

Dockless Bike / E-Scooter Share Permit Requirements

Charlotte Department of Transportation

11/1/2018

Revised 5/21/2018 (Added e-scooters)

Revised 6/11/2018 (Altered Requirement M11)

Revised 11/1/2018 (Removed References to Pilot Program)



CHARLOTTE.



November 1, 2018

The City of Charlotte Dockless Bike/E-scooter Share Pilot Program ended on September 7th, 2018, when Mayor Lyles referred this topic to the Council Transportation and Planning Committee for further study. By ending the Pilot Program, the City concluded the study period over which dockless bikes and e-scooters were being evaluated for long term use within public rights-of-way. Based on the ridership data, survey responses, and experience working with dockless bike and e-scooter operators, the City has determined that dockless bikes and e-scooters are a valuable addition to transportation choices available to Charlotte residents and visitors. Although the Pilot Program has ended, the Department of Transportation Director has the authority under City Code to continue to make and enforce temporary regulations to cover special conditions. The original permits granted to dockless bike and e-scooter operators expired on November 1st, and have been renewed through July 31, 2019.

If CDOT or any other City department or office incurs substantial costs in addressing or abating any violations of these requirements, or incurs any costs of repair or maintenance of public property, upon receiving written notice of the City costs, the permitted operator shall reimburse CDOT for such costs within 30 days.

Any operator interested in applying for a permit shall submit an application to CDOT. The application must include at least these items:

1. Table outlining how applicant meets each lettered (e.g. S1, M1, etc.) section below;
2. Completed Permit;
3. Insurance documentation;
4. Images and description of bicycle and/or scooters and mobile application;
5. Size of fleet at launch, including any planned fleet expansions and proposed time periods of expansion;
6. Service area at launch, including any planned expansions and proposed time periods of expansion; and
7. Plan for educating users on proper parking.

Please submit applications to Bruce Horltdt, bhorltdt@charlottenc.gov

SAFETY

Requirement S1: All bicycles used in systems issued a permit shall meet the standards outlined in the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) under Title 16, Chapter II, Subchapter C, Part 1512 – Requirements for Bicycles. Additionally, permitted systems shall meet the safety standards outlined in ISO 43.150 – Cycles, subsection 4210.

Requirement S2: All e-scooters in systems issued a permit shall meet equivalent safety standards as those outlined in the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) under Title 16, Chapter II, Subchapter C, Part 1512 – Requirements for Bicycles. When powered solely by a motor, e-scooters should be incapable of exceeding 15 mph. Additionally, the City may terminate any permit issued if the battery or motor on an e-scooter is determined by CDOT to be unsafe for public use.

Requirement S3: Any permitted electric bicycles shall meet the National Highway Traffic Safety Administrations (NHTSA) definition of low-speed electric bicycles; and shall be subject to the same requirements as ordinary bicycles (described above). This means, among other requirements, that electric bicycles shall have fully operable pedals, an electric motor of less than 750 watts, and a top motor-powered speed of less than 20 miles per hour when operated by a rider weighing 170 pounds. Additionally, the City may terminate any permit issued if the battery or motor on an electric bicycle is determined by CDOT to be unsafe for public use.

Requirement S4: All bicycles and e-scooters shall meet the North Carolina General Assembly (NCGA) requirements for lights during hours of darkness, including a front light that emits white light and a rear red reflector as described in G.S. 20-129, and all other applicable requirements of state law.

Requirement S5: Every bicycle and e-scooter shall have a unique identifier that is clearly displayed and visible to the user.

Requirement S6: Every bicycle and e-scooter shall have a customer service phone number that is in-service during all operating hours and clearly displayed and visible to the user.

Requirement S7: All operators shall provide in-app messaging that notifies their users of the following:

- People operating bicycles/e-scooters shall adhere to all applicable local, state, and federal laws regarding motorized and non-motorized vehicles
- People operating bicycles/e-scooters shall yield to pedestrians
- People shall operate bicycles/e-scooters safely and park responsibly

MAINTENANCE & OPERATIONS

Requirement M1: All permitted operators shall continuously maintain throughout the entire term of the permit the insurance coverage and limits of liability as outlined in the Dockless Bike / E-Scooter Share Permit at no expense to the City.

Requirement M2: Prior to the permit being issued, all permittees shall sign and record an agreement indemnifying and holding harmless the City as outlined in the Dockless Bike / E-Scooter Share Permit.

Requirement M3: All permitted operators shall have staffed operations located within the City of Charlotte for the purpose of maintenance and rebalancing efforts.

