

# MICROMOBILITY AND PUBLIC SAFETY

Quality-of-Life Committee



December 1, 2025



# Agenda

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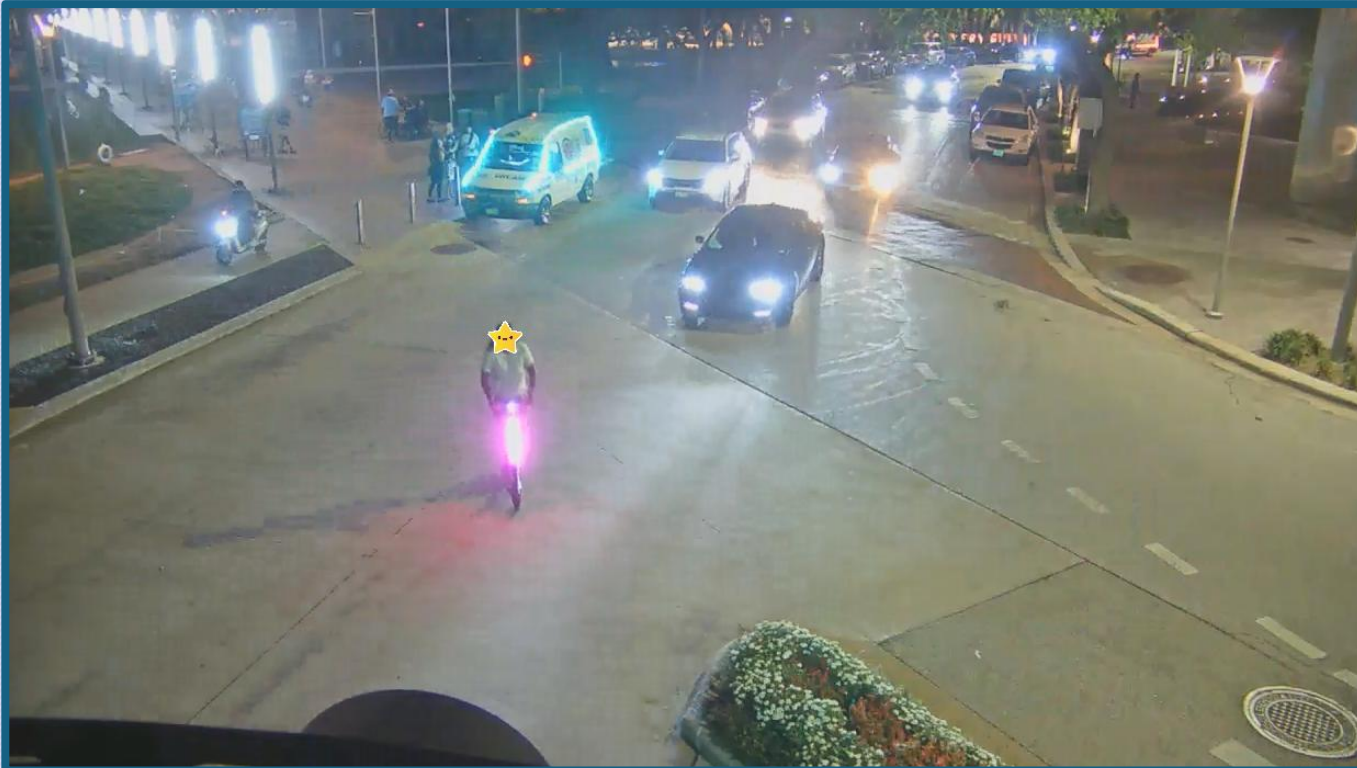
- Background
- Chapter 45 Provisions
- Enforcement
- Next Steps
- Questions





