

Thursday, April 18, 2019

House Transportation Committee Hearing

Good morning, my name is Derek Whitesel and I am the Executive Director of the Harrisburg Young Professionals. I am pleased to be here this morning to represent private sector support for the legalization of electric low-speed scooters in Pennsylvania, as well as specifically here in Harrisburg.

The scooter represents an effective 'first and last mile' option for the public transit commuting public, as well as a short-distance travel alternative connecting people to their destinations throughout the region.

Harrisburg's Bike Share program has proven to be extremely successful during its two years of operation; the addition of electric low-speed scooters would give the community another transportation alternative in our community toolbox – providing the region with a travel alternative other than the single-occupant vehicle.

This option gives consumers an extended reach – whereas a distance may be deemed too far to walk, too sweaty to bike, or too far from public transit, the scooter offers a fast and easy way to access a destination.

Scooters can also enhance city residential living throughout Pennsylvania. They can help decrease city dwellers' dependence on cars, providing mobility over a larger area.

In addition, the cottage businesses that have evolved in other areas where the scooter has become a staple, have provided an economic boon to those communities. Individuals and organizations have stepped up to charge, clean, repair and relocate scooters – offering a small business income opportunity where it previously didn't exist.

We respectfully request your positive consideration of this Bill, allowing the implementation of low-speed scooter usage throughout Pennsylvania.

Thank you for your time.