

**From:** "Johnston, Sadhu" <Sadhu.Johnston@vancouver.ca>

**To:** "Direct to Mayor and Council - DL" <CCDTMACDL@vancouver.ca>

**Date:** 5/11/2016 5:46:55 PM

**Subject:** RTS 11250 - Report Back on Active Transportation Technology and Legal Locations to Operate

**Attachments:** [Memo to Mayor and Council - RTS #11250 - Report Back on Active Transportation Technology and Legal Locations to Operate.pdf](#)

Dear Mayor and Council,

Please see the attached memo from Jerry Dobrovolny in response to Council's request for a summary of any locations where "low powered vehicles" can operate (including motorized hover boards, unicycles, scooters, skateboards and Segways).

A short summary of the memo is as follows:

- The Province regulates the use of all motor vehicles (including low powered) on the roadway and sidewalk adjacent to the roadway through the Motor Vehicle Act (MVA), and the City regulates the use of park paths and the Seawall through the Street & Traffic By-law and Parks Control By-law.
- At this time, both Provincial and City regulations prohibit the use of low powered vehicles such as motorized hover boards, unicycles, scooters, skateboards and Segways on all public right of way. The only exceptions are motorized wheelchairs and electric-assisted bicycles.
- The Province has indicated that the basis of their restriction is on federal safety requirements for powered vehicles to operate on roadways. The City restrictions on low powered motorized vehicles are based on concerns over capacity and conflicts along the already busy seawall.

Please contact Steve Brown, Manager of Traffic and Data Management at 604.873.7393 or [steve.brown@vancouver.ca](mailto:steve.brown@vancouver.ca) if you have any questions or require more information.

Best,

Sadhu Johnston  
City Manager

Sadhu Aufochs Johnston  
City Manager  
City of Vancouver

[sadhu.johnston@vancouver.ca](mailto:sadhu.johnston@vancouver.ca)

o. 604.873.7627

twitter: sadhuajohnston

[www.vancouver.ca](http://www.vancouver.ca)



ENGINEERING SERVICES  
Jerry Dobrovolny, P.Eng.  
City Engineer/General Manager

---

## MEMORANDUM

May 09, 2016

**TO:** Mayor and Council

**CC:** Sadhu Johnston, City Manager  
Paul Mochrie, Deputy City Manager  
Janice MacKenzie, City Clerk  
Lynda Graves, Manager, Administration Services, City Manager's Office  
Rena Kendall-Craden, Director, Communications  
Mike Magee, Special Advisor, Mayor's Office  
Kevin Quinlan, Chief of Staff, Mayor's Office  
Katie Robb, Director, Communications, Mayor's Office  
Emma Lee, Director, Community Relations, Mayor's Office  
Lon LaClaire, Director of Transportation

**FROM:** Jerry Dobrovolny, General Manager of Engineering Services

**SUBJECT:** Report Back on Active Transportation Technology and Legal Locations to Operate (RTS 11250)

---

This memo is in response to Council's motion that staff report back on a summary of any locations where 'low powered vehicles' can operate (including motorized hover boards, unicycles, scooters, skateboards and Segways) and to work with the Province to determine key reasons for restricting their use. Staff have completed a review of current regulations and a summary is provided below.

The Province regulates the use of all motor vehicles (including low powered) on the roadway and sidewalk adjacent to the roadway through the Motor Vehicle Act (MVA), and the City regulates the use of park paths and the Seawall through the Street & Traffic By-law and Parks Control By-law.

At this time, both Provincial and City regulations prohibit the use low powered vehicles such as motorized hover boards, unicycles, scooters, skateboards and Segways on all public rights of way. The only exceptions are motorized wheelchairs and electric-assisted bicycles.

The reason for the City's past decision to prohibit the use of motorized hover boards, unicycles, scooters, skateboards and Segways was to reserve the seawall space for active modes such as walking and cycling and not be in conflict with motorized vehicles. Concerns

---

City of Vancouver, Engineering Services  
320-507 West Broadway  
Vancouver, British Columbia V5Z 0B4 Canada  
tel: 3-1-1, Outside Vancouver 604.873.7000  
website: vancouver.ca



were related to the potential for people to lose control while operating low powered vehicles or that large tour groups might start using the seawall. There are already challenges with crowded areas and conflicts between allowed active mode user groups.

Staff have consulted the Provincial Commercial Vehicle Safety and Inspection (CVSE) Branch regarding the reasons for restricting the use of low powered vehicles. The CVSE is the Provincial authority responsible for inspecting vehicles, both privately owned and commercial, to determine if they meet Federal safety and performance requirements to be used on the roadway. It is up to each vehicle manufacturer to design, build, test, and certify the vehicles they manufacture to meet the Federal requirements. In the case of low powered vehicles such as the Segway, motorized skateboards, hover boards and unicycles, the devices were not designed by the manufacturer to be used on the roadway and so do not meet the safety and performance requirements set out by Transport Canada's, Motor Vehicle Safety Act. As a result, they would not pass CVSE safety inspection and cannot be used on the road.

