

Overview of California e-scooter policy

May 2021 Cupertino Bike/Ped Commission Meeting

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E-scooter overview

Scooter Operations

- Personal e-scooter use
- Private company or city run program

Current California Policy

- E-scooters are defined as:
 - Two wheels
 - Handlebars
 - A floorboard to stand on while riding
 - A motor that powers the vehicle
- All e-scooter riders must have a valid driver's license
- Scooter's can't be ridden on roads with speed limits > 25 mph, unless in the bike lane
- E-scooters should not be ridden on sidewalks
- No passengers on the e-scooters
- 15 mph speed limit on the road

City run programs

Overview

- City issues an RFP for operation on public property
- City caps either the number of operators, total number of scooters, or both
- Operators pay an annual permit fee to the city which covers cost of oversight
- Operators provide city with monthly reports on usage
- Program is managed by city Department of Transportation

Example Programs

- [San Francisco](#)
- [San Jose](#)

Key areas for policy consideration

Both personal and company run e-scooters

- Sidewalk or Bike Lane Riding
- Bike Rack Parking
- Speed limit (generally 12-15 mph)
- Helmets required
- Age restrictions (must be 18+ to ride)

Company run operations

- Designated parking area
- Hours of operation
- Equitable access programs
- In-app safety information