



Department Source: Public Works

To: City Council

From: City Manager & Staff

Council Meeting Date: November 18, 2019

Re: Authorizing a Letter of Support on Behalf of the University of Missouri-Columbia relating to Grant Funding for Electric Scooter Safety Study

## Executive Summary

Staff is requesting that Council authorize the City Manager to provide a letter of support on behalf of the University of Missouri-Columbia (UMC) related to a grant proposal to study electric scooter safety as part of the National Behavioral Traffic Safety Cooperative Research Program. A copy of the draft letter of support is attached.

## Discussion

Representatives from UMC Civil Engineering department contacted the city's Public Works department seeking a letter of support for a potential grant funded study related to scooter safety as part of the National Behavioral Traffic Safety Cooperative Research Program (BTSCRCP). If the study is funded, representatives from the Civil Engineering department will request permission to mount cameras at select intersections to capture the interaction of scooters, bicycles, pedestrians and vehicles. Most intersections will likely be near the CID or UMC campus, though some may be located in other areas.

According to UMC, the video data will be most helpful in allowing them to typify unsafe or risky behavior of different road users including scooter riders and others. Video would also allow them to perform conflict analysis and generate a collision risk map for each of the movement types for each surveyed intersection. The video would remain the property of UMC; and City staff would not directly be involved in the analysis of the data.

Staff is supportive of efforts to improve safety of all transportation modes. Electric assist scooters are an emerging form of transportation that currently has limited analytical safety analysis. This study could potentially benefit safety efforts not only in Columbia, but nationwide. While the use of the video will be relatively narrow in scope, due to perceptions related to video being used within the right of way, staff felt it was important to bring this information and request for support to Council for consideration.

## Fiscal Impact

Short-Term Impact: None

Long-Term Impact: No direct fiscal impact anticipated; however, information may help with informed decisions regarding safety funding.



## Strategic & Comprehensive Plan Impacts

### Strategic Plan Impacts:

Primary Impact: Public Safety, Secondary Impact: Infrastructure, Tertiary Impact: Not Applicable

### Comprehensive Plan Impacts:

Primary Impact: Mobility, Connectivity, and Accessibility, Secondary Impact: Livable & Sustainable Communities, Tertiary Impact: Infrastructure

## Legislative History

<i>Date</i>	<i>Action</i>
	None

## Suggested Council Action

Direct the City Manager to provide a letter of support on behalf of the University of Missouri-Columbia (UMC) related to a grant proposal to study electric scooter safety.