



## The Corporation of the Town of Tecumseh

Community & Recreation Services

**To:** Mayor and Members of Council

**From:** Beth Gignac, Director Community & Recreation Services

**Date to Council:** April 25, 2023

**Report Number:** CRS-2023-06

**Subject:** E Scooter Pilot Program

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### Recommendations

It is recommended:

**That** Report CRS-2023-06 E Scooter Pilot Program **be received;**

**And that** Council **consider for approval** an E Scooter Pilot Program from May – September 2023 with services to be provided by Bird Canada, Inc.;

**And further that** a by-law to authorize the Mayor and Clerk to execute a Service Agreement between the Town of Tecumseh and Bird Canada, Inc., in a form satisfactory to the Town Solicitor, to provide an E Scooter Pilot Program, **be considered** at the May 9, 2023 Regular Council Meeting.

### Background

At the Regular Council meeting of September 13, 2022, a Notice of Motion directed Administration to investigate the possibility of a pilot project with vendors that offer public access to utilize their e-scooters or e-bikes as an alternative mode of transportation on a pay-to-ride basis, and report back to Council with options and budget implications.

Research has concluded that a stand-up E Scooter or E Bike vendor would only be interested in a pilot project in Tecumseh if there was an opportunity to leverage an

existing program in Windsor or if there was a county-wide program involving all other communities in Essex County.

In 2022, the City of Windsor entered into an agreement with Bird Canada, Inc. to provide stand-up E Scooters and E Bikes in a limited pilot project. In 2023, the City of Windsor entered into an agreement with Bird Canada Inc. to provide E Scooters and E Bikes throughout Windsor, up to the shared boundaries between Windsor and Tecumseh.

Consequently, Staff have had discussions with both the City of Windsor and Bird Canada, Inc. to determine the feasibility of operating a pilot program for E Scooters in Tecumseh to leverage the new agreement between the City of Windsor and Bird Canada, Inc and provide the opportunity for residents of Tecumseh to experience E Scooters within a limited geographic boundary with speed limits that comply with existing speed limits on pathways (20 km/h).

## Comments

Based on an evaluation of the opportunity, Staff are recommending that a limited number (30) of E Scooters be provided by Bird Canada, Inc. for the residents of Tecumseh from May 19 – September 30, 2023 for a pilot program. Expansion into E Bikes would be evaluated as part of the pilot program assessment in October 2023.

Bird Canada, Inc would be responsible for supplying, operating, maintaining, managing, marketing, financing and reporting on the E Scooter sharing system under the guidelines of a service agreement with the Town of Tecumseh for a 4-month pilot program to operate on Town property at agreed upon locations with the geo fenced limited speed service area described below:

- The service area is bound by the riverfront pathway to the north, Brighton Road to the east, Tecumseh Road and/or County Road 22 to the south and a seamless boundary to the Town to facilitate users accessing trails and pathways that traverse both Tecumseh and Windsor (Attachment 1: Boundary Map)
- E Scooter parking stations would be provided at Tecumseh Town Hall and Lakewood Park South

The pilot would provide that the Town of Tecumseh will grant exclusive access to sidewalks and other agreed upon municipal lands for carrying out the pilot program in accordance with Town by-laws and governed by the rules applying to bicycles and applicable provincial laws.

Bird Canada, Inc. will:

- Provide the pilot program at no cost to the Town of Tecumseh and will provide proof of insurance coverage exclusively for the operation of stand-up E Scooters

including: (a) Commercial General Liability Insurance coverage with a limit of no less than \$2,000,000.00 aggregate; (b) Automobile Insurance coverage with a limit of no less than \$1,000,000.00 each occurrence and \$1,000,000.00 aggregate;

- Provide an education plan to educate customers on user services, proper riding behaviour, how to operate and park devices, traffic and helmet laws;
- Maintain all devices in a safe, functional state and will inspect parking stations at least once per day to ensure that devices identified as damaged, unsafe or non-functioning will be removed from public property and that the devices and parking stations are kept in safe, tidy and sanitary conditions;
- Respond to pedestrian obstructions and safety concerns within 4 hours of receiving notification and should communicate by text or alert to let customers know if a device is parked in a non-permitted area described below:
  - In a 2-meter pedestrian zone (sidewalk)
  - Blocking a sidewalk, vehicle parking space, travelled portion of a roadway, curb ramp or a pedestrian push-button for a traffic signal
  - Within 0.5 m of trees or shrubs or within a designated bus stop zone (within 10 m of a bus stop sign)
  - Tipped devices should be upright within 1 hour
  - Ensure that devices which have traversed the boundary between Tecumseh and Windsor and parked in Windsor are relocated/rebalanced to the Town of Tecumseh within 24 hours
  - Be responsible for any and all costs associated with operating the pilot program in 2023

A detailed service agreement will outline these and other operational matters related to the pilot program, including geo-fence limited speed zones.

Lastly, the provision of E Scooters follows the goals of the Town of Tecumseh's Active Transportation Plan.

## Consultations

Development Services  
Public Works & Engineering Services  
Legislative Services & Clerk  
Financial Services

## **Financial Implications**

The e-scooter pilot program will be offered to the residents on a user-pay basis through Bird Canada. There is no cost or revenue to the Town of Tecumseh.

User fees projected for 2023 are an initial trip fee of \$2.50 and a 0.42 per minute charge. This is in alignment with the City of Windsor. There is an opportunity to provide an Equity Pricing Program for discounted rides to specific groups to increase equity whereby rides would be discounted by 50 percent for low-income residents, veterans and seniors. An application form will be available through the Bird Canada app for program qualification. Proof of documentation is required by Bird Canada to verify eligibility.

Bird also has a ride pass program available, allowing riders to purchase daily, 3 days, weekly and monthly passes and providing users with unlimited rides of up to 30 minutes.

All fees are managed by Bird Canada through their mobile app and would not be managed by the Town of Tecumseh.

## Link to Strategic Priorities

Applicable	2019-22 Strategic Priorities
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Make the Town of Tecumseh an even better place to live, work and invest through a shared vision for our residents and newcomers.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Ensure that Tecumseh's current and future growth is built upon the principles of sustainability and strategic decision-making.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Integrate the principles of health and wellness into all of Tecumseh's plans and priorities.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Steward the Town's "continuous improvement" approach to municipal service delivery to residents and businesses.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Demonstrate the Town's leadership role in the community by promoting good governance and community engagement, by bringing together organizations serving the Town and the region to pursue common goals.

## Communications

Not applicable ☒

Website ☐

Social Media ☐

News Release ☐

Local Newspaper ☐

This report has been reviewed by Senior Administration as indicated below and recommended for submission by the Chief Administrative Officer.

Prepared by:

Beth Gignac, BA Hons  
Director Community & Recreation Services

Reviewed by:

Brian Hillman, MA, MCIP, RPP  
Director Development Services

Reviewed by:

Tom Kitsos, CPA, CMA, BComm  
Director Financial Services & Chief Financial Officer

Reviewed by:

Robert Auger, LL.B.  
Director Legislative Services & Clerk

Recommended by:

Margaret Misek-Evans, MCIP, RPP  
Chief Administrative Officer

<b>Attachment Number</b>	<b>Attachment Name</b>
1	Bird Canada, Inc. E Scooter Pilot Program Boundary