

Office of the County Auditor
Auditor's Analysis

Council Resolution No. 19-2024

Introduced: February 5, 2024

Auditors: Diane Zagorski-Kelly

Fiscal Impact:

The fiscal impact of this legislation cannot be estimated, as it is unknown if the fee being reduced from \$10,000 to \$2,000 will result in a vendor applying for and receiving a permit to operate a shared scooter program in the County.

The Planning Manager of the Department of Transportation (the Department) has indicated that this resolution's intent is to entice potential vendors to apply for a one-year scooter sharing program permit in Fiscal Year 2024, which could result in the County collecting up to two \$2,000 permit fees in its General Fund.

The Planning Manager indicated that the incremental operating costs of the shared scooter program would be \$500 per month for a subscription service to manage the program. This would result in maximum annual cost of \$6,000, which would exceed the potential permit revenues of the shared scooter program. However, the Planning Manager indicated this subscription may not be necessary every month of the operational period.

Purpose:

Council Resolution 19-2024 decreases the fee for a Publicly Accessible Electric Scooter Sharing System Permit from \$10,000 to \$2,000.

Other Comments:

The application process for the next operational period of May 1, 2024 to April 30, 2025 began on February 1, 2024. The Department will communicate to potential applicants that permit fees for the upcoming operational period are pending the result of Council Resolution 19-2024.

The last issued permit for the shared scooter program ran from June 3, 2022 through November 20, 2022. Of the \$10,000 paid for that permit, \$2,000 was provided as a stipend for the Columbia Association. The Department stated if Council Resolution 19-2024 passes, this stipend will be discontinued.

Baltimore City, Montgomery County, Anne Arundel County, the District of Columbia, and Northern Virginia currently offer publicly accessible scooter sharing programs through the use of approximately eight active vendors in the region.