

# Mayor's Disability Council



**Alex Madrid**  
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Co-Chairs

**Nicole Bohn**  
Director

Kate Toran  
Director  
Taxis and Accessible Services Division  
San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency

January 24, 2023

Dear Kate,

Thank you for your presentation about E-Scooter Safety Enforcement at the November 18, 2022 Mayor's Disability Council (MDC) meeting.

We understand from your presentation that SFMTA does not have the legal authority to regulate private e-scooters. However, SFMTA does have enforcement authority over e-scooter *rental companies* because SFMTA issues the licenses to operate. If this understanding is correct, we would like to know what legal authority SFMTA would need via legislation to be able to regulate private e-scooter riders. We would also welcome other proposals about what measures can be taken to reduce the risks to public safety from privately-owned e-scooters, going beyond public information campaigns.

E-scooter safety enforcement is obviously important to our community and the MDC has several recommendations to that end:

1. Expand regular surveillance of sidewalks to a broader geographic area, including beyond downtown and areas near central facilities;

2. Improve bike lane and street conditions to encourage e-scooter riders to stay off sidewalk;
3. And, explore how to collect data about people with disabilities and their injuries from e-scooters by perhaps offering a voluntary questionnaire where participants could self-identify.

Please know we appreciate SFMTA's continued partnership with MDC and the Mayor's Office on Disability on this issue, as well as the many transportation issues that impact the City's disability community.

We welcome the opportunity to meet with you directly regarding these recommendations.

Sincerely,

Helen Smolinski  
Member, Mayor's Disability Council

cc: Nicole Bohn, Director, Mayor's Office on Disability  
Jeffrey Tumlin, Director, San Francisco MTA  
Annette Williams, Director of Accessible Services, MTA  
Supervisor Aaron Peskin