

COMMON COUNCIL REPORT

M&C No.	2024-330
Report Date	December 02, 2024
Meeting Date	December 09, 2024
Service Area	Public Works and Transportation Services

Her Worship Mayor Donna Noade Reardon and Members of Common Council

SUBJECT: Managing Electric Bikes and Scooters on Harbour Passage

AUTHORIZATION

Primary Author	Commissioner/ Dept. Head	Chief Administrative Officer	Committee Chairperson
Tim O'Reilly	Michael Hugenholtz	J. Brent McGovern	Greg Norton

RECOMMENDATION

Public Safety Committee recommends that Common Council direct the Chief Administrative Officer to include the topic of electric bike and scooter safe use in the next updated version of the City's Road Safety Education Plan.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Electric bikes and scooters are becoming a more common mode of transportation. It is important their use is safe for all users of the roadway and trails systems, including for pedestrians, traditional cyclists, motorists, and electric bike and scooter users themselves. While their use promotes the continued shift away from cars that aligns with Strategic and MoveSJ goals, the infrastructure, regulations, and knowledge-base to support their safe use needs to catch up to their growing popularity. This report recommends a first (educational) step on the continued safe integration of electric bikes and scooters as a transportation option.

PREVIOUS RESOLUTIONS

The correspondence attached to this report was referred by Common Council to the Public Safety Committee at its September 3, 2024 meeting.

The recommendation before Common Council in this report was endorsed by Public Safety Committee at its meeting of November 20, 2024.

REPORT

Electric bikes and scooters are growing in popularity. They are becoming more widely available to purchase, and they can be rented. They provide another transportation option for those who do not use a car with aided power beyond what a traditional bike can offer.

There is some justification for the City of Saint John to support their use. They provide another more affordable transportation option relative to a car. They reduce the number of cars on City streets, which reduces demand for infrastructure that supports car-use, supports the city's climate change resilience goals, and generally aligns with MoveSJ and 10-Year Strategic Plan transportation mode targets.

However, as demonstrated in the attached correspondence, there are some challenges with their growing use.

At its November 20, 2024 meeting the City's Public Safety Committee considered a range of factors that led to the Committee making a recommendation to Common Council, including:

- Provincial legislation,
- Differences between legislation governing on and off road portions of Harbour Passage,
- Steps taken in the City of Fredericton regarding off road trails,
- Opportunities to improve safety by diverting some Active Transportation demand to Main Street North and the Viaduct, and
- Opportunities to improve safety for Active Transportation users of expanding on the City's Road Safety Education Program.

STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT

This report best aligns with Common Council's MOVE priority by supporting a safe travel option for the movement of people on trails, paths, and roads that align with MoveSJ.

SERVICE AND FINANCIAL OUTCOMES

The Road Safety Education Program initiatives recommended with this report would be incorporated within the existing General Fund Operating Budget.

The success of iterative steps discussed with Public Safety Committee would be monitored with further steps considered if needed.

INPUT FROM OTHER SERVICE AREAS AND STAKEHOLDERS

Input from the Saint John Police Force was provided to Public Safety Committee.

ATTACHMENT

Correspondence referred from Common Council to the Public Safety Committee.