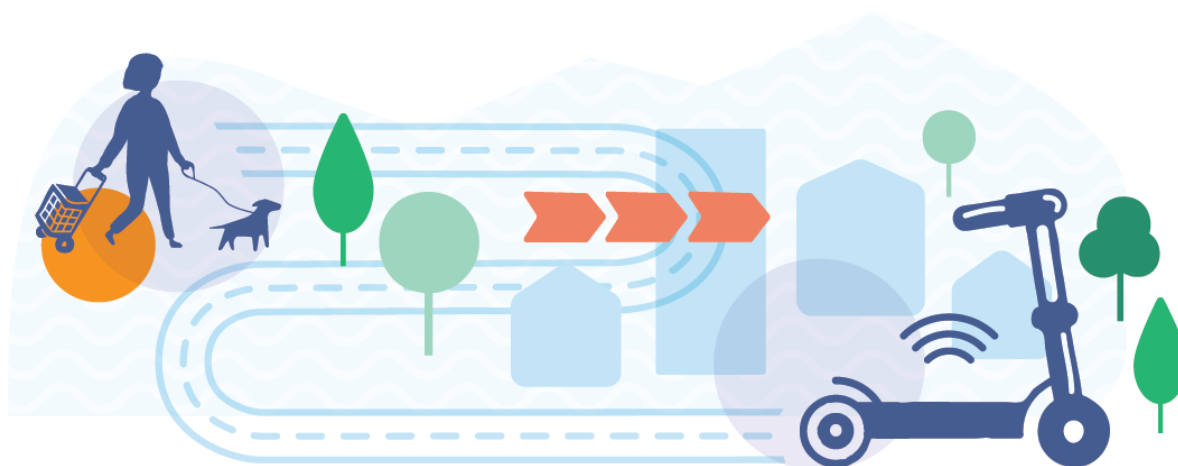


# Frequently Asked Questions for Municipal Governments

## Electric Kick Scooter Pilot Project (April 5, 2024 – April 5, 2028)



These FAQs provide information for municipalities on the BC electric kick scooter pilot project that starts on April 5, 2024. Communities are encouraged to review this information and the [Electric Kick Scooter Pilot Project Regulation](#), and join the new pilot project. Municipalities can join by passing a resolution or bylaw and communicating it to the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure.

Questions about the pilot project can be sent to the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure at: [MVA.Pilot.Project@gov.bc.ca](mailto:MVA.Pilot.Project@gov.bc.ca).

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## General information

### *1. What are electric kick scooters and why are they being piloted?*

Electric kick scooters are battery-powered devices with a motor and two to four wheels, a platform for standing and handlebars for steering. Electric kick scooter use is not currently legal in all BC communities.

In 2021, the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure launched a pilot project to test electric kick scooter use in participating pilot communities, along with guidelines for users and rules of the road. The current pilot project ends on April 5, 2024, at which time a new four-year pilot is starting under a new regulation and legislative framework. The results of these pilot projects will be used to determine if and how electric kick scooters should be authorized for general use in BC.

### *2. What's different about the new pilot project?*

The new pilot project provides opportunity to collect more safety data and information before a decision is made on whether and how to permanently regulate these devices. It is longer (four years instead of three) and has simplified processes for participation and reporting. The new regulation also makes other key changes which are detailed below.

### *3. Why should communities join the pilot project?*

Electric kick scooters are a popular clean, convenient and relatively affordable mode of transportation. Participating communities provide the opportunity for residents and visitors to legally use these devices in their municipal boundaries. Police can issue tickets and fines for electric kick scooter use in a non-participating community.

The Province encourages communities to join the pilot project as it will assist in assessing the safety of these devices and help to develop a potential permanent regulatory framework for these devices.

### *4. Will the Ministry be providing additional information on the pilot project?*

The [Electric Kick Scooter Pilot Project website](#) contains information on the current and new pilot project and will be regularly updated.

