

A photograph of the Austin skyline at sunset, with the sun low on the horizon behind several tall skyscrapers. The sky is a mix of orange, pink, and grey. In the foreground, there are dark silhouettes of trees and a bridge over a body of water.

# Austin Parks and Recreation Department Electric Bike and Scooter Parkland Trail Pilot

December 10, 2019

Amanda Ross

Natural Resources Division Manager  
Austin Parks and Recreation Department





# Why A Pilot?

- 2018 Micromobility came to Austin.
- Electric bike/scooters users desired safe mobility options.
- Code prohibited “motor-driven devices”.
- A need to understand impacts to parkland.



# Pilot Overview

January 2019 to September 15, 2019

- Johnson Creek Trail
- Shoal Creek Trail South of 15<sup>th</sup> Street
- Northern and Southern Walnut Creek Trail
- Lady Bird Lake Hike and Bike Trail
  - electric bikes only



\*House Bill 2188 updated that electric bikes are allowed on all trails with additional surface material.



# Pilot Recommendations

1. Revise ordinance to allow electric scooters on limited paved parkland trails.
2. Continue geofence and improve effectiveness.
2. Parking box designated areas.
4. Create a culture of shared trails with etiquette campaign.
5. Set trail speed limits.



# Data Collection/Analysis

- Gathered **public feedback** through online surveys and focused group discussions.
- Sampled **speed** of all users to understand if the current 10mph speed limit is being followed and if it is appropriate.
- **Counts collected**-point in time by volunteers and electronic trail counters on all trails.
- **Data analysis**-311 Reports, micromobility trips





# Public Feedback

Speak-up Austin, Focused Groups, Public Survey

- People primarily use parkland trails for exercise and being outside.
- Public reported electric scooters and bikes yielding etiquette was the least followed guideline.
- Public opinion was strongest about the Ann and Roy Butler Trail with the overwhelming sentiment negative towards electric scooters.



# Electric Scooters and Bikes Trip Data

- Parks and parkland trails are important to the micromobility landscape. About 10% of all electric bike and scooter trips from January to September 2019 started or ended on parkland.
- The Ann and Roy Butler Trail saw the largest number of micromobility trips start and end compared to all other trails combined.



# Speed Data, Trail Counts, 311 Reports

- Trail counts on outlying trails suggest that speed could be higher on these trails.
- Trail counts on the Ann and Roy Butler Trail can be more than 5,000 people per day.
- Speed monitoring found non-motorized and motorized bikes were some of the fastest speeds recorded.



