



TALKING POINTS: RENTAL SCOOTER ISSUES IN SAN DIEGO

We would like our supporters to mention any of the following issues when talking to local residents, property owners and business managers and when writing to their representatives. More information is available on our website.

Safety Issues

- Drivers of motorized rental scooters face a much higher risk of injury than drivers of automobiles and these injuries are also more severe than other modes. The most recent estimate, using 2018 data, is that the risk of injury driving a scooter is nearly 400 times greater than driving a car. Head injury rates are double those of riding a bicycle.
- Pedestrians are injured or killed by motorized scooter driven and parked on sidewalks. Driving on sidewalks also makes people afraid to walk where they used to feel safe.
- In San Diego driving a motorized scooter on any road faster than 25 mph, (unless it has a Class 2 or 4 bike lane) is prohibited, CA VC 21235 (b).

Issues Affecting Owners of Private Property: Liability and Private Property Owners' Rights

- Owners of property, (both buildings and vehicles), suffer losses as a result of damage caused by scooter drivers, yet drivers of rented scooters have no insurance against third-party injuries, death or property damage. Drivers are often young and, without insurance, unable to compensate the owner.
- Property owners are required to maintain sidewalks free of trip hazards (CA SHC 5610). If a pedestrian is injured or killed by falling over a scooter on a sidewalk, the adjacent property owner and business may be sued.
- City staff have proposed that only the City or its agents should have the right to move scooters placed in the street or on a sidewalk and property owners, managers and staff would be prohibited from moving a scooter even if it is blocking access to or from private property. The City should drop this proposal. Instead property owners' rights should be protected: the

City should require that scooters may only be placed on private property with the prior written permission of the owner or its agent.

Issues Affecting Employers

- If employees use or even move a motorized scooter during the course of their work and suffer an injury while doing so they may submit a claim against the employer's Workers Compensation insurance. For this reason many employers, including the City of San Diego, prohibit employees from using motorized scooters during their work.

Enforcement Issues

- Parking: As the City's only enforcement measure against scooter parking violations is to employ a contracted service to move or impound them, the City should limit the hours when scooters may be rented to match those when the impounding service operates.
- Moving: The City should fund sufficient targeted enforcement against moving violations to deter scooter drivers from committing them and publicize that it is conducting such enforcement.

Environmental Issues

- Carbon emissions: The scooter rental industry claims it reduces carbon emissions but in fact it INCREASES them, because:
 - Emissions are created when scooters are made and by the fleets of gas-powered vans used to distribute rented scooters throughout the day.
 - Most people rent scooters for fun rather than for travel and do not do so to replace gas-powered car journeys. Instead they replace walking, cycling and transit.
- Flooding: Scooter rental companies do not clear corrals in the street for street sweeping. The trash then gets into and blocks drains and so can cause serious flooding in the beach communities when it rains.
- Waste: The City should require the scooter rental companies to have a recycling and waste management program that complies with both County and State guidelines for universal waste.

Recovery of Full Cost to the City - No Subsidy of Scooter Companies

- The City should recover the total cost placed on it by the scooter rental industry, to cover not only administration but also the costs of monitoring for compliance and of enforcement against non-compliance by both the rental companies and their users.
- It should not subsidize the industry as it currently does by paying a contractor \$360,000 a year to tidy up scooters; the rental companies should pay for this.