Ministry staff will also be scheduling outreach sessions in early 2024 for current pilot communities and others interested in joining the new pilot project. If you wish to participate or have questions, contact the Ministry at: [MVA.Pilot.Project@gov.bc.ca](mailto:MVA.Pilot.Project@gov.bc.ca)

## How communities can join

### ***5. How can a municipality join the pilot project?***

A municipal council only needs to: 1) pass a resolution or bylaw that consents to the pilot project taking place within the municipality, starting April 5, 2024; and 2) communicate that decision to the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure at: [MVA.Pilot.Project@gov.bc.ca](mailto:MVA.Pilot.Project@gov.bc.ca)

The Ministry will begin publishing the list of participating communities on the [Electric Kick Scooter Pilot Project website](#) on April 5, 2024, when the new pilot project starts. Once a community is listed on the website, notice is provided that the pilot project is starting on the date specified.

### ***6. What must the resolution or bylaw say?***

The resolution or bylaw must fulfil the legislative requirements under *Motor Vehicle Act* section 307 (as [amended](#) by the *Motor Vehicle Amendment Act, 2023*).

Sample wording for resolution/bylaw:

*The [name of municipality] consents to the Electric Kick Scooter Pilot Project taking place within the [name of municipality], starting on April 5, 2024.*

### ***7. When can the resolution or bylaw be passed?***

It can be passed anytime prior to or after April 5, 2024. A community that passes a resolution or bylaw after April 5, 2024, starts participating in the pilot project on the date specified in the notice on the Electric Kick Scooter Pilot Project website.

### ***8. What must current pilot- communities do to continue participating?***

Current pilot communities must follow the same process to join the new pilot project, by passing a resolution or bylaw.

### ***9. Is a bylaw needed to set municipal rules for the pilot?***

A bylaw is not necessary to set municipal rules for the pilot, as the new regulation provides a regulatory framework for electric kick scooters, including locations where they may be operated.

Participating communities are authorized to set rules regarding specific matters stated in the regulation, such as prohibiting the use of electric kick scooters on certain roads. The regulation provides flexibility for participating communities to do this by either erecting a traffic control device or by enacting a bylaw.

If a pilot community wishes to continue using any bylaw they have for the current pilot project, they should review it to ensure that it is authorized and necessary under the new pilot project framework.

### ***10. Can a bylaw set different rules for the pilot project?***

A bylaw may only be used for specific matters set out in the regulation. A bylaw cannot be inconsistent or conflict with the regulation, as that will render the bylaw inoperative and of no force and effect to the extent that it conflicts or is inconsistent with the regulation.

### ***11. What will happen if a community does not join the new pilot project?***

Electric kick scooter use is not legally permitted within a community unless it is participating in the pilot project. Contraventions can result in a person receiving a violation ticket and fine, or facing other consequences.

### ***12. Is the Province providing funding to help communities participate?***

Any costs for participating are the responsibility of the community. Communities are also responsible for obtaining any related legal or policy advice to participate in the pilot project.

## **Pilot project rules**

### ***13. Where can I find the new pilot project rules?***

The new [Electric Kick Scooter Pilot Project Regulation](#) (which comes into force April 5, 2024) sets main rules for the pilot project, including device standards and rules for operators. *Motor Vehicle Act* [Part 13](#) (as amended by the *Motor Vehicle Amendment Act, 2023* effective April 5, 2024) sets overall criteria for pilot projects.

The Ministry [Electric Kick Scooter Pilot Project website](#) provides public information on the current pilot project rules, and will be regularly updated, including on April 5, 2024, when the new pilot project rules take effect.

#### ***14. What are the rules for devices?***

Only devices that meet prescribed requirements set out in section 3 of the regulation are considered “electric kick scooters” and permitted to operate in participating communities. For example, an electric kick scooter must not have a continuous power output rating that exceeds 500W or be capable of travelling above 25 km/h on a flat surface. They must also be designed to transport one person and cannot have pedals, a seat or a structure enclosing the device. Other equipment requirements for electric kick scooters are set out in Part 5 of the regulation.

