

MICROMOBILITY AND PUBLIC SAFETY:

A Presentation to the Quality-of-Life Committee



July 24, 2025



2021 Ordinance Changes

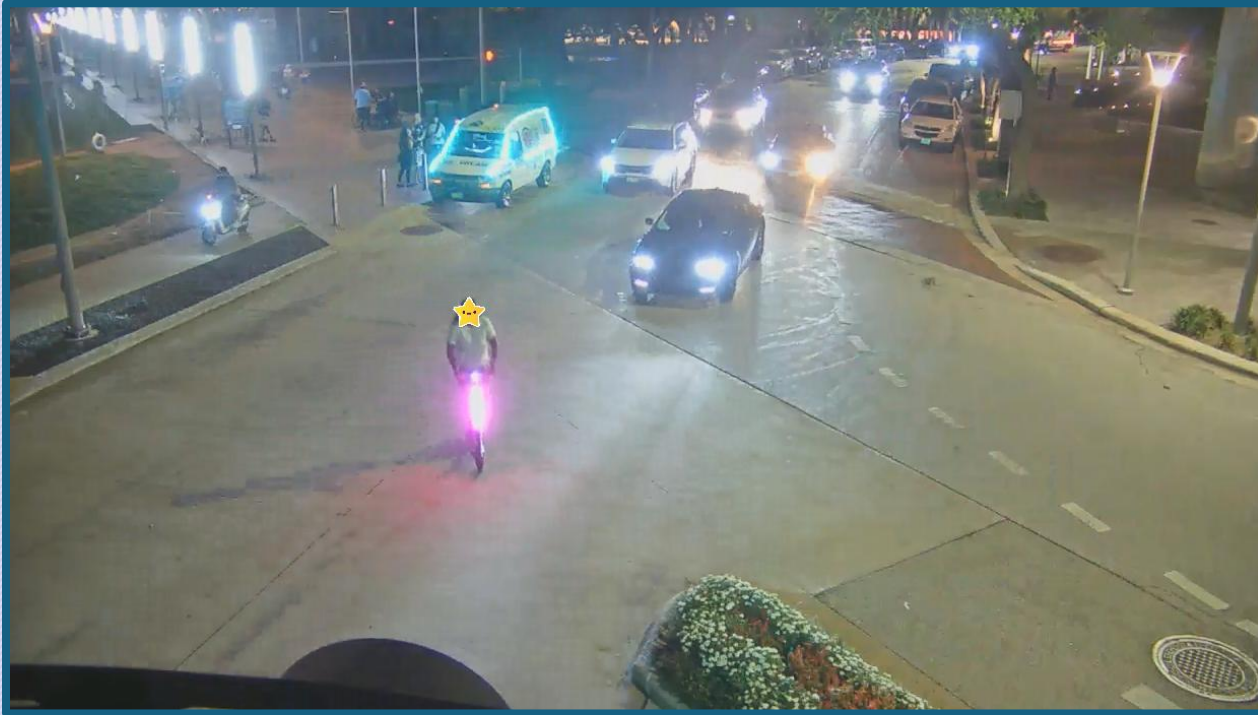
- The Right-of-Way (ROW) was being used by private vendors for profit with no compensation to the City
- Scooter and other vendors created obstructions on the sidewalks and roadways
- Pedestrian health & safety at risk
- City Council approved ordinance changes to Chapter 26 and 45 prohibiting use of ROW for rental of goods/services and enhancing enforcement provisions



Enforcement: 2021-2024

Vendor Warnings	0
Rider Warnings	2678
Vendor Citations	0
Rider Citations	43
Scooters Seized	0
Vehicles Towed	0
Arrests	4
Guns/Weapons Seized	3

Has Anything Changed Since 2021?