Requirement M4: All permitted operators shall provide Charlotte Department of Transportation (CDOT) with a direct local contact for Operator staff that are capable of rebalancing and relocating improperly parked bicycles and e-scooters.

Requirement M5: All permitted operators shall provide CDOT with five account logins for city oversight.

Requirement M6: All permitted operators shall have a 24-hour customer service phone number for customers to report safety concerns, maintenance issues, complaints, or ask questions. In addition, permitted operators are required to provide contact information for local operation staff for publishing on City's website and/or other materials.

Requirement M7: Any inoperable or unsafe bicycle/e-scooter shall be removed from the right-of-way within 24 hours of notice by any means to the operator by any individual or entity, and shall be repaired before placing back into the City right-of-way.

Requirement M8: The City may remove bicycles/e-scooters from the right-of-way if it interferes with pedestrian or vehicular traffic or impedes or obstructs the right-of-way.

Requirement M9: The City may, in its sole discretion and without prior notice, remove bicycles/e-scooters from the right-of-way if an emergency arises. In such instances, the City will attempt to notify the permitted operator as soon as reasonably practicable thereafter.

Requirement M10: Permitted operators shall have a minimum bicycle fleet of 200 bicycles. Electric bicycles and traditional bicycles are counted equally toward this minimum. Should a permitted operator choose to deploy e-scooters, they shall have a minimum fleet of 50 e-scooters.

Requirement M11: Permitted operators shall have a maximum bicycle fleet of 500 bicycles. Electric bicycles and traditional bicycles are counted equally toward this maximum. Should a permitted operator choose to deploy e-scooters, they shall have a maximum fleet of 400 e-scooters.

Requirement M12: All applicants shall include the fleet size in their application. Permitted operators shall notify CDOT if they plan to change their fleet size two weeks before deployment.

Requirement M13: Operators shall not use bicycles/e-scooters for the sale or display of third-party advertising. Operators shall not publish or advertise the City or CDOT's endorsement of their system in marketing or promotional materials.

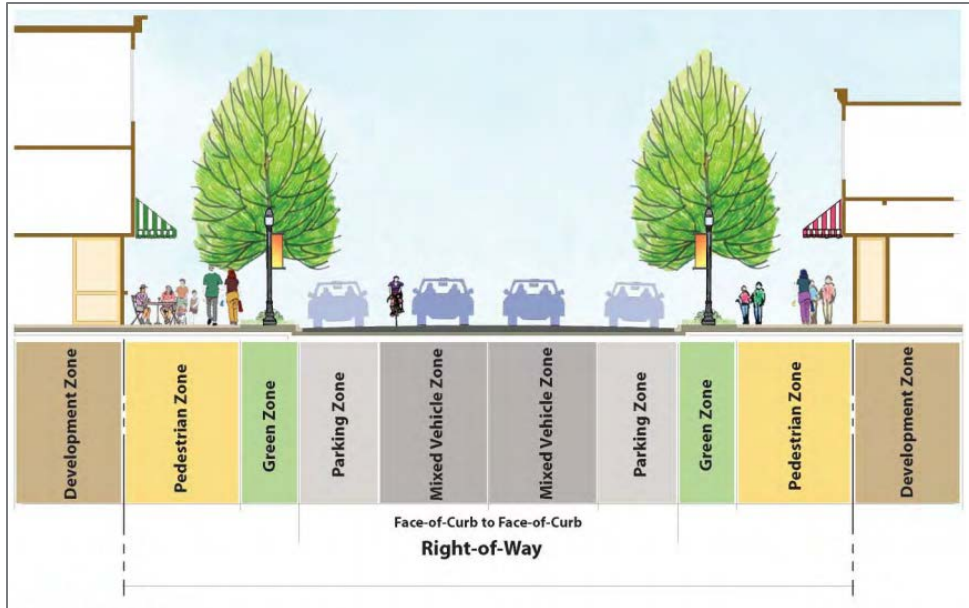
PARKING

This permit is only valid for operations within the right-of-way managed by the City of Charlotte. Additional zones may be established; for example, locations within parks, publicly-accessible plazas, off-street parking lots/garages, or campuses upon consultation with appropriate governmental entities and/or landowners.

Requirement P1: Bicycles/e-scooters shall be parked in the pedestrian zone of the sidewalk, the green zone (i.e. the planting strip if not landscaped) or at a City-owned bicycle rack. Operators shall inform customers on how to park properly. For more information on parking zones, please reference Requirement P4.

Requirement P2: Bicycles/e-scooters shall only be parked within the pedestrian and green zones and shall be upright when parked.

