislative	Not as a result of this report
Opportunities	Safety and infrastructure opportunities following the development of the Micromobility Policy.
22/23 Budget Allocation	Not as a result of this report
Proposed 23/24 Budget Allocation	Not as a result of this report
Life of Project, Service, Initiative or (Expectancy of) Asset	The current Road Traffic (City of Adelaide Scooter Trial) Notice 2022 ceases operation on 31 December 2022.
22/23 Budget Reconsideration (if applicable)	Not as a result of this report
Ongoing Costs (eg maintenance cost)	Not as a result of this report
Other Funding Sources	In 2022/23, e-scooter operators pay a \$1,545 permit fee per week to operate in the City of Adelaide (total revenue \$148,381 in 2021/22).

DISCUSSION

Background

1. The City of Adelaide (CoA) has been operating an e-scooter trial since February 2019. The current trial will expire on 31 December 2022.
2. For e-scooter operation to continue beyond 31 December 2022, an extension is required from the Minister for Infrastructure and Transport.
3. At its meeting on 13 September 2022 Council authorised the former Lord Mayor to write to the Minister to seek an extension to the e-scooter trial (which was set to expire on 31 October 2022) until 31 December 2022.
4. The extension was published in the Government Gazette on 31 October 2022 ([Link 1](#)).
5. When approving the extension, the Minister advised the State Government was committed to conducting consultation on the desirability of a framework to recognise e-scooters and other personal mobility devices in South Australia, including a review of the legislation and road rules. Consultation is scheduled to commence in early 2023.
6. A Select Committee of the Legislative Council is continuing with an inquiry into Public and Active Travel which includes evaluating the use of e-scooters, with consideration of community health and wellbeing, the effect on climate change mitigation, measures to improve safety and potential opportunities for expansion or further regulation.
7. In 2021 there were almost 895,000 trips and over 1,187,000 km travelled and to the end of October 2022 there have been over 808,000 trips and over 1,121,000 km travelled.
8. The rider trip patterns indicate that people are using e-scooters in combination with public transport.
9. Trip data also suggest e-scooters play a role in helping people travel to and from events and significant destinations such as the Adelaide Central Market, and in the night-time economy.
10. An e-scooter rider survey undertaken by Beam for CoA found that 42% of riders surveyed would have otherwise driven their trip.
11. The 2022-2023 Annual Business Plan and Budget included the Strategic Annual Priority of 'Develop a policy position on micromobility to enhance our advocacy on emerging modes of transport' which aligns with the Strategic Plan Key Action 1.11: Work with the State and Federal Government to future proof infrastructure for emerging modes of transport, and trial smart, sustainable forms of public transport. Work on the policy has commenced and will continue into the new year.
12. There are three other Councils currently participating in the trial, further information is available at [Link 2](#):
 - 12.1. The City of Unley has been operating an e-scooter trial since 14 February 2022. At its meeting on 25 July 2022, the City of Unley extended the trial from 14 August 2022 to 14 February 2023.
 - 12.2. The Western Alliance Council Scooter Trial Extension has been operating since March 2020 and consists of the City of Port Adelaide Enfield, the City of Charles Sturt, the City of West Torrens, and the City of Holdfast Bay and was extended until 31 October 2023.
 - 12.2.1. The City of Charles Sturt is the only council continuing to participate in this trial and are currently working with providers to continue the service in 2023.
 - 12.2.2. The City of Port Adelaide Enfield considered an extension until 31 October 2024 along with an extension to the Glanville Train Station at its meeting on 9 August 2022. The motion was not carried.
 - 12.2.3. The City of Holdfast Bay cancelled the trial in 2020.
 - 12.2.4. The City of West Torrens did not seek an extension from the Minister.
 - 12.3. The City of Norwood Payneham & St Peters has been operating an e-scooter trial since 13 May 2021 and has been extended to 30 June 2023.

