

PTSF POSITION STATEMENT ON PREVENTING MICROMOBILITY-RELATED INJURIES
Approved December 11, 2025 by PTSF Board of Directors

This statement, developed by the Injury Prevention Committee of the Pennsylvania Trauma Systems Foundation, supports evidence-based policies, programs, and legislation addressing micromobility device definitions, injury surveillance, age appropriateness, and helmet use.

Micromobility offers affordable, eco-friendly transportation, but its rapid adoption has created urgent safety challenges. Micromobility refers to lightweight, typically electric vehicles such as bicycles, e-bikes, e-scooters, electric unicycles (EUC), e-skateboards, and two-wheeled mopeds designed for short-distance travel. Physical mobility devices such as an electric wheelchair or mobility scooter are not considered micromobility devices in terms of this position statement. Micromobility-related injuries and deaths are a growing public health issue affecting both urban and rural communities.

Supporting Evidence

- Affordable and eco-friendly, micromobility devices have surged in popularity across all age groups.¹
- Without the protection of a vehicle enclosure, micromobility users are classified as “vulnerable road users,” akin to pedestrians.¹
- Injuries involving micromobility devices have risen sharply, with over 360,000 ER visits from 2021 to 2023.²
- Children and teens under the age of 15 accounted for a significant portion of these injuries, with nearly 36% of all e-scooter and e-bike injuries during that period occurring in children under 14 years of age.²
- Helmet use—and the type of helmet required—remains inconsistent across education practices and legislative policies.^{3,6}
- E-bike and e-scooter laws vary widely across states and localities, creating confusion and increasing injury risk.⁴
- Pennsylvania’s current statutes address e-bike age requirements but lack guidance on scooter age requirements and helmet use for e-bikes and standing e-scooters, nor does it define the various classification of electric bikes based on speed and power.^{5,6}

To achieve our vision of “zero preventable deaths,” we call for coordinated action to:

1. Advocate for universal definitions of micromobility and motorized pedestrian conveyance devices.
2. Advocate for age-appropriate policies and legislation governing e-bikes and e-scooters, with special consideration for children and adolescents.⁷
3. Advocate for clear helmet requirements, including appropriate helmet types, for all micromobility device users.⁸
4. Support speed limitations for electric/battery operated micromobility devices.^{9,10}
5. Promote safe-riding practices, particularly in shared spaces.⁹
6. Promote policies that reflect only single rider use per device unless designated otherwise within manufacturer guidelines.
7. Encourage trauma centers to educate staff so they can counsel patients and families on micromobility safety and helmet compliance.

8. Support comprehensive injury surveillance for all micromobility devices.
9. Encourage trauma centers with high rates of micromobility-related injuries to implement targeted safety outreach programs.¹⁰

By strengthening definitions, harmonizing policies, and prioritizing education, we can help reduce preventable injuries and deaths while supporting safe, sustainable mobility for all.

Sources:

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