



REQUEST FOR DECISION

MEETING DATE: January 8, 2024

TITLE: E-Scooter Pilot Project - Scheduling of Non-Statutory Public Hearing

DIVISION: City Manager's Office

SUMMARY:

With the conclusion of the electric scooter (e-scooter) Pilot Project which ran from June 1, 2023 to November 30, 2023, Council may wish to hold a non-statutory public hearing to hear from the public on the possibility of implementing a permanent e-Scooters program in the City of Spruce Grove.

PROPOSED MOTION:

THAT a non-statutory public hearing be held on February 12, 2024 at 6 p.m. in Council Chambers at City Hall, 315 Jespersen Avenue, Spruce Grove, Alberta for the purpose of hearing submissions on implementing a permanent e-scooters program in the City of Spruce Grove

BACKGROUND / ANALYSIS:

Bird Canada approached the City in early 2003 with a proposal to set up a shared e-scooter business in Spruce Grove. Shared e-scooters have become an increasingly popular micro mobility option in many municipalities across Alberta and Canada. They typically operate from April through October depending on weather.

A presentation on the proposal was made at the May 8, 2023 Council meeting and was approved at the May 23, 2023 Council meeting as a pilot program for 2023. Council needed to make several amendments to the Traffic Bylaw which allowed Bird to operate a shared e-scooter program in Spruce Grove. An exemption was also required under the *Traffic Safety Act* (the "Act") as e-scooters are not registerable vehicles for purposes of the Act.

As part of the deliberations by Council, it was agreed that the City would enter into a one-year pilot program with Bird Canada and that a non-statutory public hearing would be held at the conclusion of the pilot to obtain feedback from residents. The Supply Agreement for the pilot program ran from June 1, 2023 to November 30, 2023. Following the non-statutory public hearing, Council will be asked to decide on whether to approve or extend an e-scooter program and under what terms and conditions.

Statistics of Note

Around 100 e-scooters were available at all times for residents and visitors to rent for short trips around the city. E-scooters were reserved for those age 16 and above, and could be used on trails, pathways, and sidewalks in Spruce Grove. Advanced geofencing technology controlled where the e-scooters were ridden and parked, and how fast they can travel.

The take-up on the e-scooter program during the pilot was very strong:

- Total rides - 18,061
- Total kilometers - 68,200 kms
- Average trip - 3.8 kms
- Average ride duration: 15 - 25 minutes (19 minutes overall)
- Each user took a scooter on average 4.3 times

OPTIONS / ALTERNATIVES:

Council may choose not to hold a non-statutory public hearing or hold the non-statutory public hearing on another date.

CONSULTATION / ENGAGEMENT:

n/a

IMPLEMENTATION / COMMUNICATION:

If authorization is given to proceed with conducting a non-statutory public hearing, notice of the hearing would be advertised on the City's website and in the Spruce Grove Examiner as per the City's Advertising Bylaw.

IMPACTS:

A non-statutory public hearing will allow Council to further understand the impact and any concerns of the public prior to considering the implementation of permanent e-scooters program in Spruce Grove.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

n/a