

<https://theconversation.com/80-of-fatal-e-scooter-crashes-involve-cars-new-study-reveals-where-and-why-most-collisions-occur-158609>

<https://siliconcanals.com/news/startups/travel-mobility/bird-launches-geofencing-tech/>

<https://electrek.co/2021/07/15/bird-is-adding-a-puzzle-to-its-electric-scooters-to-keep-drunk-riders-off/>

E-scooters are rapidly becoming a beloved and relied-upon mode of transportation in communities across the globe, including Knoxville. Thus, it is of paramount importance that e-scooters and other PMVs are properly regulated, so that everyone who uses our streets can do so safely regardless of what mode of transportation they choose. Bike Walk Knoxville would like to thank the members of City Council for their thoughtful consideration of the recent micro mobility ordinance.

However, if e-scooters are truly to be a valid mode of transportation, they must be given fair consideration. As an organization that firmly supports active transportation and traffic safety, Bike Walk Knoxville believes that e-scooters should be allowed on greenways. Greenways provide important connections across our community, and are often the safest way to get from one part of town to another for anyone not using a car. Disallowing e-scooters to use greenways effectively blocks off lots of locations that riders might like to access, or might result in them having to make longer, less convenient and more dangerous trips.

Further, through vendor controls and local regulations, e-scooters can be held to high standards of safe operation. Geofencing can be used to enforce slow-riding zones, in which the maximum allowable speed is automatically reduced, paired with a notification on the rider's device to explain the change in permitted speed. These areas can also be clearly demarcated on a map, allowing users to plan their route accordingly.

Many people are concerned about collisions between e-scooters and other greenway users, especially pedestrians. However, as with anyone using the greenway, it is important to emphasize educating folks on the best ways to share these amazing public spaces rather than disallowing some users from taking advantage of all our city has to offer. Bike Walk Knoxville would encourage a public education campaign about greenway etiquette, especially one with insight from the Greenway Committee. Further, the Greenway Ambassadors could serve in a key interface capacity to help everyone who uses our greenways understand how to share them with other mode users.

Ultimately, Bike Walk Knoxville is excited about the expansion of micro mobility opportunities in our community, and grateful to all the thoughtful care put into making these important decisions for our city. We believe that e-scooters and other PMVs deserve the opportunity to share greenways with other active transportation users, and we hope to see this change implemented soon to benefit everyone who enjoys micro mobility in Knoxville.