The table below provides a summary of the various types of travel modes and where they are permitted. In addition, ICBC has a summary of what the Motor Vehicle Act allows and does not located at this link <http://www.icbc.com/vehicle-registration/specialty-vehicles/Low-powered-vehicles/Documents/low-powered.pdf> which is also attached.


	Roadway	Sidewalk	Seawall & Park Pathways	Protected Bike Lanes	Private Property
Limited Speed Motorcycle	Yes	No	No	No	Yes
Pedestrian	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Bike	Yes	No	Yes*	Yes	Yes
Electric-Assisted Bike	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes
Skateboard/Push scooter/Rollerblade	Yes**	No	Yes***	Yes	Yes
Motorized Skateboard	No	No	No	No	Yes
Segway	No	No	No	No	Yes
Hoverboard	No	No	No	No	Yes
Motorized Wheelchair	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Motorbike	Yes	No	No	No	Yes

\* where signs permit

\*\* local streets only

\*\*\*although not technically allowed under the bylaw in practice parks allows and does not enforce

Please contact Steve Brown, Manager of Traffic and Data Management at 604.873.7393 or [steve.brown@vancouver.ca](mailto:steve.brown@vancouver.ca) if you have any questions or require more information.

  
Jerry W. Dobrovolny, P. Eng., MBA  
General Manager of Engineering Services

(T) 604.873.7331

(E) [jerry.dobrovolny@vancouver.ca](mailto:jerry.dobrovolny@vancouver.ca)



# low-powered vehicles

Do you own or ever ride a small motor scooter, bicycle with an electric motor, "pocket bike" or other small low-powered vehicle? While they might not look that different, some are legal for on-road use and some aren't. Driving an unlicensed or uninsured vehicle on B.C. roads could result in a ticket and driving without insurance could have serious financial consequences.

## Permitted on roads:

### Limited-speed motorcycle (small motor scooter)

Must be registered, licensed and insured. May be operated with any class of driver's licence. Cannot be operated on a learner's licence other than a Class 6 or 8 motorcycle learner's licence. Riders are required by law to wear a motorcycle helmet.



A limited-speed motorcycle is defined as:

- No more than 50 cc engine displacement or 1.5 kw motor rating.
- Does not require clutching or shifting after the drive system is engaged.
- Has a maximum speed on level ground of 70 km/h.
- Weighs no more than 95 kg excluding fuel and batteries.
- Wheels must be 25.4 cm in diameter or more.

### Electric motor-assisted cycle\*

A motor-assisted cycle is a two- or three-wheeled cycle with a seat, pedals and an electric motor. Does not require registration, vehicle licence or insurance. Operator does not require driver's licence but must be 16 years of age or older.



- Operator is required by law to wear a bicycle helmet.
- May be operated on the road like any bicycle, except where municipal bylaws restrict operation.
- The motor must be electric and have a total combined rated output of not more than 500 watts and be incapable of propelling the cycle at a speed greater than 32 km/h on level ground, without pedaling.

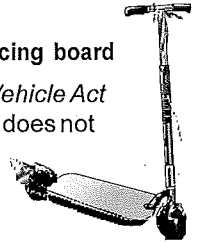
NOTE: Gas-powered cycles and electric cycles without attached pedals don't qualify as an electric motor-assisted cycle. That means they cannot be used on-road as they can't pass a provincial motor vehicle inspection and therefore cannot be registered, licensed or insured for on-road use.

\* Further details can be found in the *Motor Assisted Cycle Regulation*, BC Reg. 151/2002.

## Not permitted on roads:

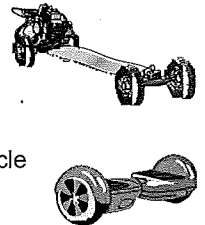
### Scooter, motorized skateboard or self-balancing board

- May only be operated where B.C.'s *Motor Vehicle Act* doesn't apply, such as private property that does not have public vehicle access or on a trail or pathway if allowed by a municipal bylaw.
- Not to be operated on a public sidewalk adjacent to a roadway.



### Pocket bikes (mini motorcycles)

- Commonly referred to as "pocket bikes" or "mini choppers", don't meet provincial vehicle standards for use on public roads.
- They are prohibited under the *Motor Vehicle Act Regulations* due to their wheel size, wheel base and seat height.



## Permitted on sidewalks, walkways, crosswalks, and paths:

### Motorized wheelchair

Does not require registration, vehicle licence, insurance or driver's licence.

- Motorized wheelchairs are treated similarly to pedestrians and may be operated anywhere that pedestrians are permitted to walk.



### Safety tips for operating motorized wheelchairs

- Ride only where it's safe and follow the same rules and guidelines as pedestrians.
- Use courtesy and think safety.
- Drive at the same speed as other pedestrian traffic.
- Be extra cautious of possible traffic as you approach driveways and laneways.
- Try to avoid sudden turns.
- Avoid using your motorized wheelchair if you're taking any medication, drugs or alcohol that may affect your skills or judgment.



building trust. driving confidence.

The information in this publication is intended to provide general information only and is not intended to provide legal or professional advice. We have used plain language to summarize some of the terms to help readers understand some of the laws affecting the topic of this publication at the date it was written. You should follow the more detailed wording and requirements of current applicable statutes and regulations, even if they differ from the information provided in this publication.