## Share the Trail



**OBSERVE SPEED LIMIT**  
Be aware of others



**BE CONSIDERATE OF OTHERS**  
Respect other visitors on this multi-use trail



**YIELD TO PEDESTRIANS**



**KEEP RIGHT PASS LEFT**



# Pilot Recommendations

1. Revise ordinance to allow electric scooters on limited paved parkland trails.

QRT 2  
FY20

2. Continue geofence and improve effectiveness.

QRT 2  
FY20

2. Parking box designated areas.

QRT 4  
FY20

4. Create a culture of shared trails with etiquette campaign.

FY 21

5. Set trail speed limits.

QRT 2  
FY20





# Questions





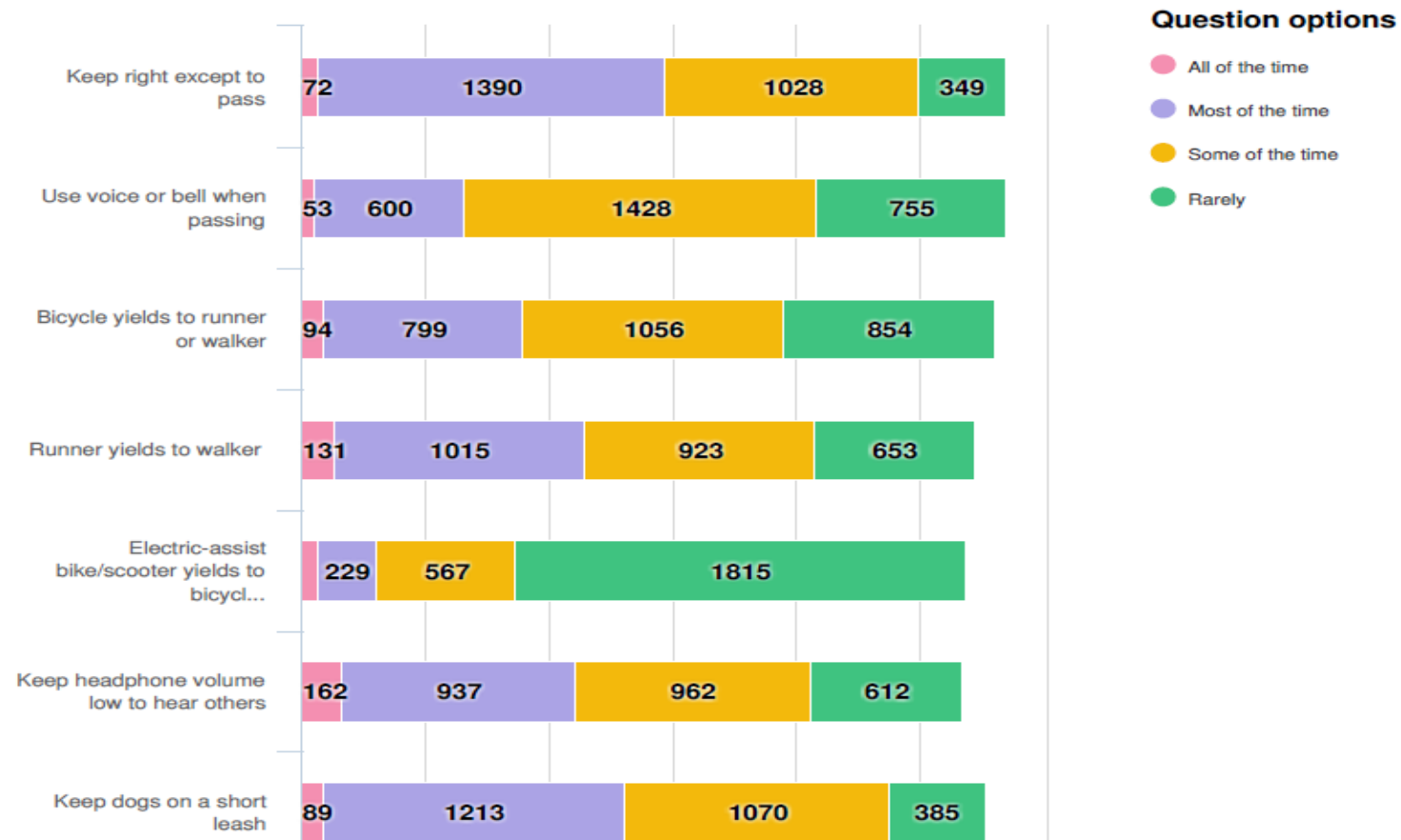
# Data Summary-Public Feedback

Please rank the different reasons you use the trails, 1 being the most frequent reason and 5 the least frequent.

OPTIONS	AVG. RANK
Individual exercise or training	2.02
Enjoying nature and being outside	2.03
Transportation - Traveling to other locations or events	3.78
Walking pet	3.84
Group or team exercise or training	4.18
Transportation - Commuting to work	4.55

# Data-Survey-Bike/Scooter Yielding

In your experience, how often do trail users follow the suggested etiquette guidelines listed below?

