

Allowing the on-road use of urban mobility vehicles

Background:

MTO is interested in the feasibility of implementing a pilot program that would permit the on-road use of urban mobility vehicles.

MTO recognizes the importance of new or existing vehicle technology, especially if it expands mobility options for Ontarians; however, safety remains a top priority. The safe integration of new or existing vehicle types with pedestrians and other vehicles is a key consideration before any vehicle type will be allowed on-road.

Since 2005, Ontario's *Highway Traffic Act* has given the ministry the authority to implement and evaluate pilot projects by regulation, to test the safe integration of new and existing vehicles on Ontario's public roads. Under this pilot authority, the ministry is seeking to explore options and develop a feasible solution to allow the use of urban mobility vehicles on-road.

The pilot authority is intended to assess these vehicles over a specified period of time in order to examine their ability to safely integrate with other vehicle types, and determine whether existing rules of the road are adequate and the appropriateness of some unique operating and licensing requirements before expanding their use and/or allowing these vehicles on-road permanently.

Urban Mobility Vehicles

Urban mobility vehicles do not have a widely shared definition across jurisdictions. However, these vehicles can be generally described as small, compact, enclosed, three-wheeled, slow moving (max speed of up to 32km/h) electric vehicles usually built with one seat. However, they do not meet any *Canadian Motor Vehicle Safety Standards* and therefore are currently not permitted on Ontario roads.

Currently, no other Canadian province or territory allows urban mobility type vehicles on-road however, they are aware of the growing number of these new vehicle types on the market.

The ministry is interested in exploring the feasibility of these vehicles safely integrating with other road users while promoting road safety.

MTO is soliciting public comment on the proposal to permit the on-road use of urban mobility vehicles as part of a pilot project. This will allow the ministry to ensure urban mobility vehicles can be safely integrated with other road users before further decisions are made.

MTO is considering the following proposal and invites you to submit your comments for consideration.

Proposed Urban Mobility Vehicle Pilot Framework:

Pilot Duration:

The length of the pilot will be for a prescribed period of 10 years, to account for the investment that will be made to purchase an urban mobility vehicle and to ensure sufficient time to effectively monitor and evaluate the pilot results.

Driver Qualification

Must have a valid A, B, C, D, E, F or G licence

Operating Requirements Include:

- Only permitted to operate on roads with a maximum road speed limit of 50km/h;
- Cannot exceed a speed of 32 km/h;
- Should they be allowed to tow? - they have a trailer hitch for golf clubs, etc. Cannot tow other vehicles;
- Cannot be used for a road test;
- Required to display a slow-moving vehicle sign;
- Cannot carry passengers under eight years of age;
- Can be operated during nighttime hours if adequate lighting requirements are met for nighttime operation;
- Must be operated in the right-most lane;
- Can Urban mobility vehicles be operated in the winter? and,
- All *Highway Traffic Act* rules of the road and penalties will apply to the operation of urban mobility vehicles on-road.

Vehicle Safety Equipment Features Include:

- How many wheels
- Max length, width, height
- Max Weight
- Max power 1000 watts
- How many seats, bucket type seat
- A steering wheel/handle bar
- Door
- Winshield, wipers?
- headlights, turn signals, brake lights, daytime running lights?
- Service brakes and parking or emergency brakes
- Odometer
- A rear-view mirror
- A horn
- Good quality tires
- Reflectors
- Seatbelts (if manufactured with a seatbelt, they must be worn)

Insurance Requirements Include:

Automobile insurance may be required.

Registration Requirements Include:

Registration may be required.

Data Collection:

Municipalities to remit data to the province annually.