

Perch Mobility applauds New York City for the proactive approach in addressing the critical needs surrounding e-bike and scooter charging. The measures the city is considering align with broader climate and transportation goals, recognizing the significant role micromobility plays in reducing carbon emissions and shifting away from car-centric transportation. The development of a safe and reliable e-device infrastructure is not only essential for meeting the city and state's climate objectives, but also imperative in tackling the ongoing crisis related to battery fires. By prioritizing safe charging solutions, the city is taking a vital step towards fostering a safer and more sustainable urban environment.

We appreciate that the city is adopting an inclusive, 'all of the above' approach to enhance micromobility charging infrastructure and safety measures. This strategy including an expanded public bike parking with integrated charging facilities; establishing public charge and battery swap stations; requiring UL certification for e-bike batteries to ensure safety; launching initiatives like the e-bike trade-in program to replace unsafe devices with safer alternatives.

Such multi-faceted strategies are essential in addressing the varied challenges associated with micromobility expanded, including safety, accessibility, and usability, while promoting widespread adoption. The recent initiatives highlighted in various reports, including the efforts to curb deadly e-bike fires, reflect the City's commitment to innovative and effective solutions.

While expanding micromobility infrastructure is crucial, we recognize the physical limitations of sidewalk space. The need for more charging and storage options is evident as micromobility adoption continues to grow. Drawing inspiration from community and advocacy groups such as Open Plans, we suggest that the city looks beyond sidewalks and considers utilizing curb lane spaces, which have already been successfully repurposed for outdoor dining, microhubs, and public spaces.

Curbside charging and parking can provide scalable solutions without further congesting pedestrian areas. Such measures would allow for the efficient use of public space, while supporting the citywide need for more comprehensive micromobility infrastructure.

In addition to the use of revocable consent agreements, the City should explore ways to streamline the process for utilizing curbside (parking lane) space for e-bike parking and charging stations. Introducing modular solutions like those offered by Perch Mobility could significantly enhance community access to safe and reliable charging. Perch Mobility's systems are designed to be easily deployed and adaptable, meeting the diverse and immediate needs of neighborhoods across the city. By leveraging such modular technology, the City can quickly and efficiently expand micromobility infrastructure.

In addition, Perch strongly recommends when the UL 4900 standard for micromobility charging infrastructure safety becomes available, the city should require all public charging stations to comply with this standard. Ensuring adherence to comprehensive safety standards will further mitigate the risks associated with battery charging. In considering future infrastructure, we encourage the city to explore diverse form factors for micromobility charging stations that do not solely rely on sidewalk installations. Alternatives can provide flexibility and reduce the impact on pedestrian traffic while still offering accessible charging options.

Perch Mobility looks forward to supporting the City of New York and the expansion of micromobility infrastructure. We are eager to contribute our expertise, technology, and product to help build a safer, more efficient last mile transit system.