# What is a Micromobility Device?

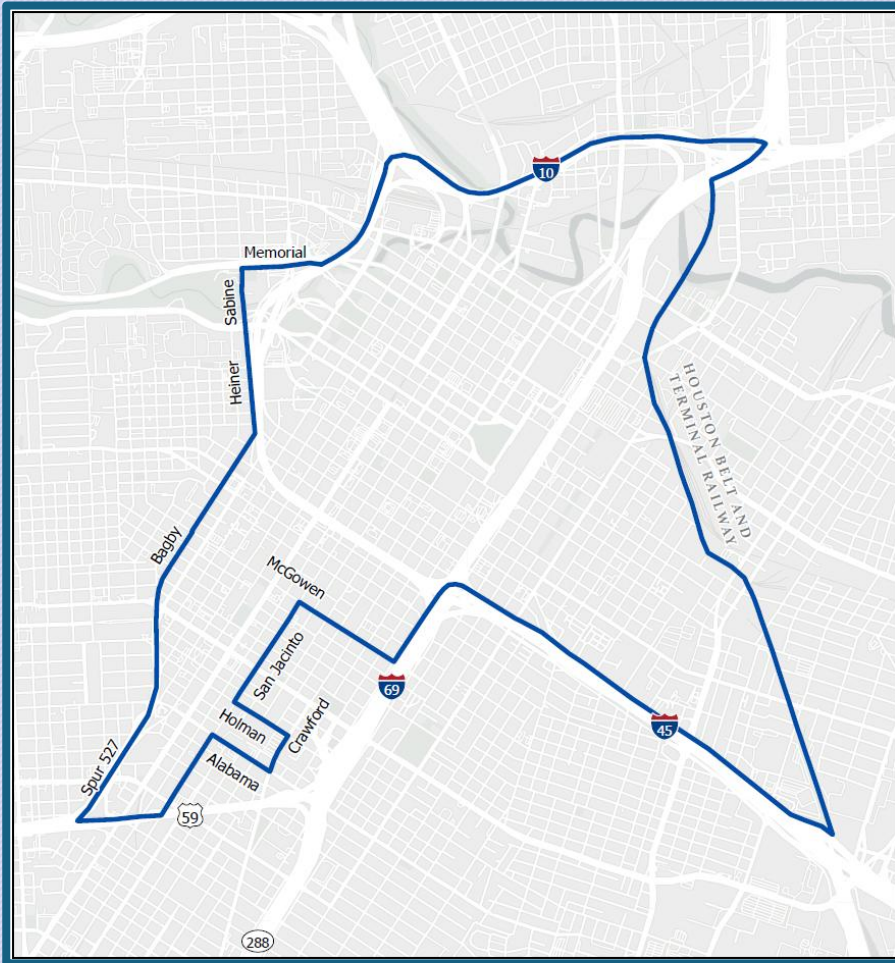
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- E-Scooters
- E-skateboards
- Hoverboard
- Electric skates
- What is not included?
  - Mopeds
  - E-Bikes
  - Mobility Scooters
  - Segways
  - Kick Scooter
  - Regular Skateboard

# Original Proposal: Scooter Ban in Scooter-Free Zones

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- A proposal for a scooter-free zone encompassing downtown and the surrounding areas was presented to the Quality-of-Life Committee on July 24, 2025 and posted online for public feedback.



# Public Response to Original Proposal

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## Quality of Life In-Person Testimony (7/24/2025):

- 40 responses
- 22 OPPOSE (55%); 18 SUPPORT (45%)

## Online Feedback (as of 11/18/25):

- 316 responses
- 260 OPPOSE (82%); 56 SUPPORT (18%)

## Houston Resident Survey (Zencity):

- 1200 survey participants:
  - 9 % Complete ban
  - 30% Ban in specific areas
  - 36% Don't ban; regulate
  - 13% Don't ban; leave it as is
  - 12% Need more information



