Mobility Scooter Challenges

to accessibility in Sooke

A Mini-AWARENESS Campaign
Sooke, BC

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Mobility Scooters

DEFINITION …

A mobility scooter is an amazingly liberating **vehicle for those with mobility "challenges"**

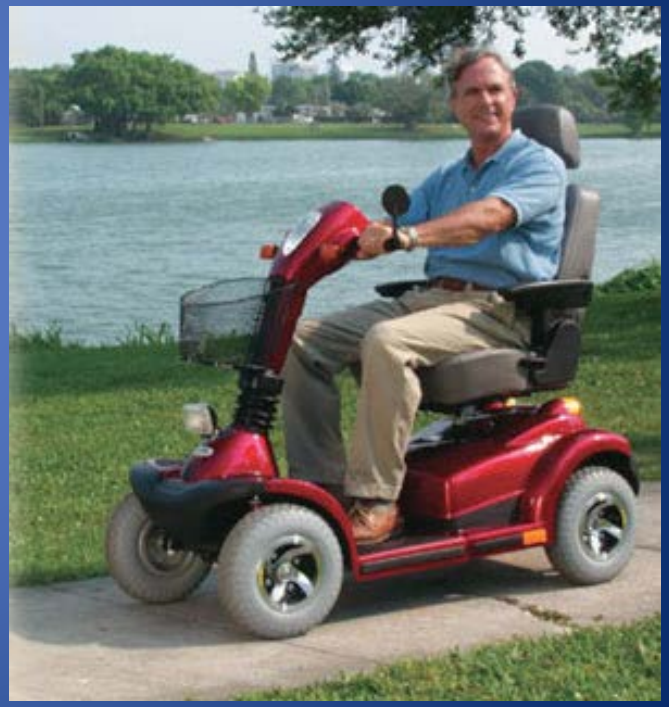
i.e. Riders are either …

- unable to walk OR
- unable to walk distances OR
- are partially or totally paralyzed OR
- are unable to drive a car … OR have lost their driving privileges (mainly older seniors)

BUT they want to visit friends, shop … and be independent!

Mobility Scooters

Come in all shapes and sizes … for meeting ALL mobility challenges



Mobility Scooters have a **high centre of gravity**

… which makes them easy to **overturn**.

Mobility Scooters

Some have larger wheels

… some have smaller ones.

… a fact which affects their ability to safely traverse speed bumps, high curbs & ground level obstacles on sidewalks, roads and in stores …

“The Scooter Challenge”

Mobility Scooter riders are legally pedestrians

… BUT …

face many challenges!

Sidewalk Challenges

- Open(ing) store doors

- Displays that block sidewalks

… each a hazard …

… that hit scooters & riders or force them out on to the roads …

Sidewalk Challenges

- Narrow spaces are challenging to navigate …

… especially with lots of obstacles littering the sidewalks & "other" pedestrians there, needing their space!

Sidewalk Challenges

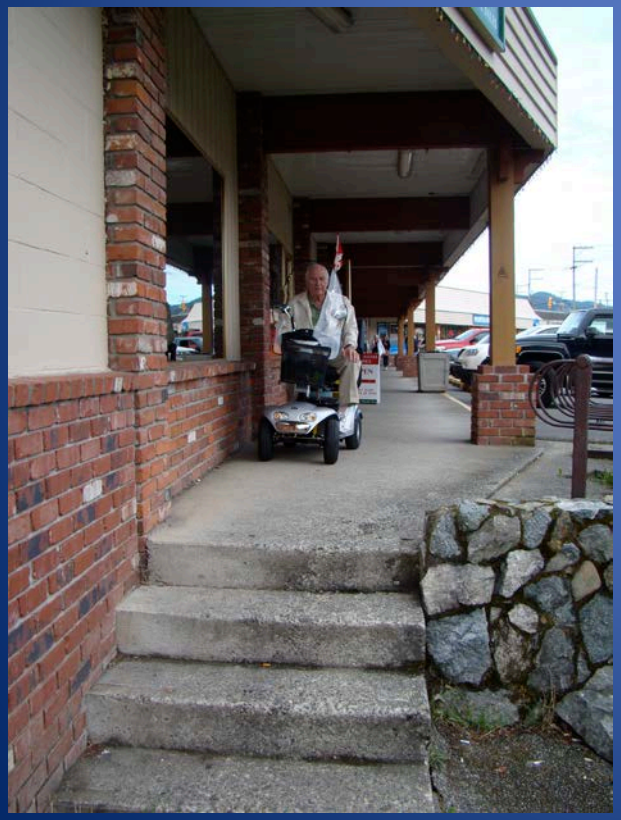
FENCES (?!*&#@!)across sidewalks

… force riders to go out on the road!

