

Meeting Date: October 6, 2025
Department: Engineering and Public Works
Report No.: EPW-2025-49
Prepared by: Walter Easter, Manager of Public Works
Submitted by: Mark Ortiz, Director of Engineering and Public Works
Approved by: Rob Browning, Chief Administrative Officer
SUBJECT: **Operation of Electric Kick Scooters**

RECOMMENDATION: THAT: Council receive report EPW-2025-49 Operation of Electric Kick Scooters for information.

BACKGROUND:

At the September 2, 2025 Council meeting, Council passed the following motion:

THAT: Council request that the Traffic Committee prepare a report about the operation of electric kick scooters within the municipality.

The Traffic Committee met on September 26, 2025 to discuss the operation of electric kick scooters in Strathroy-Caradoc. The talking points included:

- What is an electric kick scooter?
- The Ontario electric kick-style scooters (e-scooters) pilot program
- Responsibility of the Municipality
- Strathroy-Caradoc Police enforcement challenges
- Next steps

COMMENTS:

What is an electric kick scooter?

An electric kick-scooter (e-scooter) is a vehicle that has:

- Two wheels (one at the front and one at the back)
- A platform to stand on

- A handlebar for steering
- An electric motor that does not exceed 500 watts
- A maximum speed of 24 km/h on a level surface

E-scooters come in different styles, weights and speed capabilities.

Ontario Electric Kick-Style Scooters Pilot Program

Ontario's e-scooter pilot program allows municipalities to choose where and how e-scooters may be used. The pilot is running from January 1, 2020 to November 27, 2029.

E-scooters allowed under the pilot must have:

- A maximum speed of 24 km/h on a level surface
- A maximum weight of 45 kg
- A maximum power output of 500 watts
- Two wheels and brakes
- A horn or bell
- At least one white light on front, one red light on rear and reflective materials on sides
- A maximum wheel diameter of 17 inches

E-scooters must not have:

- Pedals
- A seat
- A basket

To operate an e-scooter under the terms of the pilot users must:

- Be at least 16 years old
- Stand at all times while riding
- Wear a bicycle helmet if under 18 years old

Users are not permitted to:

- Carry passengers
- Carry cargo
- Operate an e-scooter on controlled access highways (for example, 400-series highways, QEW, etc.)

Similar to bicycles, all Highway Traffic Act rules of the road apply when riding e-scooters. Penalties will also apply to violations of the pilot regulation (fine of \$250 to \$2,500).

Responsibilities of Municipalities

Municipalities that want to allow e-scooters to operate on their roads must pass bylaws to permit their use and set out specific requirements based on what is best for their communities.

Municipalities must inform the Ministry of Transportation that they are participating in the pilot and are required to investigate all collisions involving e-scooters on their roads and provide written reports, including the details of each collision, to the ministry.

Municipalities that choose to allow e-scooters are responsible for:

- Where e-scooters may be operated (for example, on roads and bike paths, in parks and on trails)
- Where e-scooters may park
- Whether a business permit or license is required for e-scooter companies
- Whether insurance is required (the type and coverage)
- How people can give feedback on e-scooter use in their municipality
- Other considerations relevant to the use of e-scooters in the municipality

Strathroy-Caradoc Police Enforcement Challenges

If Council permits the use of e-scooters within the municipality, there may be enforcement challenges for the Strathroy-Caradoc Police Service. One notable issue relates to riders under the age of 16, as current legislation requires that charges against individuals in this age group be addressed through the court system rather than by issuing a set fine. The Strathroy-Caradoc Police Services Board would need to review this matter and determine appropriate approaches to enforcement within the municipality.

Next Steps

Strathroy-Caradoc staff, Strathroy-Caradoc police, and Middlesex County are working together to develop a draft bylaw that will align with the requirements of Ontario's electric kick-scooter pilot program. The proposed bylaw will be presented to Council for consideration at a future meeting.

To streamline regulation and promote consistency, the Traffic Committee intends to prepare a single bylaw that addresses both electric kick scooters and electric bicycles, as the operating guidelines and best practices for these devices are closely aligned.

The [City of London's Electric Kick-Scooter & Cargo Power-Assisted Bicycle By-law](#) is a useful example for the approach to regulate both electric kick scooters and electric bicycles under a single regulatory framework.

CONSULTATION:

Traffic Committee:

- Colin Grantham, Strathroy-Caradoc Mayor
- Chris Traini, County Engineer
- Mark Ortiz, Director of Engineering and Public Works
- Walter Easter, Manager of Public Works
- S/Sgt Jason Cartwright, Strathroy-Caradoc Police
- Constable Brandon Everett, Strathroy-Caradoc Police

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

There are no financial implications at this time.

ALTERNATIVE TO THE RECOMMENDATION:

1. Council to provide alternate direction.

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT:

This matter is in accord with the following strategic priorities:

Community Safety: Community Safety is fundamental to community well-being, and all relevant services and organizations, including the Hospital and fire service, have key roles to play. The Municipality values its community-based Police Service.

ATTACHMENTS:

N/A