#### ***15. Are the rules for devices the same as in the current pilot project?***

The new Regulation makes minor updates to certain device requirements, including the maximum speed (25 km/hr instead of 24 km/hr), braking performance and lighting requirements. If a pilot community wishes to continue using any current bylaw they have for the new pilot project, they should review it to ensure that it is authorized and necessary under the new pilot project framework.

#### ***16. What are the rules for operators?***

Generally, electric kick scooters can be operated in areas and in a similar manner as cycles but must be operated in a cycle lane if one is available. Rules in the new Regulation for highway use depend on whether the highway is inside or outside of a participating community, the speed limits of the highway and who has jurisdiction of the highway.

Part 2 of the Regulation sets out where an electric kick scooter can be operated *inside a participating community*.

Part 3 of the Regulation sets out where an electric kick scooter can be operated *outside a participating community*.

#### ***17. Are the rules for operators the same as in the current pilot project?***

The new Regulation makes minor updates to certain operator requirements, including where electric kick scooter use is permitted and rules for left turns at intersections.

If a current pilot community wishes to continue using any bylaw they have for the new pilot project, they should review it to ensure that it is authorized and necessary under the new pilot project framework.

### ***18. Who is responsible for enforcing the rules?***

Law enforcement is responsible for enforcing provincial rules for the pilot project, and can issue violation tickets with fines for offences or take other enforcement actions. Municipal bylaw officers are responsible for enforcing any bylaws.

### ***19. What are the penalties for offences?***

Penalties are similar to those for cycling-related offences and will be set in the Violation Ticket Administration and Fines Regulation. Most offences have a \$109 fine, except the fine for not wearing a helmet, which is \$29. Penalties for contraventions of a bylaw are set by the municipality.

## **Data collection and reporting**

### ***20. What data will participating communities have to collect and report?***

The new regulation simplifies the data participating communities must collect for reporting purposes. Participating communities will no longer need to collect information from third parties like shared service providers or ICBC. The Ministry will collect that information directly from those organizations under the new pilot project.

Participating communities will be required to report data using a simplified form to be provided by the Ministry. The simplified form is intended to make it easier for communities to participate and is expected to be required on an annual basis.

### ***21. What other data is being collected for the pilot project?***

The Ministry will directly obtain data from other parties specified in the new regulation, including shared service providers, ICBC and BC Injury Research and Prevention Unit.

### ***22. What will the data be used for?***

The data collected will help assess the safety of electric kick scooters and determine if and how electric kick scooters should be authorized for general use in BC. Results will also assist in the development of possible future pilot projects on other matters relating to the *Motor Vehicle Act*.



## Miscellaneous

### ***23. What has been learned from the first pilot project to date?***

Interim results from the current pilot project ending on April 5, 2024 were included in a backgrounder to the [News Release](#) announcing the new regulations. They included:

- British Columbians support the testing of electric kick scooters
- Electric kick scooters have environmental benefits and can help meet sustainable transportation goals
- Participating communities have higher levels of support
- Electric kick scooters can help meet sustainable transportation goals
- Injuries and conflicts with other road users are rare when operators follow the rules
- Overall awareness of the project and electric kick scooter laws is low

### ***24. Why aren't other types of devices like one-wheeled devices being piloted?***

The current pilot project only applies to electric kick scooters, which are the most popular new form of personal transportation. Other types of emerging personal mobility devices may be piloted in the future.

### ***25. What will happen at the end of the new pilot project in 2028?***

The Province will be analyzing the results of the pilot project over the next four years. When the new pilot project ends on April 5, 2028, a decision will be made on whether to permanently authorize electric kick scooters for general use in BC.

### ***26. What other Canadian jurisdictions allow electric kick scooters?***

Electric kick scooter use is currently allowed in cities in Alberta (Edmonton and Calgary), New Brunswick (Fredericton) and Saskatchewan (Regina and Saskatoon). Ontario and Quebec have pilot projects underway like B.C. Rules vary by jurisdiction. For example, Edmonton and Calgary only allow electric kick scooter rental companies. Saskatchewan only allows electric kick scooters within municipalities that authorize their use.