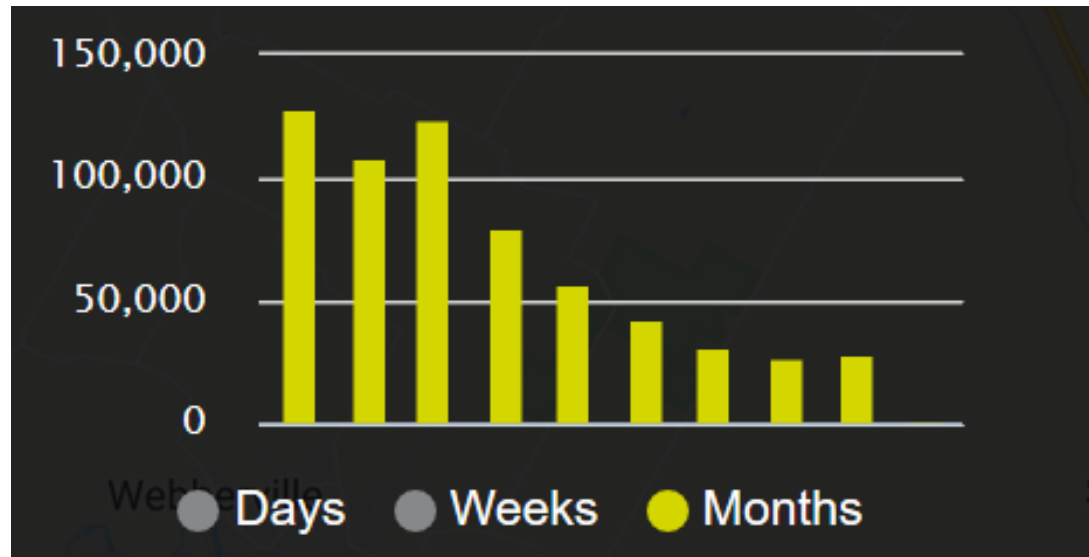




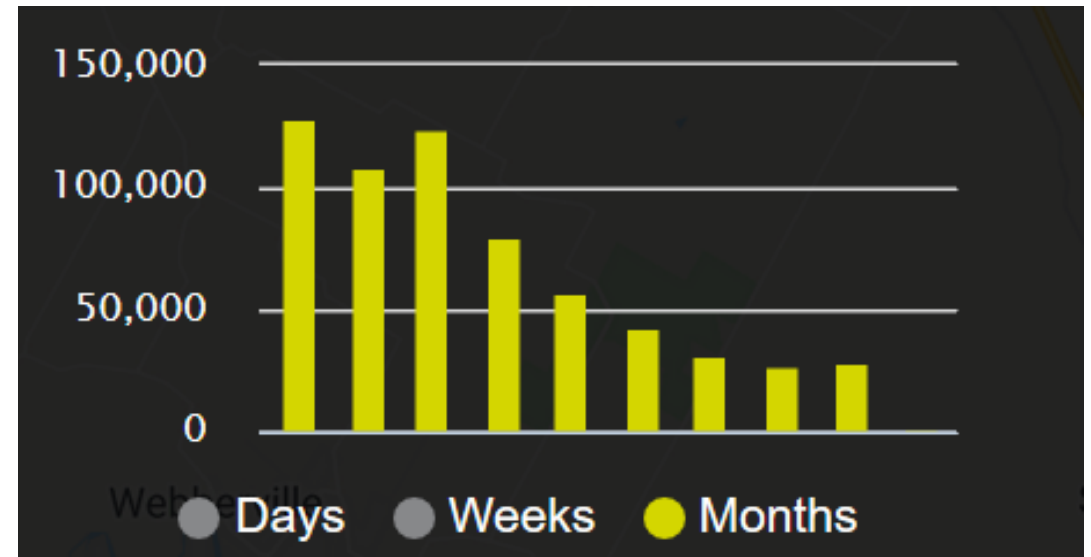
# Data Summary-Trail Counts

Butler Trail-Crenshaw Monthly January thru September 2019

Walkers \*847,000



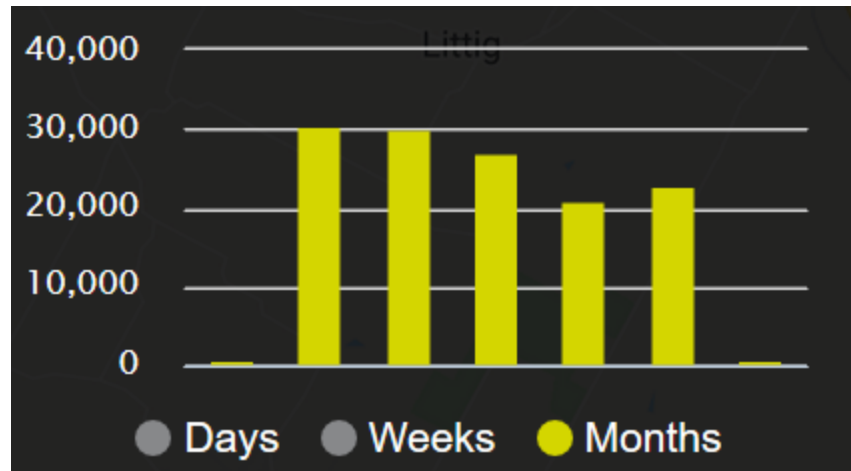
Cyclist \*629,000



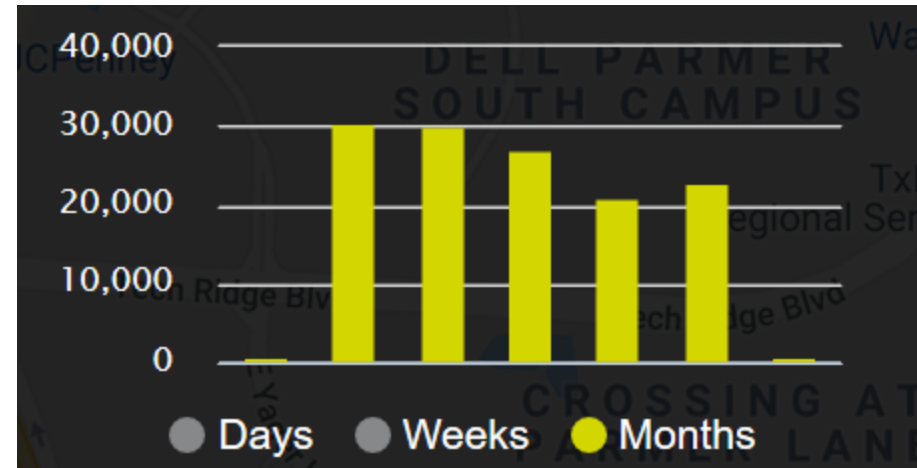
# Data Summary-Trail Counts

Northern Walnut Creek Monthly January thru September 2019

Walkers



Cyclist





# Data-Speed Monitoring



Trail	Count total	e bike	scooter	non motorized	ave speed e bike	ave speed scooter	ave speed non motorized	Ave overall
Ann and Roy Butler Hike and Bike (boardwalk)	564	51	4	509	10.44	10.44	11.73	11.62
Ann and Roy Butler Hike and Bike (not boardwalk)	317	9	5	303	10.53	10.44	11.61	9.91
Johnson Creek Trail	178	5	7	166	10.80	11.29	11.44	11.42
Northern Walnut Creek Trail	292	3	2	287	17.33	4.00	13.11	13.09
Shoal Creek Trail (south of 15th street)	336	9	15	312	14.44	10.60	12.11	12.07
Southern Walnut Creek Trail	1154	4	8	1143	16.75	15.00	13.95	13.97
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>COUNT</b>	<b># of E Bike</b>	<b># of Scooter</b>	<b># Bicycles</b>	<b>ave speed e bike</b>	<b>ave speed scooter</b>	<b>Ave speed bike</b>	<b>overall ave speed</b>
	2841	81	41	2720	11.37	11.17	12.63	12.57



# Data Summary-Micromobility Trips

