

Bicycle Bylaw No. 9705 Amendment – Power Assisted Bicycle Definition

ISSUE

The report provides a recommendation to update the definition of power assisted bicycles in Bylaw No. 9705 – The Bicycle Bylaw, 2020.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Standing Policy Committee on Transportation recommend to City Council:

1. That the definition of power assisted bicycles in Bylaw No. 9705 – The Bicycle Bylaw, 2020 be updated to include the definition for power-assisted bicycle under *The Registration Exemption and Reciprocity Regulations, 2014*; and
2. That the City Solicitor be requested to prepare the appropriate bylaw amendment to Bylaw No. 9705 – The Bicycle Bylaw, 2020.

BACKGROUND

Power-assisted bicycles are regulated federally and provincially. In 2020, the City of Saskatoon’s Bylaw No. 9705 – The Bicycle Bylaw, 2020 was updated, including the definition of power-assisted bicycles (i.e., e-bikes), as outlined below:

“power-assisted bicycle” means a power-assisted bicycle as defined in the federal Motor Vehicle Safety Regulations.

The federal definition for power-assisted bicycles has since been repealed so Bylaw No. 9705 – The Bicycle Bylaw, 2020 definition is no longer valid and requires an update.

DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS

In November 2021, the provincial government added the following definition for a power-assisted bicycle to *The Registration Exemption and Reciprocity Regulations, 2014* (the “Regulations”):

Section 2.1. (f) “power-assisted bicycle” means a vehicle that:

- (i) has handlebars used for steering;
- (ii) is equipped with pedals;
- (iii) is designed to travel on not more than 3 wheels;
- (iv) is capable of being propelled by pedalling;
- (v) has one or more electric motors that have, singly or in combination, the following characteristics:
 - (A) a total continuous power output rating of 500 watts or less when measured at the shaft of each motor;
 - (B) if engaged by the use of muscular power, immediate cessation of power assistance on the withdrawal of muscular power;

- (C) if engaged by the use of an accelerator controller, immediate cessation of power assistance on application of the brakes;
- (D) further power assistance cannot be provided when the bicycle attains a speed of 32 kilometres per hour when operated on level ground; and
- (vi) has one of the following safety features:
 - (A) a mechanism to turn the electric motor on and off that can be engaged by the driver and that is separate from the accelerator controller; or
 - (B) a mechanism that prevents the motor from being engaged before the bicycle attains a speed of 3 kilometres per hour;

Without a federal definition of power-assisted bicycles, Bylaw No. 9705 – The Bicycle Bylaw, 2020 requires an update to incorporate the new provincial definition under the Regulations,

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications to the City of Saskatoon.

OTHER IMPLICATIONS

There are no privacy, social, or environmental implications identified.

NEXT STEPS

Upon City Council direction, City Solicitors will update the definition of power-assisted bicycles in Bylaw No. 9705 – The Bicycle Bylaw, 2020.

Report Approval

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