



### **SOAR's position statement on E-scooters**

The Streeterville Organization of Active Residents is aware of the City's interest to pursue the addition of E-scooters availability for the residents. The Board of Directors of SOAR have reviewed available information regarding E-scooters and the city's proposed ordinance, and we are **opposed** to the use of scooters due to safety concerns for the residents of Streeterville.

We have reviewed numerous publications regarding E-scooters and spoke with representatives of CDOT and LIME, one of the operators hoping to be licensed for electric, mobile vehicles in Chicago. We understand the City's interest in expanding the current DIVVY operations and to offer this new mode of transportation to our citizens. SOAR believes that the case for E-scooters is attractive but this new modality is not without concerns and reservations. SOAR believes that the case for E-scooters is interesting, but this new modality is not for the streets or sidewalks of Streeterville.

However, SOAR's Traffic and Transportation Committee and the SOAR Board of Directors have considered the pros and cons of E-scooters and their potential availability in Streeterville; although we are opposed for their use in Streeterville, we would recommend that our concerns be considered:

- E-scooters should be confined to streets and/or existing Bike Lanes
- E-scooters should **never** be allowed on sidewalks and should be walked in those areas throughout the city where bikes are required to be walked.
- E-scooter users should be 16 years or older given the speed of the E-scooters is quite fast
- E-scooters maximum speed should be 10-15 mph
- E-scooters should be prohibited on Michigan Avenue and Chicago Avenue
- E-scooters should have 'parking areas or docking stations' in the downtown area
- E-scooter regulations should be visible on the scooters
- E-scooter enforcement should be undertaken by traffic aides and violators should be ticketed and fined
- E-scooter use in other cities should be monitored and Chicago's rules for E-scooters should be modified from time to time to assure best practices are employed here in Chicago
- E-scooter riders should wear helmets
- E-scooters should have lights and some audible device so they can be seen and heard

We understand the city's desire to encourage entrepreneurial experimentation, but it must be balanced with regulations for safety and the health and welfare of the public. Shared mobility and e-mobility is a commitment in the city's 2020 vision, and SOAR supports such a vision. However, Streeterville's diverse population and uses must be protected.

Sincerely,

Deborah Gershbein  
President

John Ward  
Traffic Chair

CC: Alderman Brendan Reilly, Alderman Brian Hopkins, SOAR Board of Directors