Sidewalk Challenges

Dead ends are the most treacherous!

Who knew? … Stairs at the end of the sidewalk !



A crosswalk leading to a 4’ deep ditch!

… OH-H-H-H-H SH…

Sidewalk Challenges

- Turning around in small spaces can be VERY difficult

Then the wheels get caught in holes in the sidewalks.

Challenges on sidewalks

Other dead ends!!!

…

NO ramp on the other side of the crosswalk!

Challenges on sidewalks

Some "sidewalks" are dangerously sloped …

Scooters have a high centre of gravity and are prone to flipping when tipped and traveling!

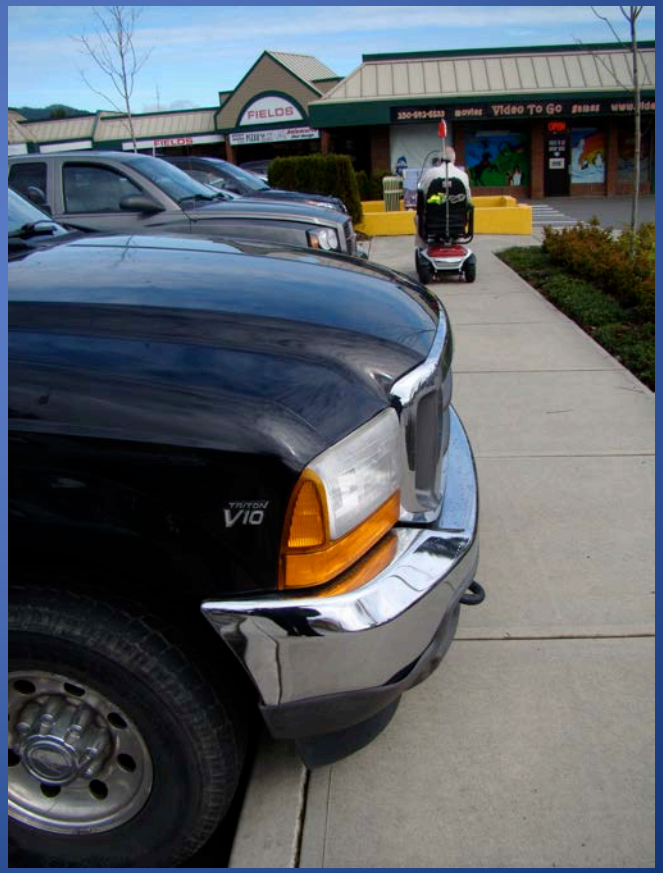
Sidewalk Challenges

- Some streets are difficult to cross …

… even at traffic lights where light controls are on the wrong side of the pole for the scooter to pass.

Sidewalk Challenges

- Some vehicles park over 1/3 of the width of sidewalks … thus reducing visibility of scooter drivers & other pedestrians and reducing space for both.

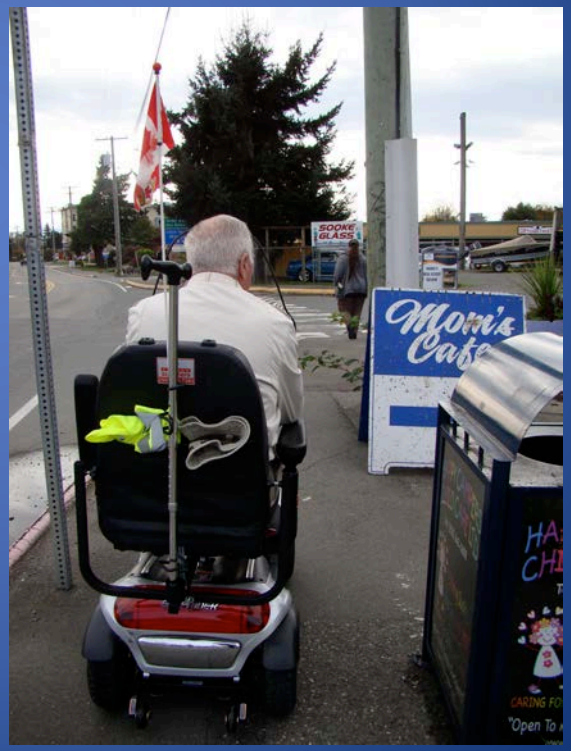


Challenges on Sidewalks

- There is no protective fencing beside significant drops in the terrain …

Challenges on Sidewalks

Some greenery crowds the sidewalk space … OR sidewalk CLUTTER blocks passage.