Requirement P3: In no case shall the placement of bicycles/e-scooters reduce the width of pedestrian zone to less than six feet. In the Congested Business District (as defined in [Sec. 6-431](#) of Charlotte's City Code), and within ¼ mile of any rail transit station, this pedestrian clear zone requirement shall be eight feet.



Requirement P4: Restrictions to eligible parking zones:

1. Bicycles/e-scooters shall not be parked in any vehicular travel lane or bicycle lane.
2. Bicycles/e-scooters shall not be parked at the corner curb sight radius area of sidewalks and shall not conflict with the required intersection sight triangle distance (as defined in [Sec. 12.109](#) of Charlotte’s City Code).
3. Bicycles/e-scooters shall not be parked on blocks where the pedestrian zone is less than six feet wide, or in any place where there is no planting strip/amenity zone directly adjacent to the parked bicycle.
4. Bicycles/e-scooters shall not be parked on blocks without sidewalks.
5. Bicycles/e-scooters shall not be parked in the pedestrian zone adjacent to or within:
 - a. Parklets or sidewalk dining;
 - b. Transit zones, including bus stops, shelters, passenger waiting areas and bus layover and staging zones, except at existing bicycle racks;
 - c. Loading zones;
 - d. Accessible parking zones and associated loading zones;
 - e. Street furniture that requires pedestrian access (for example - benches, parking pay stations, bus shelters, transit information signs, newsracks, permanent bike share docks, etc.);
 - f. Curb ramps and signal push buttons;
 - g. Entryways, exits and must maintain a 10 foot clearance; and
 - h. Driveways.
6. The City reserves the right to determine certain areas where bicycle/e-scooter parking is prohibited.

7. If notified of public access and safety concerns by the City, operators shall rebalance bicycles/e-scooters as soon as possible.
8. When deploying or rebalancing, operators shall not place more than three bicycles and two e-scooters on a block face.

Requirement P5: CDOT may create defined parking zones within certain areas where bicycles/e-scooters shall be parked.

Requirement P6: Any bicycle/e-scooter that is parked incorrectly shall be promptly re-parked in a correct manner or removed by the operator as soon as possible.

Requirement P7: A permitted operator shall remove any bicycle/e-scooter that is parked in one location for more than seven consecutive days upon notice. If the bicycle/e-scooter is not removed by the permitted operator, the City of Charlotte may remove the bicycle and take it to a City facility for storage at the expense of the permitted operator.

DATA SHARING

Requirement D1: All permitted operators that participated in the Pilot Program shall distribute and collect a customer survey, to be provided by CDOT, at CDOT's request.

Requirement D2: All permitted operators shall maintain a record of maintenance activities, including but not limited to bicycle identification number and maintenance performed. These records shall be made available to CDOT, upon request.

Requirement D3: All permitted operators shall provide CDOT with a monthly data report containing the items listed below. Operators will be provided with a monthly data report template. For each month's data report, this template should be filled out completely and submitted to CDOT staff by the end of business on the 7th day of the following month. For example, the monthly data report for May will be due by 5pm on June 7th.

If a permitted operator has bicycles and e-scooters in their fleet, they are required to submit two separate data reports, one report specific to bicycles and one report specific to e-scooters.

The data that operators will be required to report is as follows:

- Total trips for the month, and for each week in the month
- Total trip distance for the month, quarter and year
- Average distance and duration of each trip
- Number of bikes in circulation, for each week in the month
- Daily trips per bike/e-scooters (Average number of trips per bike/e-scooters per day)
- Number of bikes/e-scooters vandalized, damaged, and repaired
- Number of users in the Charlotte area, according to frequency of use
 - New users (riders who took their first trip but only used a bike/e-scooter once)
 - 1-3 trips
 - 4-8 trips
 - 9-15 trips
 - 16-30 trips
 - 31-60 trips
 - More than 60 trips
- Total number of complaints, total number of complaints resolved, and number of complaints by type:
 - Bikes/e-scooters blocking sidewalk
 - Bikes/e-scooters on private property
 - Bike/e-scooters is vandalized
 - Bike/e-scooters is inoperable
 - Other

Requirement D4: All permitted operators shall provide CDOT with anonymized real-time data (information that is delivered immediately after collection) on the entire Charlotte fleet, upon request.

Requirement D5: All permitted operators shall provide the following anonymized data for each trip record to inform and support safe and effective management of the system, and for transportation planning efforts. Data will be submitted to a third-party researcher, designated by CDOT.

1. Rider profile:
 - a. Gender - reported by male, female, and other.
 - b. Age - reported based on the following age groups: 5-17, 18-24, 25-34, 35-44, 45-54, 55-64, 65 and over.