- Safety Issues Remain
 - Reckless Riders
 - Too fast
 - Riding on sidewalks
 - Ignoring stoplights and street signs
 - Pedestrians
- Complaints have increased

2025: Targeted Enforcement

- Scooter Safety Task Force: HPD & ARA
- Purpose: Enforce compliance w/Code
 - No rentals in public ROW
 - No blocking sidewalks for rentals
- Purpose: Safety - address reckless riders
- Purpose: Curb other nuisance and criminal activity accompanying unchecked scooter activity (weapons possession, excessive noise)



2025 Task Force Results to Date

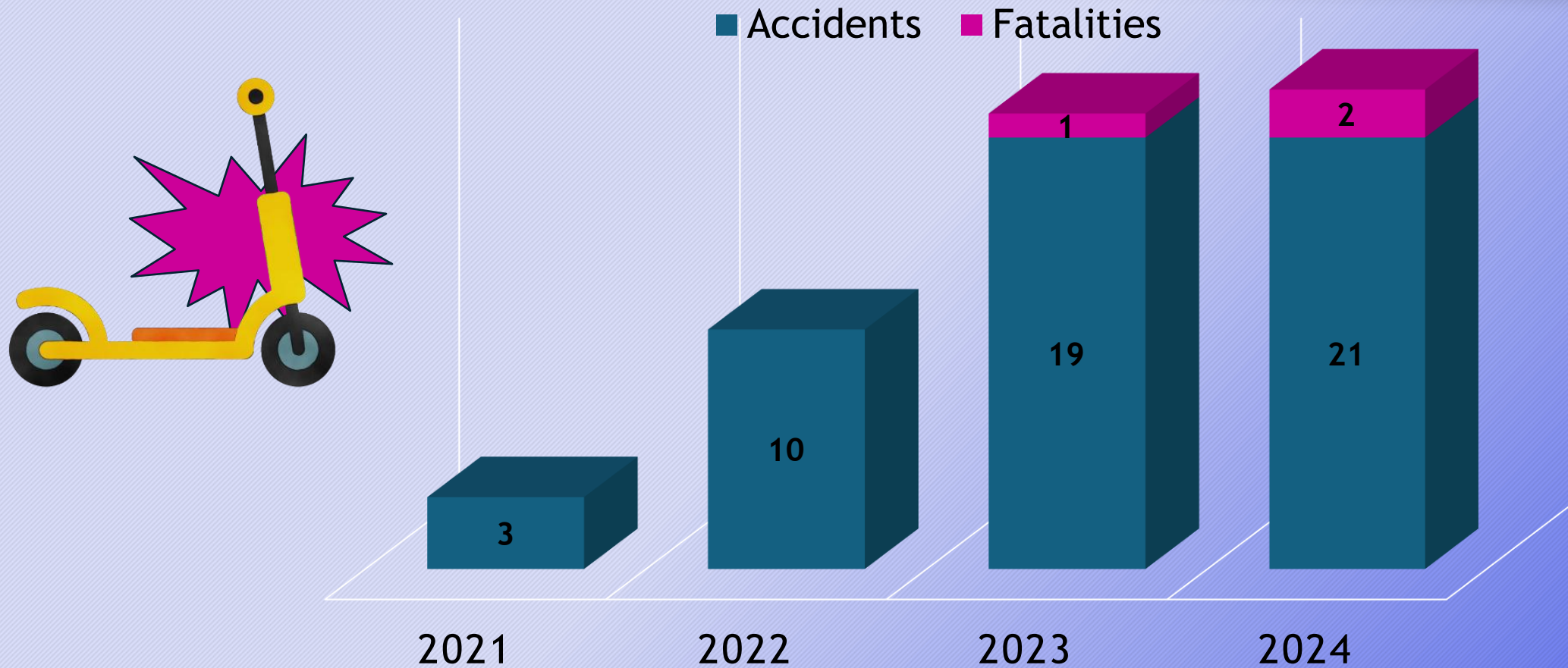
Description	Jan. 31- Feb. 1	March 28-29
Vendor Warnings	53	0
Rider Warnings	224	114
Vendor Citations	2	11
Rider Citations	8	0
Scooters Seized	78	51
Vehicles Towed	6	2
Arrests	2	2
Gun Recovered	1	1

TRENDS AND DATA



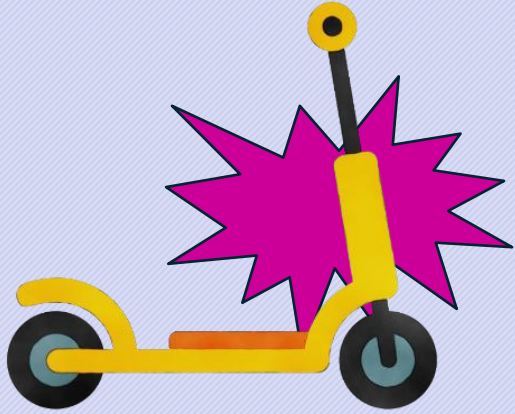
Houston e-Scooter Accidents 2021-2024:

