

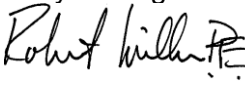


## AUSTIN TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT

### MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Mayor and Council Members

**CC:** Spencer Cronk, City Manager  
Robert Goode, P.E., Assistant City Manager

**FROM:** Robert Spillar, P.E., Director,   
Austin Transportation Department

**DATE:** April 6, 2018

**SUBJECT:** **Dockless Scooter Operations**

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The Austin Transportation Department is aware of the interest from dockless scooter companies to launch in the Austin market. We are currently communicating with several dockless bicycle and scooter companies and will continue to support and actively cultivate different mobility options for residents and visitors to Austin.

Dockless or station-less mobility services are emerging transportation options that may sometimes be disruptive, particularly as they relate to operations within the public right of way. Other cities, such as Dallas, have experienced significant regulatory and management concerns related to abandoned bikes and user safety.

As directed by the Austin City Council via Resolution No. 20180201-059, the City of Austin launched a public outreach process for a dockless bike-sharing pilot program that ensures a balance of public access and safe operations. The expanded scope of this pilot will now include dockless scooters and we are inviting interested e-scooter operators to participate in this process.

While appropriate community outreach is conducted and best safety practices are developed, ATD will not issue permits to operate dockless mobility options in the right of way until there are binding provisions to ensure safe access to the sidewalks and right of way for all users and appropriate remedies in place for vehicles improperly stored.

Yesterday, Bird Rides, Inc., a dockless scooter company, initiated services in Austin with encouragement to its customers to store their vehicles at bicycle racks in the public right of way. Transportation officials met in person with Bird Inc. representatives on Thursday, April 5, and outlined the City ordinances related to use of the right-of-way. The representatives were

informed that City staff would be enforcing City Code that protects the public from unsafe obstructions and other illegal activity in the public realm.

Dockless bike and scooter companies are reminded that they are invited to participate in the ongoing pilot efforts. The conversations between the City, the companies and the community is ongoing and the City's main focus is ensuring compliance with state and local laws while respecting innovation and the need for mobility options expressed by Austin residents.

For more information regarding the ongoing pilot efforts, please visit [austintexas.gov/docklessbikeshare](https://austintexas.gov/docklessbikeshare).

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.