

Urtiz, Joanna

From: Bauman, Robert
Sent: Wednesday, July 1, 2026 2:01 PM
To: Rachel Goochey
Cc: DeLessio, Ax; Urtiz, Joanna
Subject: RE: Scooters on sidewalks

I understand the point. It appears the city's roadway infrastructure is not designed for safe scooter operations. While DPW has been working on protected bike lane infrastructure, building out such infrastructure will take years given the cost and the city's lack of resources. Given this reality, it is possible that Milwaukee is not quite ready for micro mobility devices. I do know that side walk riding must stop by any means possible. If sidewalks are the only safe place to ride as many advocates argue, then the program may no longer be viable. We have received a lot of calls to shut down the program entirely.

From: Rachel Goochey <rachelg@wisconsinbikefed.org>
Sent: Wednesday, July 1, 2026 12:50 PM
To: Bauman, Robert <rjbauma@milwaukee.gov>
Subject: Re: Scooters on sidewalks

You don't often get email from rachelg@wisconsinbikefed.org. [Learn why this is important](#)
Also, edit that to say that I meant to address that email to Ald. Bauman! So sorry for the mis-type.

Rachel Goochey
MilWALKee Walks Program Manager

On Wed, Jul 1, 2026 at 12:48 PM Rachel Goochey <rachelg@wisconsinbikefed.org> wrote:

Ald. Chambers,

This is in regards to the scooter incident that occurred on MLK Dr. on June 16. This crash is a tragedy and should be treated as such. I am glad to see that there has been so much concern for the pedestrian who was injured in this crash.

However, have you ever tried to ride a bike or scooter through that segment of MLK? It is all but impossible. Extensive outdoor dining in front of Who's on Third effectively erases the bike lane. There has also been construction on MLK near there, again blocking the bike lanes and creating smaller driving lanes. There is no safe way for a bicyclist or e-scooter rider to navigate that stretch of MLK. It is not surprising that the young man who was riding the scooter chose to ride on the sidewalk.

I manage a [pedestrian safety program](#) for the WI Bike Fed and I often talk to pedestrians who are frustrated by scooters and bikes on the sidewalks. And I agree with them! But without a comprehensive system of protected bike lanes that safely serve bicyclists and scooter riders, we can anticipate continuing to see them on the sidewalks.

If downtown Milwaukee wants to call itself "walkable" and encourage active transportation, we need to invest in pedestrian and bicyclist infrastructure. Prohibiting e-scooters or severely lowering the speeds will not make downtown safer for pedestrians. Increased transportation options improve pedestrian safety. If Milwaukee truly

values the pedestrians who come downtown to enjoy all that our amazing city has to offer, we need to look at creating safer ways for people to access downtown and safer spaces once they are here.

Eliminating or hobbling e-scooter programs in the name of pedestrian safety only reinforces our city's car dependency. The incident on MLK clearly showed that something needs to change, but we need to be forward thinking with those changes. How can we create a thriving active transportation culture in Milwaukee?

Rachel Goochey (*she/her/hers*)

MilWALKEe Walks Program Manager

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