2. For each trip taken:

| Field Name | Format | Description |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|---|
| Operator Name | [Operator name] | n/a |
| Type of bicycle | "Standard" or "Electric" | n/a |
| Trip record number | xxx0001, xxx0002, xxx0003, ... | 3-letter Operator acronym + consecutive trip # |
| Trip duration | MM:SS | n/a |
| Trip distance | Feet | n/a |
| Start date | MM,DD,YYYY | n/a |
| Start time | HH:MM:SS (00:00:00- 23:59:59) | n/a |
| End date | MM,DD,YYYY | n/a |
| End time | HH:MM:SS (00:00:00- 23:59:59) | n/a |
| Start location | Census block | n/a |
| End location | Census block | n/a |
| Bicycle/e-scooter ID number | xxxx1, xxxx2, | Unique identifier for every bicycle/e-scooter, determined by the Operator |

3. For bicycle/e-scooter availability:

| Field Name | Format | Description |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------|
| GPS Coordinate | X,Y | n/a |
| Availability duration | Minutes | n/a |
| Availability start date | MM, DD, YYYY | n/a |
| Availability start time | HH:MM:SS (00:00:00- 23:59:59) | n/a |

DOCKLESS BIKE / E-SCOOTER SHARE PERMIT

THIS PERMIT is issued this ____day of _____, 2018, by the City of Charlotte, North Carolina, (hereinafter "City"), to _____ (hereinafter "Operator").

Pursuant to the Charlotte City Code, and subject to the terms and conditions set forth herein, this Dockless Bike / E-scooter Share Permit allows the Operator to operate within Right-of-Way controlled by the City of Charlotte.

1. **Definitions.**

"Dockless Bike Share" means a transportation program that allows users to rent bicycles for point-to-point trips. Dockless bike share bikes are specially designed, sturdy and durable bikes that operate together under the same ownership and are not associated with any permanent docking infrastructure.

"E-Scooter" for the purposes of this permit, and to the extent not preempted by definitions established by State Statute, means a battery-powered device commonly referred to as an e-scooter or stand-up scooter. E-scooters consist of a floor board affixed to two wheels not exceeding 10 inches in diameter and arranged in tandem much like the wheels of a bicycle, including attached handlebars, requiring the operator to push-off to assist propelling the device from a stop, having no attached seating, having a weight not exceeding 50 pounds, and incapable of exceeding 15 miles per hour on a level surface.

"E-scooter Share" means a transportation program that allows users to rent electric scooters for point-to-point trips and the specially designed, sturdy and durable group of scooters that operate together under the same ownership and are not associated with any permanent docking infrastructure.

"Right-of-Way" is defined by applicable City Code and state law, but generally refers to the area on, below, and above an existing or proposed public roadway, highway, street, bicycle lane or sidewalk, planting strip, and associated adjacent land, in which the City has a property interest, whether by easement or fee and regardless of how acquired or established, for public travel and utility purposes. For purposes of this Permit, "Right-of-Way" shall not include property held or acquired primarily for the purpose of the movement of public transit vehicles, including railroad right-of-way.

2. **Term.** This Permit shall expire on day July 31, 2019.

3. **Filing of Information.** Operator shall file with the City, and keep current, the following information:
 - a. The name, address, telephone number, fax number and e-mail address of a local representative(s). A local representative shall be available during normal business hours.
 - b. Information regarding how to contact the Operator in an emergency.
 - c. Name, address, telephone number, fax number, and e-mail address of all contractors authorized to work on Operator's behalf. The Operator shall be liable to the City for any and all work performed on the Operator's behalf in connection with this permit.
 - d. Operator shall file changes or additions to the above required information within fifteen (15) business days following the date on which Operator has knowledge of any changes or additions. Notwithstanding the foregoing, emergency contact information and information regarding authorized contractors shall be kept current at all times.
4. **Removal and Relocation.** If at any time the City shall require the removal of or changes in the location of any of Operator's' fleet of bikes or e-scooters located in the Right-of-Way, Operator shall promptly remove or alter such facilities, in order to conform to the City's requirement, without any cost to the City.
5. **Indemnification.** To the fullest extent permitted by law, the Operator shall indemnify, defend and hold harmless each of the "Indemnitees" (as defined below) from and against any and all "Charges" (as defined below) paid or incurred as a result of any claims, demands, lawsuits, actions, or proceedings: (i) alleging violation, misappropriation or infringement of any copyright, trademark, patent, trade secret or other proprietary right with respect to any products or deliverables provided to the City pursuant to this Permit ("Infringement Claims"); (ii) seeking payment for labor or materials purchased or supplied by the Operator or its subcontractors in connection with this Permit; (iii) arising from the Operator's failure to perform its obligations under this Permit, or from any act of negligence or willful misconduct by the Operator or any of its agents, employees or subcontractors relating to this Permit, including but not limited to any liability caused by an accident or other occurrence resulting in bodily injury, death, sickness or disease to any person(s) or damage or

