

Dockless Mobility

03/04/19

Planning, Building, and Development
City Council Briefing

March 4 2019

Dockless mobility

Introduced 2017

Not tethered to stations

Issues with operation



Photo credit Eduardo Contreras / San Diego Union-Tribune. Retrieved from <https://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/opinion/the-conversation/sd-dockless-bikes-san-diego-how-do-they-work-20180316-htmlstory.html>

Context

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YsWXQxJhfOE>

Experience in other localities

General Assembly legislation

Likely to enter Roanoke market this year

Scooter vs bike usage is 4 to 1

Arlington, Richmond, Charlottesville, Alexandria

Localities charge annual permit fees from \$5,000 up to \$45,000

About the vehicles

Top speed of 15 mph

Brakes

Built in head and tail lights (auto on)

Scooters +/- 40 lbs.

Lime and Bird have most of the market



Image courtesy of Nick Wood
<https://austinyourfeet.com/2018/04/23/dockless-scooters-the-revolution-is-ours-if-we-want-it/>

How the system works

Activated by a smartphone app

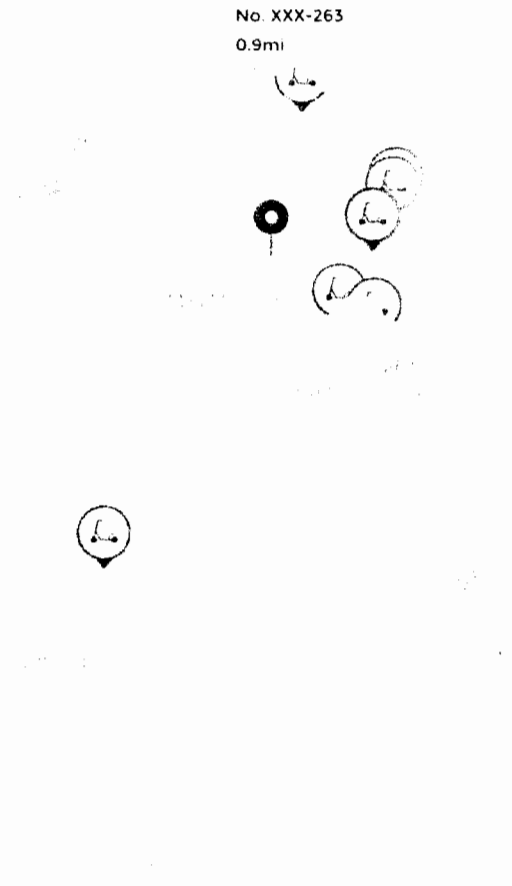
Located through GPS tracking

Wheels lock when parked

Alarm and GPS deter theft

Local contractors retrieve, recharge, and redeploy

Deployment based on usage patterns



Operator practices

Adults 18+

Helmets strongly encouraged

Price structure is \$1 + \$0.15/minute

Discounts for low-income users

Photo to park

“Geofencing” - GPS feature to discourage use in certain areas

Detailed data on usage

Recommendations

Establish regulations for operation

Establish a permitting program

Administrative rules that can be readily adapted

Flat permit fee of \$5,000

Provide for a cap on vehicles

Permit conditions

Create geofenced areas to restrict use

Provide monthly usage data

Equitable service patterns

Local operations contact person for improper parking and service issues

Cooperate with city to establish and designate dockless parking areas

Permit conditions

Information to users about proper parking and operation

Hold harmless/indemnification

Reasonable cap on the number of scooters and bikes

Removal/relocation for inclement weather and special events

Rider safety events and a City staff testing event

Code Changes

Chapter 20, Article VII

Add references to “powered scooter”

Permit operation on streets, with the rights and responsibilities of motor vehicles.

Scooters and bikes will be prohibited from sidewalks. Powered vehicles are prohibited from greenways and parks

Add a permit requirement for dockless mobility operators

Calibrate with 2019 state code changes

Considerations

Coordinate public information

Effort to administer permit process

Responsiveness to issues

Lack of regulation is an issue

Next steps

City Council

Ordinance to amend city code

Adopt fees into the fee compendium

Administration

Establish a permitting application process

Approve administrative rules

Coordinate public information messaging

Next steps

Planning, Building, and Development (lead)

Collaboration with Transportation, Police, City Attorney, and Citizen Engagement

Questions and discussion