


Shareable Dockless Mobility Devices in Athens

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Overview:

1. History of ACC's involvement with Shareable Devices
 2. Pilot Program Concerns
 3. Future of Shareable Devices in ACC
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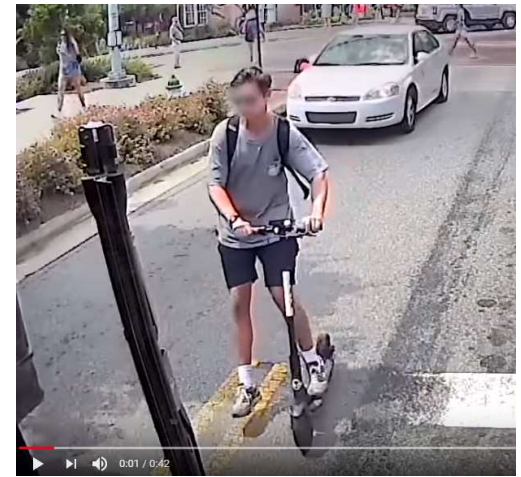


History of ACC Involvement

- ❖ March 6, 2018 – LRC began exploration of non-traditional motorized devices in response to parking violations, unlawful golf cart use, etc.
- ❖ August 16, 2018 – Bird scooters arrived with no warning and were deployed on sidewalks primarily in and around downtown Athens and UGA's campus.
- ❖ Fall 2018 – ACC and UGA documented issues with the e-scooters including illegal sidewalk parking/riding, reckless driving, injuries, ADA access problems, etc.

Bird Scooters on UGA Campus:

UGA Bus Footage on Baldwin Street:



Images taken from UGA's compilation video of bus footage available at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=3&v=x-P3tgje2ko

Bird Scooters on UGA Campus:

UGA Bus Footage on Sanford Drive near Snelling Dining Hall:



Images taken from UGA's compilation video of bus footage available at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=3&v=x-P3tgje2ko

Bird Scooters on UGA Campus:



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Observations from Fall 2018

- ❖ Consistent violations included reckless driving in and around vehicles, sidewalk riding/parking, blocking ADA access, abandoning scooters on private property, driving the wrong way, etc.
- ❖ Virtually no helmet use
- ❖ Devices targeted at and used by young college students
- ❖ Bird Scooters were parked everywhere near downtown and campus
- ❖ Multiple injuries reported

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UGA Student Briefly Hospitalized After Bird Scooter Accident

BY GRADY NEWSOURCE SEPTEMBER 18, 2018 ◀ 309 VIEWS



*Bird Scooters blocking ADA ramp for
ACC Transit Busses*

History of ACC Involvement (Cont'd)

- ❖ December 4, 2018 – ACC passed a moratorium on all dockless shareable mobility devices out of a concern for public safety and to give staff a chance to research and develop a pilot program.
- ❖ Throughout 2019 members of the LRC met almost every month to diligently work towards the development of a pilot program.
- ❖ October 1, 2019 – ACC extended the moratorium to June 4, 2020, to allow for additional time to develop the pilot program's RFP. ACC also removed e-bikes from the moratorium.

Pilot Program Concerns

- ❑ Safety: operational safety and device design/maintenance
- ❑ Geography and Infrastructure challenges / Greenways
- ❑ ADA accessibility
- ❑ Parking / Geofencing limitations
- ❑ Enforcement and compliance with all state and local laws, including lawful use of ACC's ROW.
- ❑ Barriers to equitable use (e.g., expense, access, deployment)


Pilot Program Concerns (cont'd)

- ❑ General Operations: dawn to dusk, helmet use, signaling
- ❑ Privacy / Data Sharing / Geospatial data
- ❑ Environmental Impact & Sustainability
- ❑ Management of the pilot program

Recent Citizen Feedback

- “I am so glad we don’t have those e-scooters in Athens anymore.” [In response to the recent Atlanta fatalities]
 - “Why would we want them back?”
 - “They are running a dangerous business on our public right of way. This is not good for Athens, young and old.”
- “They are a particularly dangerous and volatile mix in ACC due to the proliferation of retirees and students. Our already congested urban and neighborhood streets don’t work for these things. Whatever ‘rules’ the county might design will be unenforceable and stretch already thin enforcement and management budgets.”

Looking Ahead

- ❑ Continuing to update our proposed pilot program
 - ❑ Soliciting additional feedback from our full Commission
 - ❑ Responding to feedback from citizens
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Questions?

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