

Center for Advanced Multimodal Mobility Solutions and Education

UTC Project Information – CAMMSE @ UNC Charlotte	
Project Title	Impacts of Speed on Dockless Electric Scooter Crashes
University	The University of Texas at Austin
Principal Investigator	Randy Machemehl
PI Contact Information	(512)-471-4541 / <u>rbm@mail.utexas.edu</u>
Funding Sources and	The University of North Carolina at Charlotte: \$108,895
Amount Provided (by	City of Austin: \$54,448
each agency or	
organization)	
Total Project Cost	\$163,343
Agency ID or Contract	
Number	
Start and End Dates	10/01/2020 – 09/30/2022
Brief Description of	E-scooter rentals have become available in almost every US city
Research Project	over the last two years. The City of Austin and the University of
	Texas campus are now served by 10 different private sector
	vendors providing over 14,000 e-scooters. One of the first
	significant studies of e-scooter safety was done in Austin during the
	Fall of 2018. That study examined crash data for e-scooters,
	conducted interviews of e-scooter crash victims and provided basic
	characterizations of e-scooter crashes and rider injuries. One of the
	primary concerns about e-scooter safety stems from the speeds
	that can be developed by a rider. Based upon safety concerns for
	riders and pedestrians, the University of Texas implemented an
	agreement with e-scooter vendors to electronically reduce



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maximum e-scooter speeds to 8 mph on most of the campus. The research question to be examined in this study is whether the mandatory speed reduction has had any impact on the number of scooter involved crashes and their severity. The research team surveyed campus scooter renters during the spring 2019 semester to characterize e-scooter user habits. The survey surprisingly indicated that nearly all scooter rentals are done for "business" use such as traveling to classes, meetings or work. Most trips are relatively short distances and as Morano determined almost no renters wear head protection. Potential speeds for e-scooters can be well more than 20 mph particularly when negotiating a downhill grade. This study will compare crash frequency and injury severity for e-scooter crashes before and after the implementation of the 8 mph maximum speed on the UT campus. The objective of this project is to characterize the impact of mandatory speed reduction on e-scooter crash frequency and injury severity. The proposed work will address at least two CAMMSE research thrusts: Generate innovations in multi-modal planning and modeling for high-growth regions; and Innovations to improve multi-modal connections, system integration and security. Describe Implementation of Research Outcomes (or why not



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implemented)	
Place Any Photos Here	
Impacts/Benefits of	
Implementation (actual,	
not anticipated)	
Web Links	https://cammse.uncc.edu/sites/cammse.uncc.edu/files/media/CA
Reports	MMSE-UNCC-2021-UTC-Project-Information-01-Machemehl.pdf
• Project website	https://cammse.uncc.edu/sites/cammse.uncc.edu/files/media/CA MMSE-UNCC-2021-UTC-Project-Report-01-Machemehl-Final.pdf