**39%** Supported a Ban in Some Form

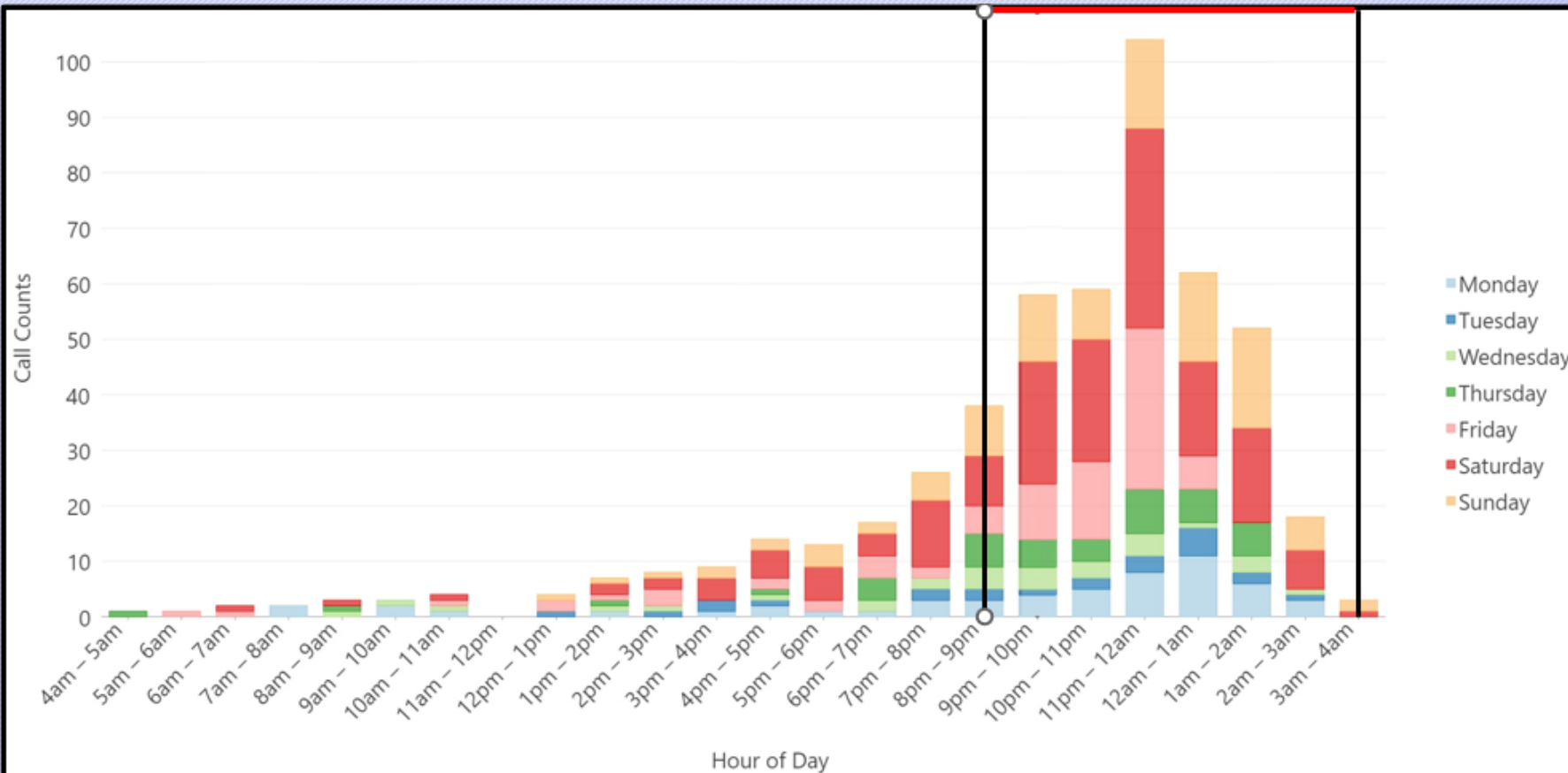


**49%** Opposed Banning Scooters

# Public Safety Data: 536 EMS Calls Downtown

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Data Provided by Houston Fire Department for **January 1, 2021 – November 24, 2025**



