

Good morning Mayor and Members of Council,

Thank you for your time today.

My name is Pablo, and I'm here to express my strong opposition to the proposed motion to ban e-scooters in Mississauga.

For me, and for many others in this city, e-scooters are not a luxury — they are an essential part of how we get around.

I work as a general labourer, which means I need to travel to different job sites, often with little notice. I don't own a car, and public transit doesn't always get me close enough to where I need to go. E-scooters are what allow me to bridge that gap.

Without them, getting from Square One to my usual work site near Dixie and Courtneypark can mean multiple bus transfers and 20–25 minute wait times at each stop. Using an e-scooter removes roughly **25 minutes from my commute every single day**.

And if my shift ends after midnight, transit becomes even less reliable — turning what should be a 40-minute trip into an hour or more.

This isn't about convenience. This is about whether I can get to work on time. Cost is another major factor. If I relied on Uber or Lyft for these trips, it would cost around **\$40 each way**. With e-scooters, those same trips cost me about **\$4**.

For someone like me, that difference matters. And I want to speak directly to Council on something important. As councillors, you all earn well over \$100,000 per year. Respectfully, that likely means you haven't had to make the same transportation trade-offs that many of us do. So for those of you considering supporting this ban, I would ask: **When was the last time you relied only on public transit to get around this city?** For a day? A week? A month? A year?

Because without that experience, it is difficult to fully understand what this decision would mean for people like me — people who don't have the option of owning a car, and who rely on every available tool to get to work and support ourselves.

Removing e-scooters doesn't remove the need. It just removes one of the only affordable solutions. On safety — I understand it's a concern.

But in my experience, shared e-scooters feel safe. They are speed-limited, regulated, and designed to operate within a controlled system. If this program is removed, people won't stop using e-scooters — they'll turn to private devices that are **unregulated, faster, and less accountable**. That does not improve safety.

And finally, if shared scooters are taken away, my only alternative would be to purchase my own device — something I would then have to carry with me on transit, assuming I'm even allowed to bring it onboard.

This motion doesn't just remove scooters. It removes access. It makes it harder for people like me to work, to move, and to participate in this city. So I would respectfully ask Council to reconsider this path.

Instead of banning a system that is helping residents every day, focus on improving it — making it safer, more reliable, and more accessible. Because for many of us, this isn't a policy debate. It's how we get to work tomorrow morning.

Thank you for your time.