

# MEMO



**To: Morgantown City Council**  
**From: Emily Muzzarelli, Assistant City Manager**  
**Date: October 26, 2018**  
**RE: Electronic Ride-Share Scooters**

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## **ORIGIN OF MEMO:**

The City of Morgantown recently received an application for a municipal license from an electronic ride-share scooter company. City staff began looking into the possibility of this type of business within City limits.

## **BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

Electric scooter sharing systems are emerging nationwide. They provide a viable mobility solution for commuters who are looking for short distance transportation options, such as from a bus stop to a destination that is several blocks away. The scooters employ GPS and other onboard technologies to track and manage fleets. They are managed through smart phone applications and remain locked until a user activates them through an app. The parking options range from a free-floating system to one where the devices can be parked only in virtual corrals.

## **CURRENT RELATED CITY CODE:**

There are various City Codes related to the use of motorized vehicles, toy vehicles, and wheeled platforms, all of which would encompass electronically motorized scooters. As written, these codes may limit or restrict the use of electronic rise-share scooters within areas of the City.

### *Part 3 – Traffic Code*

- Chapter 3, Article 311 - Street Obstructions and Special Uses
  - 311.03 Toy Vehicles on Streets

No person on roller skates or riding in or by means of any sled, toy vehicle, skateboard or similar device shall go upon any roadway except while crossing a street on a crosswalk and except on streets set aside as play streets.
- Chapter 9, Article 373 – Bicycles
  - 373.08 Riding on Sidewalks

(d) No person shall ride a skateboard or platform with wheels attached or propel themselves with roller skates upon any sidewalk within the Central Business District. Such Central Business District shall be encompassed by the boundary streets of the Monongahela River on the west; both sides of Spruce Street on the east; both sides of Willey to the north; and both sides of Foundry to the south. (Ord. 10-6-87.)

*Part 9 – Streets, Utilities, and Public Services Code:*

- Chapter 5, Article 941 – Park and Recreation Facilities

- 941.06 Motor Vehicles

- (c) Motor Vehicles Prohibited on Paths. No person shall operate or cause to be operated any type of motor vehicle upon any area other than a designated public highway; provided that persons who require the use of motorized wheelchairs for mobility may use such devices upon designated trails and sidewalks within the Parks.

- (f) Parking. No person shall park any motor vehicle, bicycle, wagon or other vehicle within any traveled roadway in the park or at any location where posted signs prohibit parking. No person shall leave any vehicle in the park between posted closing time and daybreak without written permission from the Manager or his authorized representative, unless such person is attending an event approved for extension beyond the posted closing.

**CITY STAFF REQUEST:**

Staff is seeking direction from the City Council on a policy or ordinance that addresses electric ride-share scooters on City-owned streets, sidewalks, and/or park facilities.