

Statement of Ted Leonard
Executive Director
Pennsylvania AAA Federation
On Electric Scooters
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One of the newest modes of personal transportation deployed on city streets is the electric scooter; also known as e-scooters or e-bikes. In many cities across the country, and internationally, these scooters are available to rent with several options costing just \$1 to start, and with an additional time-based usage fee. Some cities are encouraging their deployment as a way to increase first and last mile transportation options, making it easier for travelers to get to or from public transportation to their destination, while others see these devices as sidewalk pollution. The rapid expansion of e-scooters has raised questions about their impact on traffic safety and caused state and local governments to scramble to regulate this new mode of transportation.

Currently in Pennsylvania, these vehicles do not comply with the equipment standards and inspection requirements for motor vehicles and cannot be titled or registered within the Commonwealth. These vehicles cannot be operated on Pennsylvania roadways or sidewalks.

As e-scooters spread to new markets, state and local governments have been caught without laws or rules in place to regulate the use of these vehicles on public roads and sidewalks. The District of Columbia and 33 states in some manner define an electric bicycle. Thirteen states have created a three-tiered classification system intended to differentiate models with varying speed capabilities. The thirteen states with a three-tiered classification system also differ in terms of helmet requirements, age restrictions and where they may be ridden. Some states allow operation only on streets and bike lanes, while others allow riders to use the sidewalks.

To promote a greater level of safety for both operators and passengers using e-scooters, AAA recommends states enact legislation requiring electric scooter riders to wear helmets if under age 18. AAA also believes electric scooters should not be operated on public roadways. AAA encourages electric scooter rental and

bikeshare companies to include safety information and training for users when signing up to use their service so that riders will know safe riding techniques and the regulations for their jurisdiction. States should allow cities and municipalities to pass ordinances and regulations that are appropriate to their jurisdiction.

As with any of these emerging forms of transportation, state and local experiences will determine the need to review existing policies for possible updates and revisions to ensure safety for riders, pedestrians and the motoring public.