Crashes and Fatalities are on the Rise



Source: TxDOT Crash Records Information System Data

e-Scooter Accidents by Council District



District Total Accidents Since 2021

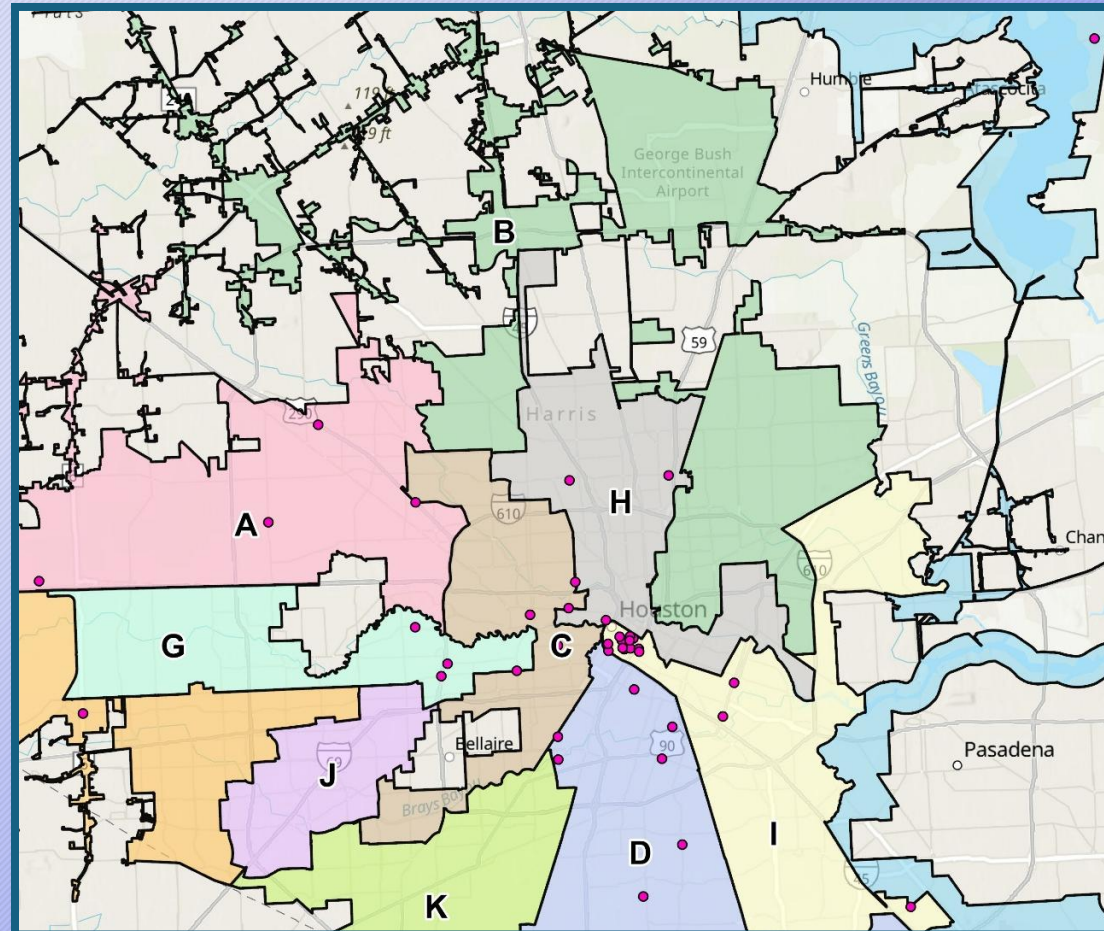
A	3
C	5
D	7
E	1
F	1
G	3
H	4
I	15

