



**CITY OF**

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# **NEWPORT BEACH**

## **City Council Staff Report**

August 14, 2018  
Agenda Item No. 22

**TO:** HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL

**FROM:** David A. Webb, Public Works Director - 949-644-3311,  
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**TITLE:** Discussion of Shared Mobility Devices (Electric Scooters, Bicycles  
and Future Technologies)

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**ABSTRACT:**

With the recent arrival of shared mobility devices including bicycles and scooters in Newport Beach, staff seeks direction from Council as to how to address commercial shared mobility activities, including shared electric scooters and bicycles that predominantly operate within the public right of way. This item, if Council wishes, formalizes direction by Council given during the Study Session.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

- a) Determine that the action is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Sections 15060(c)(2) and 15060(c)(3) of the CEQA Guidelines because it will not result in a physical change to the environment, directly or indirectly; and
- b) Take no action, leaving current regulations in place, which prohibit the use of the public right of way for commercial business activities, except with a permit. Make a recommendation to staff that no permits shall be issued for the storage, use, or placement of shared mobility devices, including electric bicycles or scooters, within the public right of way or on city property; or
- c) Direct staff to prepare a process and/or create regulations that would enable the City to issue permits for shared mobility devices and their use within public right of way and on city property. Return to the Council at a later date for discussion and adoption of a process and/or regulations; or
- d) Take another action related to shared mobility devices not stated here.

**FUNDING REQUIREMENTS:**

There is no fiscal impact to this action.

**DISCUSSION:**

Shared Mobility Devices, including electric scooters and bicycles, are being deployed by private companies nationwide. Although this technology intends to reduce congestion by becoming a viable short trip alternative to single occupancy automobiles, issues and concerns with device management and use are common where the devices are deployed.

Recently, the Bird Company deployed a fleet of electric scooters on the Balboa Peninsula. This deployment was neither authorized nor permitted by the City as a commercial use within public right of way. Shortly after deployment of the Bird scooters, the City received several community comments noting concern with operation and location of the scooters. The City's response to the Bird deployment is detailed in the attached City of Newport Beach Press Release dated July 31, 2018.

Nationwide, other major metropolitan and coastal/tourist cities have had similar deployments from Bird and other private companies. In many cases, agencies have reported similar issues and concerns as those detailed in the press release. As this is a relatively new technology, there is no standard response to deployments and most agencies have temporarily banned shared mobility device deployments while determining if they wish to allow the use through a permit program or maintain prohibition.

In addition to the Bird scooter deployment in Newport Beach, staff has been contacted by additional firms requesting permits to deploy both shared electric bicycle and scooter programs within the public right of way. Considering this and the proliferation of shared mobility programs, staff requests direction from Council on how to address future requests.

**NOTICING:**

The agenda item has been noticed according to the Brown Act (72 hours in advance of the meeting at which the City Council considers the item).

**ATTACHMENT:**

Attachment A – City of Newport Beach Press Release – July 31, 2018