City of Saint Paul

Shared Motorized Foot Scooter FAQs

## What are shared motorized foot scooters?

Motorized foot scooters are privately owned electric scooters that are available to rent within the public Right-of-Way. The scooters must meet the definition of Motorized Foot Scooter stated in MN 169.011. Scooters are limited to a maximum speed of 15 miles per hour on flat pavement. Scooters are required to have a headlight and taillight. All scooters have a built-in GPS, allowing the scooter companies to manage their fleet of scooters.

## How do motorized foot scooters benefit Saint Paul?

Motorized foot scooters are part of a larger citywide effort to encourage safe, affordable, and sustainable ways for people to travel around Saint Paul. Residents and visitors to the city benefit from having multiple options to choose from when determining how to travel around the city. For many residents, scooters are an affordable alternative to driving, and may provide “last mile” connections for transit users.

## How do you rent a motorized foot scooter?

Users download apps created by the scooter companies on their smartphone to locate and rent the scooters. Users must create an account and enter into a rental agreement with the scooter companies, including entering payment information into the app. There are in-app instructions to walk users through the rental process. Generally, users use a map-based interface within the app to locate an available scooter, scan the QR code on the scooter, and begin the ride. Following the ride, users again use the app to end the rental agreement with the scooter company. Typically, the app prompts users to take and submit a photograph of the scooter parked in a correct manner to end the rental agreement.

## How much does it cost to rent a motorized foot scooter?

Rental rates are determined independently by each scooter company. The City does not regulate rental rates. Typically, scooter companies will charge approximately $1 to unlock a scooter, and $0.15 per minute for the duration of the ride.

## Who can rent a scooter?

The City allows the scooter companies to establish the terms of the rental agreement with scooter users. Generally, the scooter companies require users to be 18 years old, have a driver’s license, and have a debit/credit/prepaid payment card.

## When can the scooters be rented?

Scooter companies determine their own operating hours, which may differ between scooter companies. Generally, the scooters are removed from the right of way each evening to charge the batteries, though any scooters parked in the public right of way is available to rent at any time.

## Where can scooters be parked?

Scooters can be parked within the boulevard of the public right of way, which is generally the space between the sidewalk and the curb. Scooters may be parked on paved or unpaved boulevards. Scooters are not permitted to block the adjacent sidewalks or streets and must maintain a minimum of 5’ pedestrian walkway at all times. Scooters cannot be parked in a way that blocks access to pedestrian ramps, fire hydrants, driveways, alleys, bus stops, doors, or other uses of the public Right-of-Way. Scooters must be upright when parked. Users are asked to use common sense and courtesy when parking the scooters to keep sidewalks usable and safe for everyone.

## What should I do if a scooter has been damaged or parked incorrectly?

Contact the scooter company directly to report a damaged or incorrectly parked scooter. Each scooter should display a phone number to call, as well as a visible unique ID number you can use to help scooter companies determine the location. Scooter companies are required to address incorrectly parked scooters within 2 hours of being notified of a problem. Except for extraordinary circumstances, city staff will not relocate scooters.

The scooters have locking mechanisms on the wheels that will not allow them to be used without being rented. If moved, they will emit an audible warning. It is the responsibility of the scooter company to ensure that scooters are parked correctly. However, if you encounter a scooter that is parked in a problematic location, you may move the scooter a short distance if you are willing and able to do so.

## What are the rules of the road for scooters?

Scooter use is regulated by Minnesota State Statute 169.225. In general, people riding scooters follow the same rules of the road as people using bicycles. Scooters are allowed to operate on any street, and users should ride on the right hand side of the street. Scooters are also allowed in bike lanes and bike trails.

## Are scooters allowed on sidewalks?

Riding scooters on sidewalks is prohibited, except when necessary to enter or leave adjacent property. Please exercise care when parking the scooters in the boulevard area adjacent to the sidewalk.

## What is the shared motorized foot scooter pilot program?

The City Council established a short-term pilot program until the end of November 2018. The pilot program allows for any scooter company to operate up to 150 scooters each within Saint Paul. The companies are required to have a signed agreement with the City prior to beginning operations. Currently, two companies have signed contracts with the City of Saint Paul: Lime and Bird. Following the pilot program, the City will evaluate the program and determine how to regulate shared motorized foot scooters in the future.

## What is the Service Area?

Scooter companies are required to allow trips to start or stop anywhere within Saint Paul municipal boundaries. Typically, most scooters are removed from the public right-of-way overnight to charge the battery, and are re-deployed each morning. The scooter companies are responsible for determining how to distribute the scooters across the City each morning, and how to geographically balance the fleet throughout the city.

## What is the financial arrangement between the scooter companies and the City?

Vendors must pay the City $1 per scooter each day that scooter is available for rent in Saint Paul. The City uses the funds to manage the pilot program and oversee the scooter company contracts.

## What is the data sharing agreement between the scooter companies and the City?

Scooter companies generally use the GPS unit in the scooter and in the user’s phone to collect data about where and how the scooters are used. The scooter companies are required to share certain data with the City. Each month, the City will receive a report from each company including the number of trips taken, the trip lengths, and the routes taken. The City intends to use this data to better understand how and where people are using scooters to travel throughout the city.