

# Electric Scooter Update

January 16, 2018



# Agenda

- Electric scooters
- Local and state considerations
- Municipal reactions
- UNC Update
- Next steps

# What is an electric scooter?

- Electric motors that can accelerate up to 25 mph without assistance
- Handle controls for acceleration and brakes
- Scootershare:
  - Phone application and electronic payment
  - Company contractors capture, charge and deploy daily
  - Cost: \$1 to unlock + \$0.15 per minute



# Scootershare in Chapel Hill

- August 23 and 24: Bird deployed 90 electric scooters on campus periphery
  - Peak cumulative rides: 1,316
  - Peak cumulative riders: 720
  - Average ride minutes: 13.51
- Bird scooters removed at UNC and Town request
- Since then, additional companies have sought UNC and Town partnership



# Local Considerations

- Safety
  - Wake County EMS reported 22 incidents between July 7 and October 12
  - Different safety considerations than bicycles
- Sidewalk clutter
- University and Carrboro considerations
- Enforcement and oversight
- Connectivity



# Current Town Ordinances

- Greenway electric vehicle limitations (Sec. 12-3.d)
- Sidewalk sales prohibited (Sec. 17-77)
- Operation of bicycles and scooters on certain public streets (Sec. 21-3)



# State considerations

- State vehicle definitions do not readily fit electric scooters
  - The state statutes do not classify an electronic scooter.
  - In the absence of a state classification for electric scooters, the closest classification would be a **moped**. The statute for mopeds requires that the vehicle be registered and insured and that the rider wear a DOT approved helmet.
- Legislature may consider revised definition for “electric scooter” in 2019 session

# NC Municipal Reactions

- Raleigh
  - October 16: Council approved use of Master Encroachment Agreement (MEA) until an RFP is released
  - Charging \$300/scooter annual fee, capping at 500 scooters per company
- Durham
  - October 15: Council passed ordinance regulating Shared Active Transportation Systems
  - Currently reviewing five permit applications received in December
  - Plan to charge \$100/scooter fee, \$1,000 permit fee, \$50 fee when the City has to relocate a scooter, \$500 yearly renewal fee
- Charlotte
  - January 14: City Council passed new ordinance language
  - Currently do not charge a fee but are exploring this with existing companies
- Asheville
  - November 27: Council passed ordinance prohibiting scooters



# What is UNC doing about electric scooters?

- Presented background and options to advisory board and stakeholders
- Changed ordinance to prohibit on sidewalks
- No decision about electric scooters until end of school year and waiting for clarity on State law
- Request for Proposals from scootershare companies anticipated if UNC decides to allow electric scooters on campus
- Coordinating with Town on all aspects of program development

# Next Steps

- Receive Council feedback tonight
- Seek feedback from TCAB and other stakeholders
- Keep tabs on State legislature's actions around electric scooters
- Continue to collaborate with Carrboro and UNC