“The Challenge”

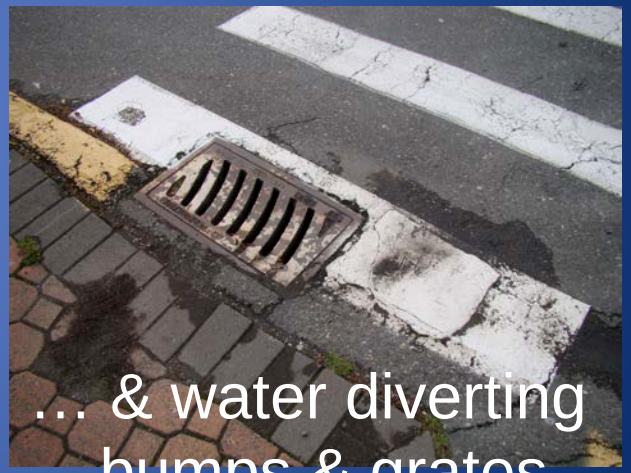
As a result, scooter riders are often **forced to travel on the roads** where …

Challenges on the roads

Road surfaces are often challenging for riders of mobility scooters …

Road surfaces are often cracked, …

littered with speed bumps …



… & water diverting bumps & grates

and are downright dangerous!

Challenges on the roads

Scooters are SMALL

and their riders are not easy to see

… especially

for drivers of large trucks!

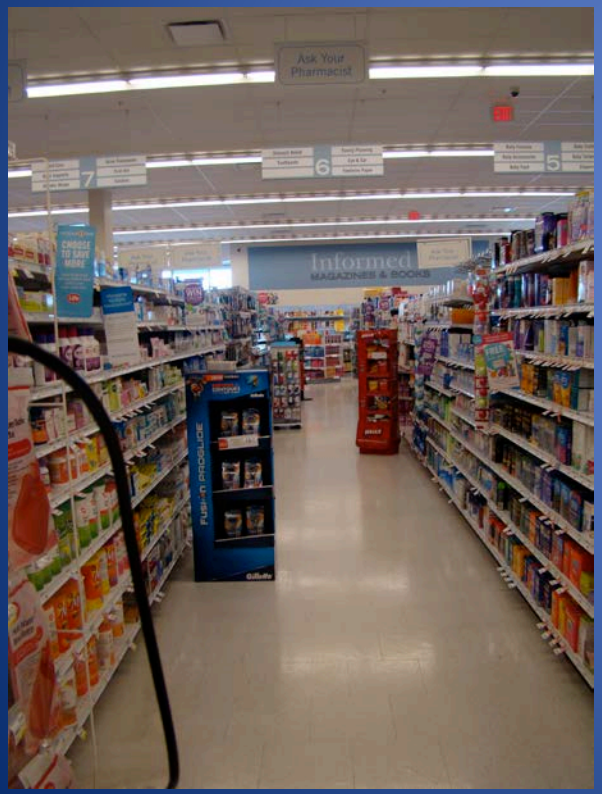
Challenges in our stores
& other public places

Where can people **park their scooters** if they are able to walk through the stores? Or how do they drive in … through **narrow openings** …

… and in our stores

… riders must often ***slalom*** down aisles around **obstacles**

or scrape our shins on bins …



… and this is not all …

- Wheelchair users
- Cyclists
- Parents with Strollers
- People with walkers

have similar problems navigating through town.

Our Challenge
to the District of Sooke

Could you please help Mobility Scooter riders by:

- removing or remediating **hazards** as you are made aware of them;
- running an awareness campaign to communicate **rules** for use of Mobility Scooters & make public aware of **challenges** of riding scooters;
- including **check list** for accessibility built into designs for **future development** in Sooke?

Addressing the Challenge

Thank you

for allowing us to speak

to you this evening!

Needing information re: "Accessibility" Best Practices?

Please refer to the Accessibility Report

Measuring Up

which was made thanks to the

2010 Legacies Now - Vancouver Agreement

which was made public several years ago

here in Sooke.