Map: Houston e-Scooter Accidents

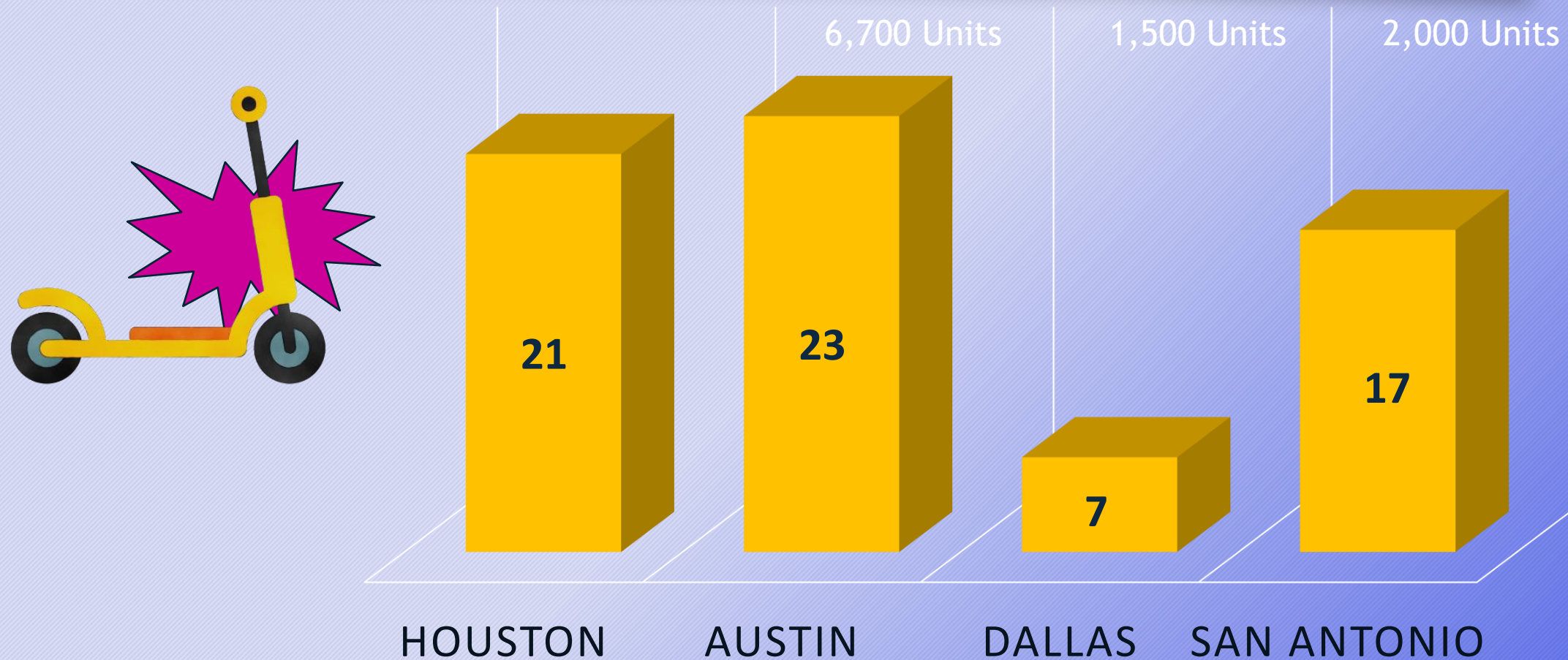
TxDOT-reported locations for 39 of the 53 accidents on record since 2021

The majority of e-scooter accidents (53%) with locations pinpointed by TxDOT occurred within the downtown area of Houston.