Parking Trial

13. A designated e-scooter parking trial commenced on Currie Street and Grenfell Street on 10 May 2022 and on O'Connell Street on 13 July 2022. Feedback was sought via Your Say Adelaide ([Link 3](#)) until 1 August 2022.

14. 407 people visited the Your Say Adelaide page with 91 respondents (88 via the survey and 11 on the City Map – E-scooter placement concerns).
 - 14.1. Currie Street and Grenfell Street
 - 14.1.1. 78 respondents including 41 CoA residents and 8 business owners.
 - 14.1.2. 74.4% of respondents strongly agreed or agreed that further controls should be put in place regarding where e-scooters can be parked across the City of Adelaide.
 - 14.2. O'Connell Street
 - 14.2.1. 10 respondents including 8 CoA residents (7 of which were North Adelaide residents).
 - 14.2.2. 70% of respondents strongly agreed or agreed that further controls should be put in place regarding where e-scooters can be parked across the City of Adelaide.
 - 14.3. Outcomes
 - 14.3.1. Strong themes included extending parking controls, technological and enforcement improvements and physical improvements such as docking stations to ensure e-scooter remain upright.
 - 14.3.2. Operators reported that it had been easier to manage the re-organisation and placement of e-scooters and battery replacement along the trial lengths.
 - 14.3.3. Council area wide designated parking areas are impractical in terms of design, implementation, cost and user outcomes. QR codes have been useful for the trials and early implementation phase but longer-term options such as docks or racks would present a tidier, legible outcome. It is recommended that restricted parking areas (designated spaces/docks) are implemented in key streets only.
 - 14.3.4. Plan further restrictions (geofencing) on Small Streets and Laneways. Use CoA's GIS to cross-check streets and lanes with narrow footpaths.
 - 14.3.5. As a result of the parking trial, the operators have implemented a virtual parking zone (via GPS and the apps) near the Aquinas College precinct (North Adelaide) to reflect feedback received from residents as riders were leaving e-scooters near residents' homes and obstructing footpaths.

E-scooter trial

15. Community feedback from the parking trial and ongoing e-scooter use within CoA indicates that shared e-scooters are contributing to accessibility outcomes for residents, visitors and workers.
16. Throughout the duration of the e-scooter trial, CoA has been closely monitoring operation, reviewing ridership data, incidents and public feedback. We collaborate with and provide regular updates to the Department for Infrastructure and Transport (DIT). Reporting updates include data about device deployment, total trips taken and kilometres travelled, average length of trips, number of unique users, incidents and response times.
17. In 2022 (until the end of October), there have been no reported serious injury incidents to third parties from shared e-scooters. There have been two reported minor injury incidents to third parties (unknown if medical treatment needed), one a person tripping over an e-scooter and the other a collision, and one moderate injury incident (non-hospital medical treatment required). Two reported e-scooter riders fell resulting in injury (one requiring inpatient treatment and one outpatient treatment). While Administration continues to monitor incidents to mitigate potential e-scooter safety issues, e-scooter operations are a relatively small road safety issue within the CoA.
18. The City of Norwood Payneham & St Peters and the City of Unley have also noted that many e-scooter trips within their areas commence (or finish) in the CoA. If Council determines not to extend the current trial, operations in inner metropolitan Councils would need to consider alternative arrangements.
19. If Council determines not to extend the current trial, we will engage with the State Government, adjoining participating Councils, and the two operators (Beam and Neuron) to notify them of Council's intention. Should this be Councils decision, we would recommend a transitional period for e-scooters to operate until Friday 31 March 2023 to allow time for demobilising.

Next Steps

20. It is recommended that Council authorise the Lord Mayor to write to the Minister for Infrastructure and Transport to request an extension of the trial for 12 months (to 31 December 2023) to enable the e-scooter operations to continue in the CoA whilst the State Government review is undertaken.

DATA AND SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Link 1 – The South Australian Government Gazette, 31 October 2022

Link 2 – E-Scooter trial laws and road rules

Link 3 – Your Say Adelaide E-scooter Parking Trial

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

- END OF REPORT