destruction to any property, real or personal, tangible or intangible; or (iv) arising from any claim that the Operator or an employee or subcontractor of the Operator is an employee of the City, including but not limited to claims relating to worker's compensation, failure to withhold taxes and the like. For purposes of this Section: (a) the term "Indemnitees" means the City and each of the City's officers, officials, employees, agents and independent contractors (excluding the Operator); and (b) the term "Charges" means any and all losses, damages, costs, expenses (including reasonable attorneys' fees), obligations, duties, fines, penalties, royalties, interest charges and other liabilities (including settlement amounts).

This Section shall remain in force despite termination of this Permit (whether by expiration of the term or otherwise).

6. **INSURANCE.** The Operator shall obtain and maintain during the life of this Permit, with an insurance Company rated not less than "A" by A.M. Best, authorized to do business in the State of North Carolina, acceptable to the Charlotte-Mecklenburg, Risk Management Division the following insurance:
 - a) Automobile Liability - Bodily injury and property damage liability covering all owned, non-owned and hired automobiles for limits of not less than \$1,000,000 bodily injury each person, each accident and \$1,000,000 property damage, or \$1,000,000 combined single limit - bodily injury and property damage.
 - b) Commercial General Liability - Bodily injury and property damage liability as shall protect the Operator and any subcontractor operating under this Permit, from claims of bodily injury or property damage which arise, whether such operations are performed by the Operator, any subcontractor, or anyone directly or indirectly employed by either. The amounts of such insurance shall not be less than \$2,000,000 bodily injury each occurrence/aggregate and \$2,000,000 property damage each occurrence/aggregate, or \$2,000,000 bodily injury and property damage combined single limits each occurrence/aggregate. This insurance shall include coverage for products, operations, personal and advertising injury, and contractual liability, assumed under the indemnity provision of this Permit.
 - c) Workers' Compensation and Employers Liability - meeting the statutory requirements of the State of North Carolina, \$500,000 per accident limit, \$500,000 disease per policy limit, \$500,000 disease each employee limit.

- d) The City shall be exempt from, and in no way liable for any sums of money, which may represent a deductible in any insurance policy. The payment of such deductible shall be the sole responsibility of the Operator and/or subcontractor providing such insurance.
 - e) The City of Charlotte shall be named as an additional insured for operations rendered under the general liability coverage. The Operator's insurance shall be primary of any self-funding and/or insurance otherwise carried by the City for all loss or damages arising from the Operator's operations under this agreement.
 - f) Certificates of such insurance will be furnished to the City and shall contain the provision that the City be given thirty (30) days' written notice of any intent to amend coverage reductions or material changes or terminate by either the insured or the insuring Company.
 - g) Should any or all of the required insurance coverage be self-funded/self-insured, a copy of the Certificate of Self-Insurance or other documentation from the North Carolina Department of Insurance shall be furnished to the City.
 - h) If any part of this Permit is sublet, the subcontractor shall be required to meet all insurance requirements as listed above. However, this will in no way relieve the Operator from meeting all insurance requirements or otherwise being responsible for the subcontractor.
7. **Permit Subject to Exercise of Police Powers.** All right and privileges granted herein are subject to the police powers of the City and its right to make laws and regulations.
8. **Non-Assignability.** This Permit may not be transferred or assigned.
9. **Compliance with Applicable Law.** Operator shall comply with all applicable local, state, and federal laws.
10. **Adherence to Permit Requirements.** The Operator shall abide by all terms as outlined in the most current version of the City's Dockless Bike/E-Scooter Share Permit Requirements.

11. **Permit Subject to Additional or Altered Conditions.** The City reserves the right to add or alter permit conditions. Furthermore, the City reserves the right to terminate permits at any time and require that the entire fleet of bikes and/or e-scooters be removed from the Right-of-Way within 30 days, unless a different time period is determined by CDOT.

12. **Agreement with and Acceptance of Terms.** By accepting this Permit and exercising the right granted herein, the Operator agrees to and is hereby bound by the terms of the Permit.

CITY OF CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA

BY:

Director of the Charlotte Department of Transportation

ACCEPTED:*

Signature _____

Name: _____

Title: _____

Date: _____

*** This Permit is not valid until accepted in writing by the permit applicant and the City.**