



INFORMAL STAFF REPORT

MEMORANDUM

To: Keith Selman, Interim City Manager *K.S.*
Thru: Chief Mike Markle, Interim Assistant City Manager *MM*
From: Arlene Medrano, Business Liaison *AM*
Date: November 12, 2018
Subject: Dockless Vehicles

Issue Problem:

City of Corpus Christi staff are aware of the interest from dockless scooter companies to launch in the Corpus Christi market. We are currently communicating with two dockless scooter companies (Bird Rides, Inc. and Blue Duck) and have supported their interim operation until permanent regulations are in place. These companies were asked to comply with existing state laws and with local ordinance that staff has interpreted to apply in this scenario. Both companies also self-regulate and share those rules via their mobile applications and with rules printed on the scooters.

Texas Transportation Code:

1. No operating on roads with speed limit higher than 35 mph.
2. Gives municipality authority over use on streets and sidewalks
3. Scooters must have brakes and lights

Municipal Ordinance:

1. Submit Certificate of Insurance in Force
2. Riders must have valid driver's license
3. No renting to intoxicated persons
4. No obstruction of street, sidewalk, and the public right-of-way generally

Self-Regulated (Bird):

1. Wear helmet
2. 18 years and older
3. Use bike lanes; No riding on sidewalk
4. One rider per scooter
5. Valid driver's license

Self-Regulated (Blue Duck):

1. Wear a helmet
2. Use bike lanes
3. One rider per scooter
4. Do not ride in crowds
5. No riding and texting

Background & Findings:

Dockless scooter transportation services have emerged in cities around the world in the last 14 months and have been considered to sometimes be disruptive to the use of public right-of-way on sidewalks where there is heavy pedestrian traffic. With input from public stakeholders such as the Downtown Management District, the Convention & Visitors Bureau, Texas A&M University- Corpus Christi, the Regional Transportation Authority, Transportation Advisory Council and various City of Corpus Christi Departments (Police, Development Services, Traffic Engineering, Planning, Code Enforcement and Legal), staff will ensure a proposal to City Council which provides a balance of public access and safe operations.

Conclusion:

Downtown Reinvestment Zone (TIRZ #3) Board Member, Mr. Al Jones, requested a presentation on dockless scooters at the September 25, 2018 meeting. A presentation will be provided to the TIRZ #3 Board at its November 27, 2018 meeting. The City's main focus is ensuring compliance with state and local laws while respecting innovation and the need for mobility options in Corpus Christi.
