



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
AGENDA LETTER

Agenda Number:

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors  
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407  
Santa Barbara, CA 93101  
(805) 568-2240

**Department Name:** Public Works  
**Department No.:** 054  
**For Agenda Of:** April 2, 2019  
**Placement:** Administrative  
**Estimated Time:**  
**Continued Item:** No  
**If Yes, date from:**  
**Vote Required:** Majority

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**TO:** Board of Supervisors  
**FROM:** Department Director: Scott D. McGolpin, Public Works, 568-3010  
Contact Info: Chris Sneddon, Deputy Director, Transportation, 568-3064  
**SUBJECT:** Dockless Shared Mobility Devices Report, All Supervisorial Districts

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**County Counsel Concurrence**

As to form: Yes

**Auditor-Controller Concurrence**

As to form: N/A

**Recommended Actions:**

That the Board of Supervisors:

- a) Receive and File a Report on Dockless Shared Mobility Devices; All Supervisorial Districts; and
- b) Find that the above recommended action is not a project under the California Environmental Quality Act review per Guideline Section 15378(b)(5), as this is a government organizational or administrative activity that will not result in direct or indirect physical changes in the environment.

**Summary Text:**

This item is on the Agenda to receive a report on dockless shared mobility devices, prepared by the Public Works Department.

On November 13, 2018, the Board of Supervisors amended Chapters 9, 23, and 28 of the Santa Barbara County Code to allow permitting, regulation, and collection of fees for businesses operating in the County right-of-way. The Board's amendment of Chapter 9 allows for permitting, regulation, and collection of fees for shared mobility devices (SMDs) in the County right-of-way.

On December 11, 2018, the Board approved a report on draft permit conditions for shared mobility businesses Annual Business Purposes Encroachment Permits. The Board directed staff to return to the Board with a status report on the implementation of SMD permits.

**Background:**

With recent advances in mobility technology, alternative means of transportation are changing rapidly. Dockless on-demand mobility services have emerged, providing the public new transportation alternatives. The State recognizes motorized scooters as vehicles and codified this in California Vehicle Code (CVC) § 21220, finding:

(1) This state has severe traffic congestion and air pollution problems, particularly in its cities, and finding ways to reduce these problems is of paramount importance.

(2) Motorized scooters that meet the definition of Section 407.5 produce no emissions and, therefore, do not contribute to increased air pollution or increase traffic congestion.

(b) It is the intent of the Legislature in adding this article to promote the use of alternative low-emission or no-emission transportation.

In addition, the State sets forth “rules of the road” for scooters, and thus provides parameters for scooter use that can be regulated and restricted by local agencies and those that are regulated by State law.

(CVC § 21221.) As State-recognized vehicles, scooters cannot be banned from using public roadways for operations. However, local agencies may set forth some parameters to which businesses operating in the right of way must comply. (CVC § 21225.)

On-demand SMD companies deploy their bicycles, cars, and electric scooters throughout a community, providing an easy, affordable, and dependable means to travel short distances. This new and evolving service has potential for both positive and negative impacts to the community. To address these potential impacts, the County created permit conditions by which businesses deploy a limited number of SMDs in the County right-of-way under additional rules and requirements beyond those imposed by the State.

The permit program allows the County to monitor and enforce SMDs operations in the County right-of-way. The report attached includes information on the status of these operations. On December 13, 2018, Public Works began issuing permits to five SMD companies (one car share, one bike share, and three scooter share), and began monitoring their use and compliance with permit conditions, as directed by the Board. This item before your Board today is the report of staff’s findings.

**Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:**

None

**Narrative:**

**Special Instruction:**

Please forward a certified, stamped Minute Order approving the recommendations to:

1. Public Works, Transportation Division, Construction Section, Attn: Eric Pearson, 681-4990; 4417 Cathedral Oaks Road, Santa Barbara;
2. Public Works, Transportation Division, Administration; Attn: Gena Valentine, 568-3064; 123 East Anapamu Street, Santa Barbara

**Attachments:**

Attachment A: Dockless Scooter Shared Mobility Devices Report

**Authored by:**

Eric Pearson, Public Works – Transportation Construction & Permits, x4990