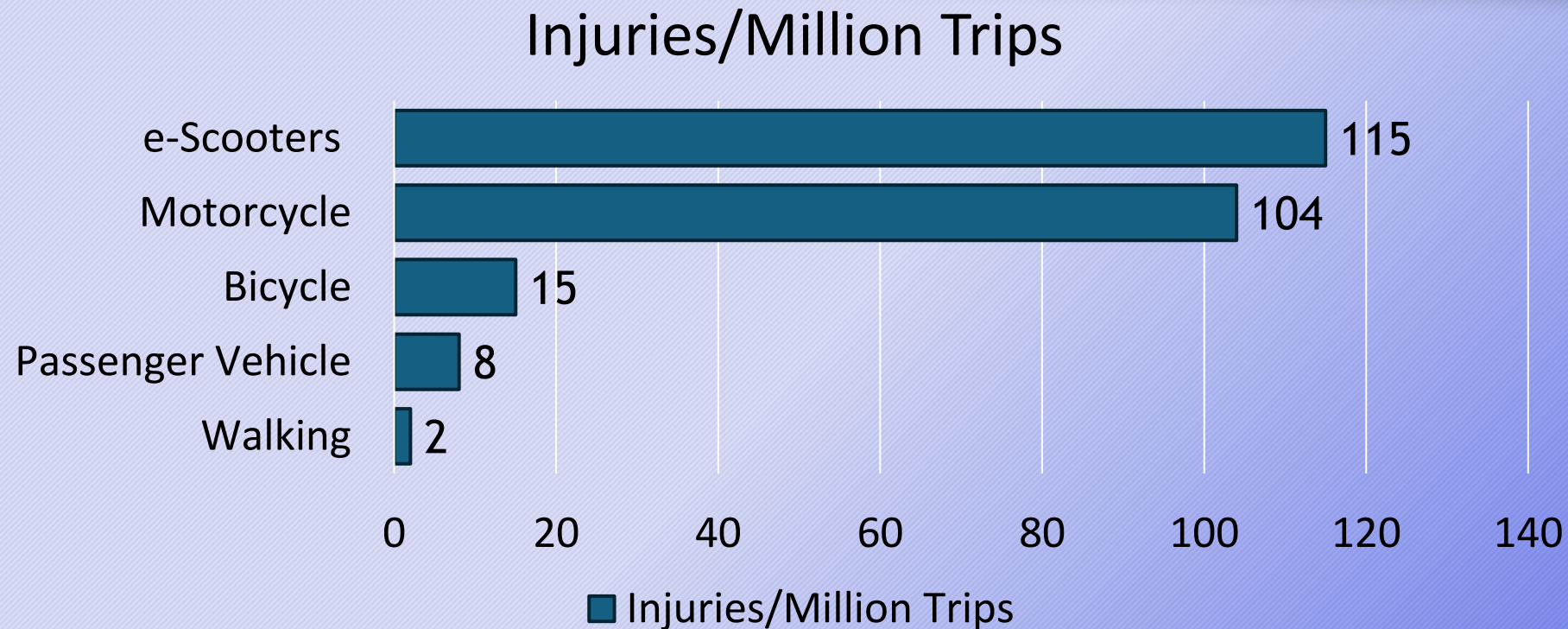
Three e-scooter rental companies operate out of locations downtown.



2024 e-Scooter Accidents: Major Texas Cities



e-Scooters are More Dangerous than Other Modes of Transportation



- e-scooters have the highest injury rate among transportation modes (115/million trips)
- e-scooter Riders suffer almost **three times as many accidents** as cyclists.
- Multiple studies report most accidents occur due to poor road surface conditions

BOTTOM LINE

- From 2021 to 2024 scooter accidents in Houston increased 600% **after** the ordinance was enacted, including two fatalities in 2024 and one in 2023.

July 16, 2025

Man, 70, Killed in Houston Scooter Accident on Ennis Street

November 4, 2024

Fatal scooter crash on Fairlake lane claims life of Houston man; investigation ongoing

July 1, 2024

Houston electric scooter crash: Teen hurt, residents express concerns

March 27, 2024

Residents in Downtown Houston call for more scooter regulation, enforcement

June 23, 2023

Scooter rider hit by turning vehicle in Houston's East End, police say

May 24, 2020

Scooter rider killed in crash with pickup truck

January 29, 2023

Man killed in overnight hit-and-run crash while riding electric scooter in downtown Houston

What Are Other Major Cities Doing about Scooter Safety?

- [Toronto, Canada \(2019\)](#) - e-scooters are **banned** from public streets, sidewalks, trails, and other public spaces regardless of user age, due to safety concerns.
- [Paris, France \(2023\)](#) - Residents voted in a referendum to **ban rental scooters**, a move that will not impact privately owned devices.
- [Melbourne, Australia \(2024\)](#) – **scooters are banned** - “This was an opportunity to end the havoc on Melbourne’s footpaths and make our city safe again,” said Melbourne Mayor Nicolas Reece.
- [Madrid, Spain \(2024\)](#) – **moratorium on e-scooter permits** - Madrid council will not grant any further e-scooter operating permits, said Mayor Martínez-Almeida, “as it has been shown that the market cannot meet the necessary requirements established by the council that guarantee the highest level of citizen safety possible.”

