



AS IT IS

Paris Votes to Ban Electric Scooters by September

April 05, 2023

If you like riding electric **scooters** in Paris, be sure to plan a trip before September. People who live in the French capital voted recently to ban the vehicles.

The city said Sunday on Twitter that 89 percent of voters were in favor of banning scooters. However, only about 7 percent of its **residents** voted in what was called a “public **consultation.**”

Paris Mayor Anne Hidalgo said she would respect the vote. Hidalgo said at a news conference, “from September 1, there will be no more electric scooters for **rent** in Paris.”

Scooter operators pointed to the low number of voters and said they hoped to seek a compromise.

A spokesperson for Lime said it hopes to work with the mayor to “avoid a step backward for Paris.” A representative for Dott criticized the vote, saying the low turnout included mostly older voters.

French Transport Minister Clement Beaune is a possible candidate in the next Paris mayoral election in 2026. Beaune appeared to agree with the scooter operators. In comments to a French broadcaster, he called the vote “a massive democratic **flop.**”

Paris permitted electric scooters for the first time in 2018. By 2020, the city had cut the number of companies that could operate scooters to three and restricted their speed to a maximum of 20 kilometers per hour. At the time, the city gave the companies a contract that lasts until September.

In hopes of being permitted to continue operation, the scooter companies also offered to add more restrictions. They included limiting users to those over 18 and adding **license plates** so police could identify those who broke traffic rules.

In 2021, 24 people died from scooter-related accidents in France, including one in Paris. Last year, the city registered 459 accidents with electric scooters and similar vehicles, including three dead.

One person who voted to ban the scooters was Audrey Cordier, a 38-year-old doctor. “In my work,” she said, “we see a lot of road accidents caused by scooters, so we really see the **negative** effects.”

Other voters said they would like more restrictions, but not a full ban.

Thirty-five-year-old Pierre Waeckerle said, “I don’t want scooters to do whatever they want ... but banning them is not the **priority**.”

I’m Dan Friedell.

Dan Friedell adapted this story for VOA Learning English based on a report by Reuters.

Words in This Story

scooter *-n.* a leg-powered or battery-powered transit device people stand on

resident *-n.* a person who lives in a place

consultation *-n.* a discussion or consideration

rent *-v.* to pay for something in return for its use, sometimes for a short time

flop *-adj.* something that does not go well, unsuccessful

license plate *-n.* a small sign attached to a vehicle which is used to identify the driver

negative -*adj.* something that is not good; undesirable

priority -*n.* something that is the most important

We want to hear from you. Would you be sad to see Paris ban scooters?

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