Bikes, E-Bikes, and E-Mobility on Seattle’s Sidewalks

Seattle Pedestrian Advisory Board
Joel Miller, SDOT, Bike Share Program Manager
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Presentation Outline

• SDOT Goals
• Current Regulations
• Key Considerations
• Feedback
Our mission, vision, and core values

**Mission:** deliver a high-quality transportation system for Seattle

**Vision:** connected people, places, and products

Committed to **5 core values** to create a city that is:
- Safe
- Interconnected
- Affordable
- Vibrant
- Innovative

For all
Current Regulations

- **Bicycles** (SMC 11.44.120)
  - Allowed on sidewalks
  - Must yield to pedestrians
  - Must operate at a speed that is reasonable and proper under the conditions

Current Regulations

• **E-bikes** (RCW 46.61.710)
  • Class 1 and 2 e-bikes are allowed on sidewalks
  • Class 3 are not allowed on sidewalks

• **E-scooters** (RCW 46.61.710)
  • E-scooters are not allowed on sidewalks

https://www.nashvillepublicradio.org/post/bike-sharing-feels-pinch-nashville-riders-hop-scooters#stream/0
Key Considerations - Safety

• Bicycle vs pedestrian collision reports are rare
  • 3 ped/bike reported collisions on sidewalks (2014-2017)

• Sidewalks provide protected space for people to ride bikes
  • 400 bicycle / vehicle collisions per year
  • 20 serious or fatal injuries
Key Considerations - Equity

• Large sections of the city lack safe places to ride bicycles

• Nationwide studies show bicycle-specific laws are inequitably enforced against people of color
Key Considerations - Comfort

- SDOT has received feedback that:
  - Sidewalk riding feels unsafe
  - Sidewalk riding has an outsized impact on people living with disabilities
  - Sidewalk riding makes sidewalks a less enjoyable space
Feedback and Discussion

• What is working?
  • New bike share regulations will audit and enforce sidewalk blockages
  • Activated sidewalks lead to a vibrant city
  • Others?

• What needs work?
  • Better data collection
  • Rider education
  • Others?
Next Steps

• Review current regulations – complete
• Review considerations – complete
• Gather feedback – today
• Respond to Ord. 125634 – January 31, 2019
• Ongoing outreach – Winter / Spring 2019
• Respond to SLI 35-3-A-1 – June 2019
Questions?

Joel Miller
Seattle Department of Transportation
Joel.Miller@Seattle.gov
www.seattle.gov/transportation/bike-share