



City Council Report

Date: December 2, 2019
To: City Council
Through: Karolyn Kent, Assistant City Manager
From: RJ Zeder, Transportation Director
Erik Guderian, Deputy Transportation Director
Subject: Terms and Conditions for Shared Active Transportation Vehicles (Citywide)

Purpose and Recommendation

The purpose of this report is to request Council approval for a program for Shared Active Transportation Vehicles (SATV), which includes Terms and Conditions and a License.

Background

An SATV is a commercially rented coaster, electric standup scooter, electric miniature scooter, bicycle, electric bicycle, or any other mobile vehicle, excluding motor vehicles, with a self-containing locking mechanism that does not require locking to a bicycle rack, docking system or other structure.

The proposed Terms and Conditions were developed in response to the emergence of dockless sharing companies. Dockless sharing companies operate a fee-based service in which SATVs are made available in the public right-of-way for shared use on a short-term basis. Users of dockless services typically use a smartphone app to locate and rent a vehicle. Unlike a docked system there are no fixed locations or docking stations for the SATVs. The vehicles are secured with an electronic wheel-locking mechanism that is unlocked via the Operator's smartphone app.

The primary intent of this one-year pilot program is to ensure safety and mobility for all users of the right-of-way, while maintaining aesthetics and preventing potential visual blight in Mesa. During the program, staff will evaluate its administrative efforts and gather data to determine if any revisions to the program are necessary.

The Terms and Conditions will regulate the Operator (entity or company) with Mesa City Code regulating the Rider.

Discussion

Since the arrival of SATVs, the City of Mesa, like other municipalities, has experienced the challenges that are associated with SATVs, such as blocking sidewalks, bus stops and businesses, being left on private property or in City of Mesa parks, vandalized bikes and a lack of responsiveness by certain vendors. The proposed Terms and Conditions require Operators to appropriately stage their SATVs, quickly resolve issues, educate Riders, provide the City with data and pay the necessary fees.

As indicated in the SATV Terms and Conditions between the City and the Operator, the Operator shall submit (1) a completed License; (2) the License Fee; (3) insurance documentation; and (4) images and description of SATVs at the Licensing Office.

Alternatives

The City Council could choose not to approve the program, which would continue to allow dockless sharing companies to operate in Mesa without oversight. This is not recommended as it limits City staff's ability to regulate operations in the right-of-way and forces the City of Mesa to use operating budget for any staff time associated with response to complaints regarding SATVs.

Fiscal Impact

Staff is proposing a License Fee of \$400 annually and a \$50 Impound Fee for each unauthorized SATV that is impounded by the City of Mesa.

License Fee

The Transportation Department proposes that an Operator, the entity renting and staging SATVs in the right of way, shall pay the amount of \$400.00 annually at the time of issuance of the License or renewal of a License. A License Fee of \$400.00 annually will recuperate the administrative costs associated with processing and issuing an Operator's application and license.

Impound Fee

The Transportation Department proposes a \$50.00 impound fee for each unauthorized SATV that is impounded by the City of Mesa. An unauthorized SATV is defined as one that does not adhere to the SATV Terms and Conditions and creates a safety, mobility or other-related issue.

The Operator shall be required to remove any unauthorized SATVs within 24 hours of notification by the City. If the Operator fails to remove the unauthorized SATV within 24 hours, the City may remove the unauthorized SATV and assess the Impound Fee. If the City deems the parked location an immediate safety hazard, the City reserves the right to immediately impound the SATV and assess the Impound Fee. An Impound Fee of \$50.00 per incident will recuperate the administrative cost associated with Transportation staff removing an unauthorized SATV.

Coordinated With

The City Attorney's Office, Office of Management and Budget, Mesa Police Department and the Business Services Department concur with this recommendation.