Houston Options

- Prohibit scooter use in the public rights-of-way (ban) in areas of the city where scooter activity has become a threat to public safety, or
- Create a framework to regulate scooters, or
- Maintain the status quo



Comparison of Options

Concern	Ban	Permit Program	Status Quo
Pedestrian Safety	Eliminates public safety risks	Reduces risk via speed limits, no-go zones, sidewalk detecting technology.	Depends on ability to enforce
Rider Safety	Eliminates risk	Reduce injuries via speed limits, safety education, helmets	Difficult to mitigate

Can Houston Ban e-Scooters?

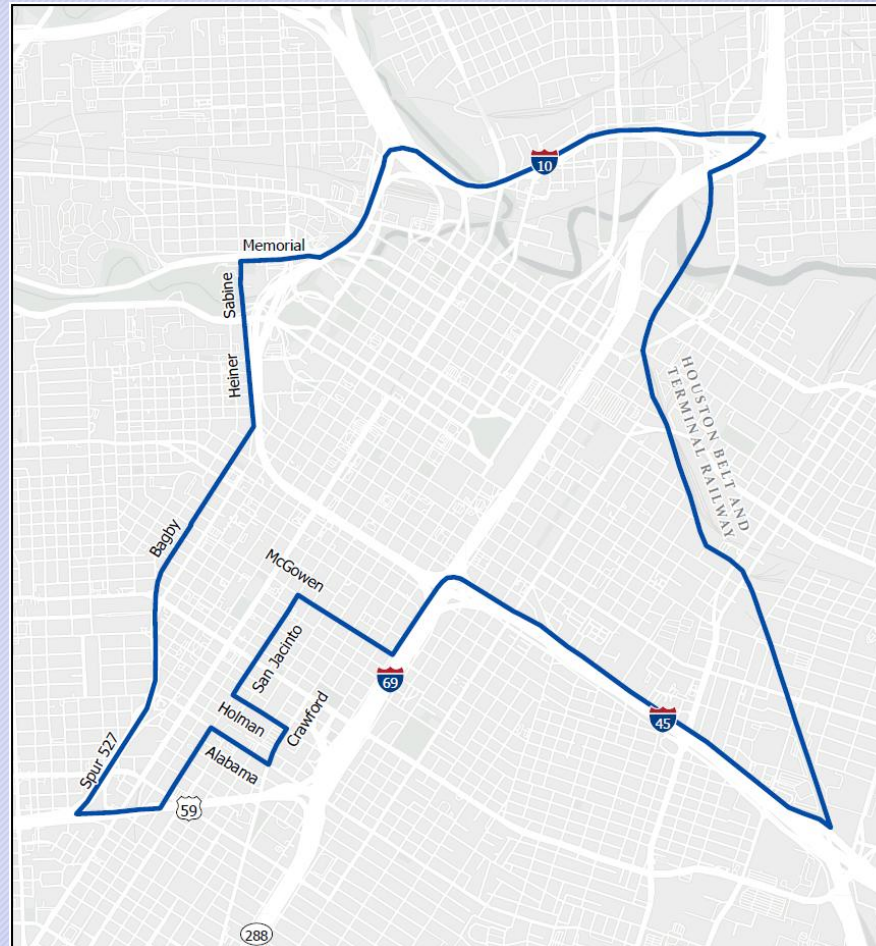
Texas state law allows a municipality to ban people from using motor-assisted scooters on a street, highway, or sidewalk if the governing body determines that such a ban is necessary in the interest of public safety.

Recommendation

Approve City Ordinance amending Chapter 45, Article XIV, prohibiting e-scooters in the public rights-of-way within a scooter-free zone.



Where would Scooter Use be Prohibited? Scooter-Free Zone



The background is split into two main sections. The left section features a perspective view of a grid of lines, creating a tunnel-like effect that recedes into the distance. The right section is a solid blue gradient. A large, semi-transparent teal circle is positioned in the lower-left area, overlapping the grid pattern.

QUESTIONS?