

Memorandum

September 19, 2025

MEMO TO: Mayor and Members of Council

FROM: Paolo Masaro, Commissioner Infrastructure and Engineering Services

SUBJECT: **Response to Committee of the Whole Item 11.5 Micromobility Strategy discussion**

Background:

At its meeting on September 17, 2025, the Committee of the Whole considered staff report [SRIES.25.006](#) Micromobility Strategy which recommended the rules and regulations to govern micromobility use and sidewalk cycling in Richmond Hill. The Strategy was presented to the Committee of the Whole, which was followed by detailed discussion, questions, and comments.

Discussion:

This memorandum summarizes two themes that were raised at the Committee of Whole on September 17, 2025, along with City staff's responses.

1) Amendment to Investigate Dedicated Micromobility Infrastructure on Regional Roads

The amendment proposed by Mayor West, directs staff to further explore how the City may best leverage Regional Road boulevards to add safe and dedicated micromobility infrastructure, and report back during Trails Level of Service Study.

The Transportation Master Update, as approved by Council on December 13, 2023 through [SRIES.23.004](#), proposes an extensive, robust, accessible, safe, and sustainable Active Transportation (AT) Network not only on City roads but also acknowledges the Region's approach to achieving separated AT facilities on Regional Roads. This AT Network was planned in anticipation to accommodate evolving transportation trends like Micromobility. As such, the City is currently realizing the AT network through coordination with Regional roads capital, City-led capital projects such as Environmental Assessments and Feasibility Studies, and working closely with developers to construct infrastructure through development. These projects are captured as part of the Region's as well as the City's capital budgets and forecasts.

2) Active Transportation and Micromobility By-law Revisions

Committee members proposed various revisions to the proposed Active Transportation and Micromobility By-law, such as additional rider requirements (ex: safety gear), a revised sidewalk cycling age limit, and additional exemptions to the sidewalk cycling restriction, including but not limited to:

- Parents riding with children or towing children in trailers;
- During AM and PM peak periods;
- In close proximity to schools;
- During the winter; and
- Short connections between the road and dedicated cycling infrastructure.

The proposed by-law regulations are based on comprehensive review of industry best practices, consultation with numerous Canadian municipalities, and a review of the Province's E-scooter Pilot Program requirements. **The resulting regulations promote safety and accessibility, conform with Provincial requirements, and are as consistent with our neighbouring municipalities as possible.**

Throughout the Micromobility Strategy, City staff considered various exemptions to the sidewalk cycling restriction. The industry practice review and stakeholder consultation determined that:

- Enacting exemptions often resulted in a cumbersome process of developing, and continuously updating through amendments, a comprehensive list of every sidewalk segment where cycling is permitted. The exemptions also led to potential rider confusion surrounding who is permitted to cycle and where.
- Enacting a City-wide restriction, with an exemption to provide children time to learn the skills necessary to safely cycling on the road, has not resulted in any major concerns from residents.

Given these findings, Richmond Hill staff decided to propose a city-wide cycling restriction to remain as clear as possible, with an exemption for children aged 14 and under. It is important to note that the objective of enforcement will be to manage and dissuade dangerous riding behaviour.

Recognizing transportation trends continue to evolve and new technologies are continuously developed, City staff recommend to closely monitor micromobility operations, with a focus on sidewalk cycling, to fully understand if there are concerns that warrant future amendments to the Micromobility and Active Transportation By-law.

Recommendation(s):

- a) That the memorandum from the Commissioner, Infrastructure and Engineering Services dated September 19, 2025 and titled "Micromobility Strategy – Committee of the Whole Responses" be received for information purposes.

Attachment(s):

None

Submitted by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paolo Masaro". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Paolo Masaro
Commissioner Infrastructure and Engineering Services