

March 9, 2021

Alderman Robert Bauman Members of the Public Works Committee 200 E. Wells St., Room 205 Milwaukee, WI 53202

Dear Alderman Bauman and Public Works Committee Members,

I'm writing to you today to support the Department of Public Works' proposed 2021 Dockless Scooter Pilot Study.

As we rise from the dust of this viscous pandemic, we support all methods available to assure our commercial district's success in the coming months and year. We know we that all of Milwaukee small businesses are waiting for the continued progress against the virus and our eventual full and robust re-opening of our local economy.

While dockless scooters are still a relatively new mode of transportation, their potential benefits must be adequately assessed, and the proposed pilot study as developed will allow DPW to do so. Dockless scooters, bike share, the HOP, bus transit, bike lanes, and walkable streets are all indicators of vibrant, modern cities. We must continue to explore the various new and innovative ways for people to experience and reach their destinations in our community.

The pilot study will allow all of us in the community and within government to study dockless scooters, understand their benefits, and identify issues relative to their operation in our City. As the 2019 experience showed, with over 350,000 scooter rides that season, this is an extremely popular choice of transportation. The Historic Third Ward experienced many of those trips to and from our district due to the proximity to the Summerfest grounds and the Milwaukee Public Market. We are happy to report that very few problems with the program were reported to our organization that summer.

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We urge you to support this pilot study for 2021 and we look forward to engaging with City officials later this year evaluating the program.

Thank you for all you do to support the Historic Third Ward community. Please let me know if you have questions regarding our support for this program.

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Sincerely,

Jim Plaisted, Executive Director