



Staff Report

Report Title: Legislative Update – Micromobility Regulatory Transformation

Prepared By: Kelly Lush, Deputy Clerk

Department: Legislative Services

Date: May. 29, 2023

Report Number: HKPSB-2023-05-5

File Number: C05 POL23

Attachments: Summary – Transforming the way MTO pilots new micromobility vehicles on-road

Recommendation:

THAT the Township of Huron-Kinloss Police Services Board hereby receives for information Report No. 2023-05-05 prepared by Kelly Lush, Deputy Clerk.

Background:

The Ministry of Transportation has posted a Regulatory Registry on transforming the way MTO tests micromobility vehicles on road. The comment period was open from April 25th to May 9th, 2023. The Township currently is one of two communities piloting the golf car project. (pdf is attached)

Discussion:

The Ministry of Transportation was seeking feedback on the safe integration of new or existing vehicle types with pedestrians and other vehicles. The Ministry has been piloting various vehicles to assess their safe integration on roadways throughout the province. Currently the ministry is piloting five types of micromobility vehicles on public roadways. The Township is a current participant in one of these programs. The pilot programs (detailed on the attached pdf) include:

1. Low Speed Vehicles – an electric, four wheeled vehicle smaller and lighter than a car
2. Electric Kick Scooters – an electric, two wheeled vehicle with a platform to stand on, a handlebar for steering (e-scooters)
3. Cargo Power Assisted Bicycles – e-bikes with a platform or box to carry larger items
4. Golf Cars – the Township is a part of this pilot currently

5. Large Quadricycles – bikes that can seat 12 or more people

The Ministry intends to continue and expand existing pilots, reduce regulatory burdens and streamline the regulatory approach for existing micromobility options.

The Ministry is proposing to combine the multiple pilot projects under one regulation and seeking feedback on a proposal to permit urban mobility vehicles (UMV) for on-road use.

Golf Car Pilot Expansion Feedback

The Ministry proposes to expand the golf car pilot to permit any municipality to opt-in. The Ministry is requesting feedback on this proposal.

Enabling Urban Mobility Vehicles (UMVs) on-Road

The Ministry of Transportation Ontario (MTO) is also soliciting opinions with respect to a proposal to permit the on-road use of Urban Mobility Vehicles.

The MTO is considering allowing these vehicles on municipal roadways, should a municipality opt in and pass the required by-law. The MTO is proposing that these vehicles could be exempt from insurance requirements. In both cases the feedback the ministry would be interested to receive in particular would be:

- Are the rules proposed for licencing/insurance appropriate?
- Should the ministry permit cargo to be carried (commercial use)?
- Are there safety concerns?
- What benefit would this bring to your community?

Staff Comments

Township staff involved in the Golf car project have noted the following topics for inclusion in the comments:

- licencing process to be created through/by the Ministry, the same as a snowmobile/ATV etc. to help ensure the same rules and regulations are in place across municipalities.
- provincial licencing would then allow for proper insurance to be placed on the vehicles, similar to snowmobiles/ATV's etc. as currently, there are no insurance requirements.
- There are safety concerns with underage drivers and cars being driven on unapproved roadways.

Staff believe that these concerns would also be applicable to UMV's as well.

Financial Impacts:

There is no financial implication with this report.

Strategic Alignment / Link:

We are an accessible community that offers opportunities for everyone.

Respectfully Submitted By:

Kelly Lush, Deputy Clerk

Report Approved By:

Mary Rose Walden, Chief Administrative Officer