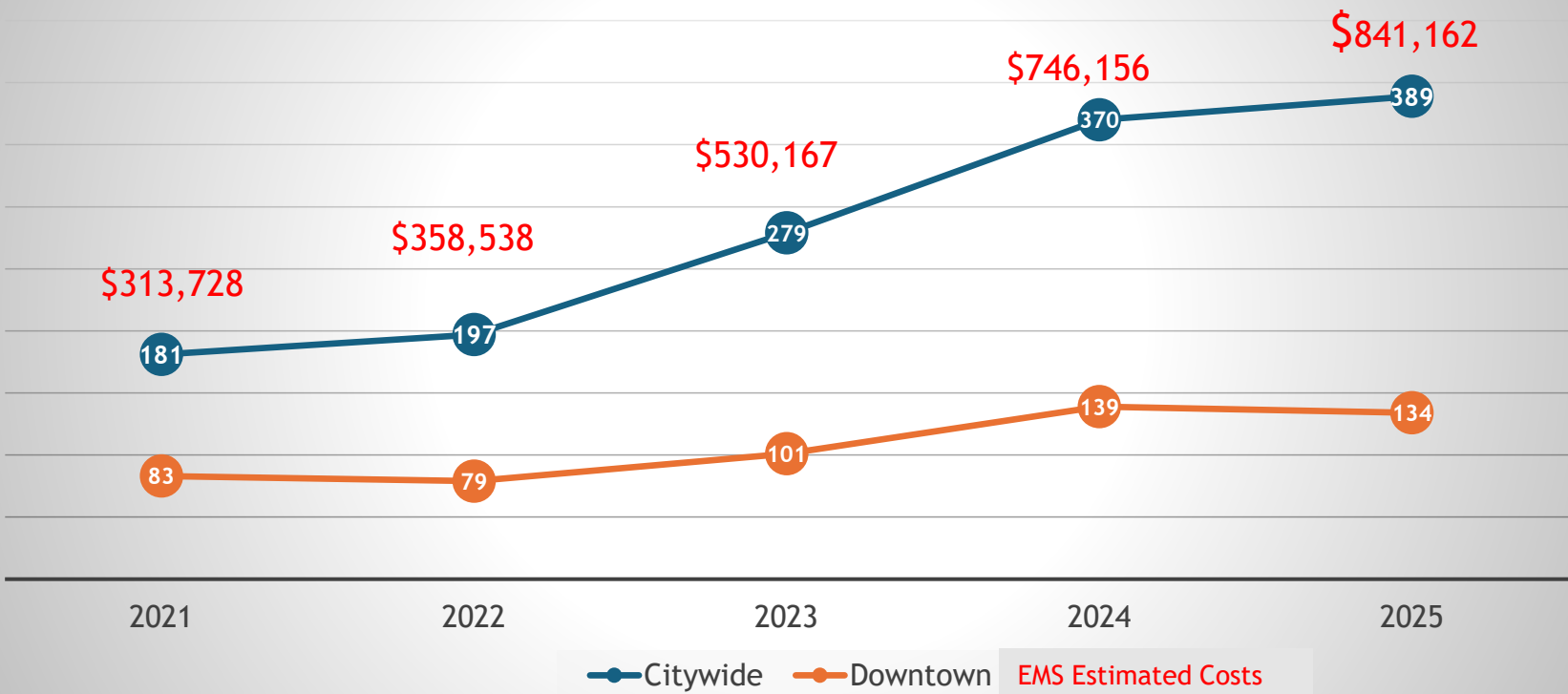
- **78%** of EMS calls for service for scooter incidents occur between **8 p.m. - 4 a.m.**, Fri – Sun
- **65%** of EMS calls for scooter incidents **citywide** required **hospital transport**
- HPD reported **four deaths** resulting from scooter collisions with another vehicle

# Public Safety Data: 1,416 EMS Calls Citywide

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Data Provided by Houston Fire Department for January 1, 2021 – November 24, 2025

Scooter Incidents 2021-2025



The City of Houston has spent **\$2,789,748** in EMS response to scooter incidents citywide since 2021

HPD has spent about **\$185,000** in OT responding to scooter-related incidents in FY26



# Targeted Enforcement: 2021-2025

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Vendor Warnings	53
Rider Warnings	3,628
Vendor Citations	15
Rider Citations	215
Scooters Seized	162
Arrests	172
Guns/Weapons Seized	43
Total Citations Issued (2025 only)	1,001
Total Suspects Jailed (2025 only)	134



# Approved Ordinance

## November 19, 2025

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The primary elements of the ordinance approved by City Council on November 19, 2025 are listed below:

- Citywide curfew 8 p.m. to 4 a.m.
- Prohibition against rentals from 8 p.m. to 4 a.m.
- Prohibition against rentals from temporary structures
- Authorizes HPD to impound any micromobility device or off-highway vehicle operating in violation of curfew
- Provides a hearing process for impounded vehicles
- Affirmative defenses to prosecution



# Approved Ordinance

## November 19, 2025

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Affirmative defenses to prosecution for scooter use during curfew:

- Commuting to/from place of employment or school
- Responding to a personal or family emergency
- Law enforcement, emergency medical personnel or COH employee in performance of official duties
- In a special event or activity permitted by the City



# Enforcement

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- HPD/ARA delivered post cards, ordinance, and FAQs to e-scooter vendors
- HPD has been issuing warnings in advance of issuing citations
- E-Scooter activity has drastically diminished since approval of the ordinance
  - EMS has responded to five (5) e-scooter incidents since November 19, 2025



# Next Steps

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- Fresh start: take back the sidewalks for pedestrians
- Special event pilot for scooter regulations
- Collect data to inform future of scooters in Houston







# QUESTIONS?