

# **Scooters Are Here, But Where Do They Go? Aligning Scooter Regulations with City Goals**

Presentation by Anne Brown, University of Oregon

Roundtable on Micromobility, Equity and Sustainability  
17-19 March 2021



# Scooters are here, but where do they go?

Aligning scooter regulations with city goals

Anne Brown, PhD

*ITF Roundtable: Micromobility, equity, and sustainability*

18 March 2021

# Overview

- The promise and challenge of scooters



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- Questions + methods



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- Findings



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- The promise and challenge of scooters
- Questions + methods
- Findings
- Discussion
  - Scooters should be just one piece of a broader effort to promote broader goals like sustainability, mobility, and access for all



1. How do US cities currently regulate scooters?



<https://unsplash.com/photos/4skjZ43XKoE>



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2. How does the public perceive scooter parking?



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1. How do US cities currently regulate scooters?
2. How does the public perceive scooter parking?
3. How can scooter regulations help achieve broader city goals?

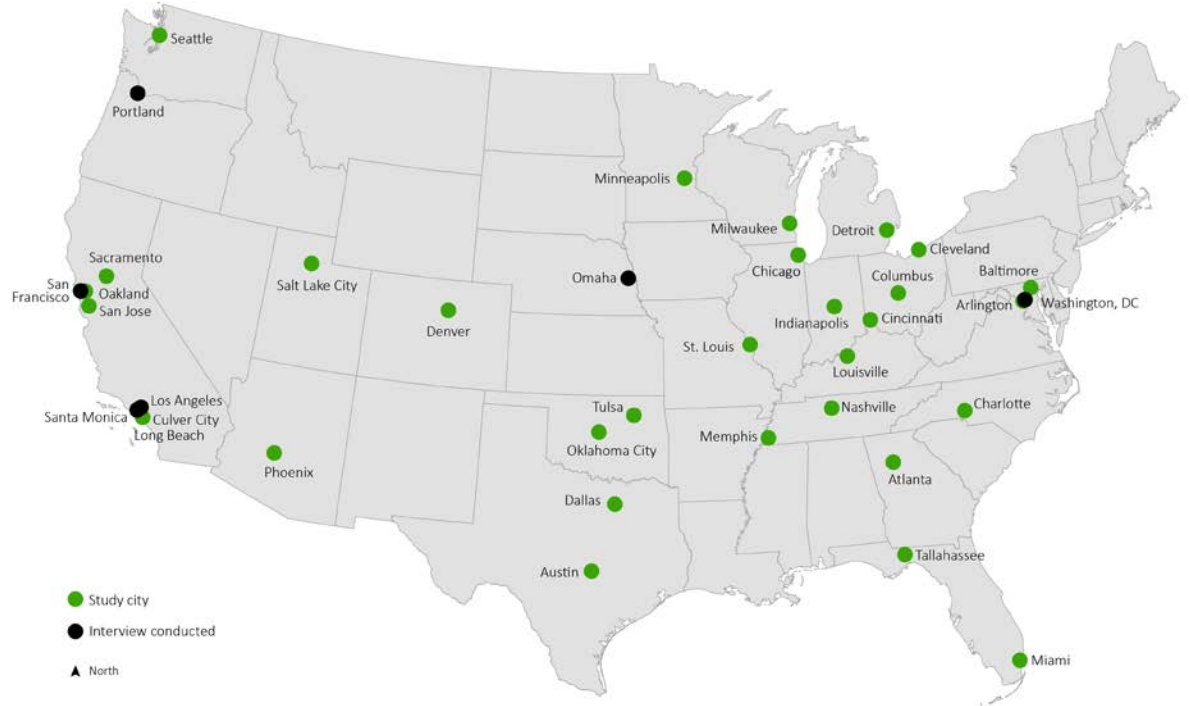


<https://unsplash.com/photos/4skjZ43XKoE>



# Methods

- Regulations from 37 US cities
- Interviews with staff from 6 cities



# How do US cities regulate scooters?

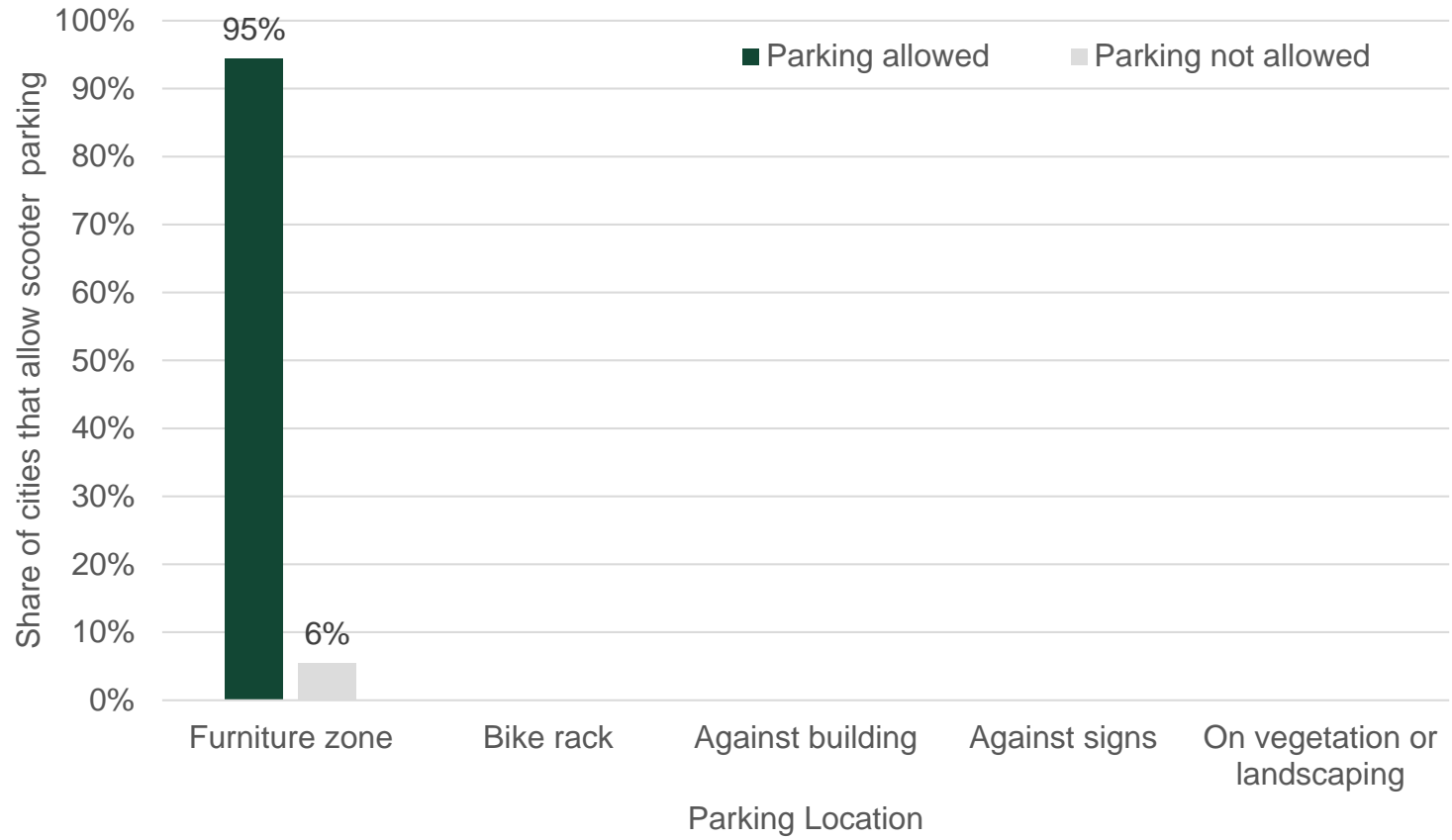


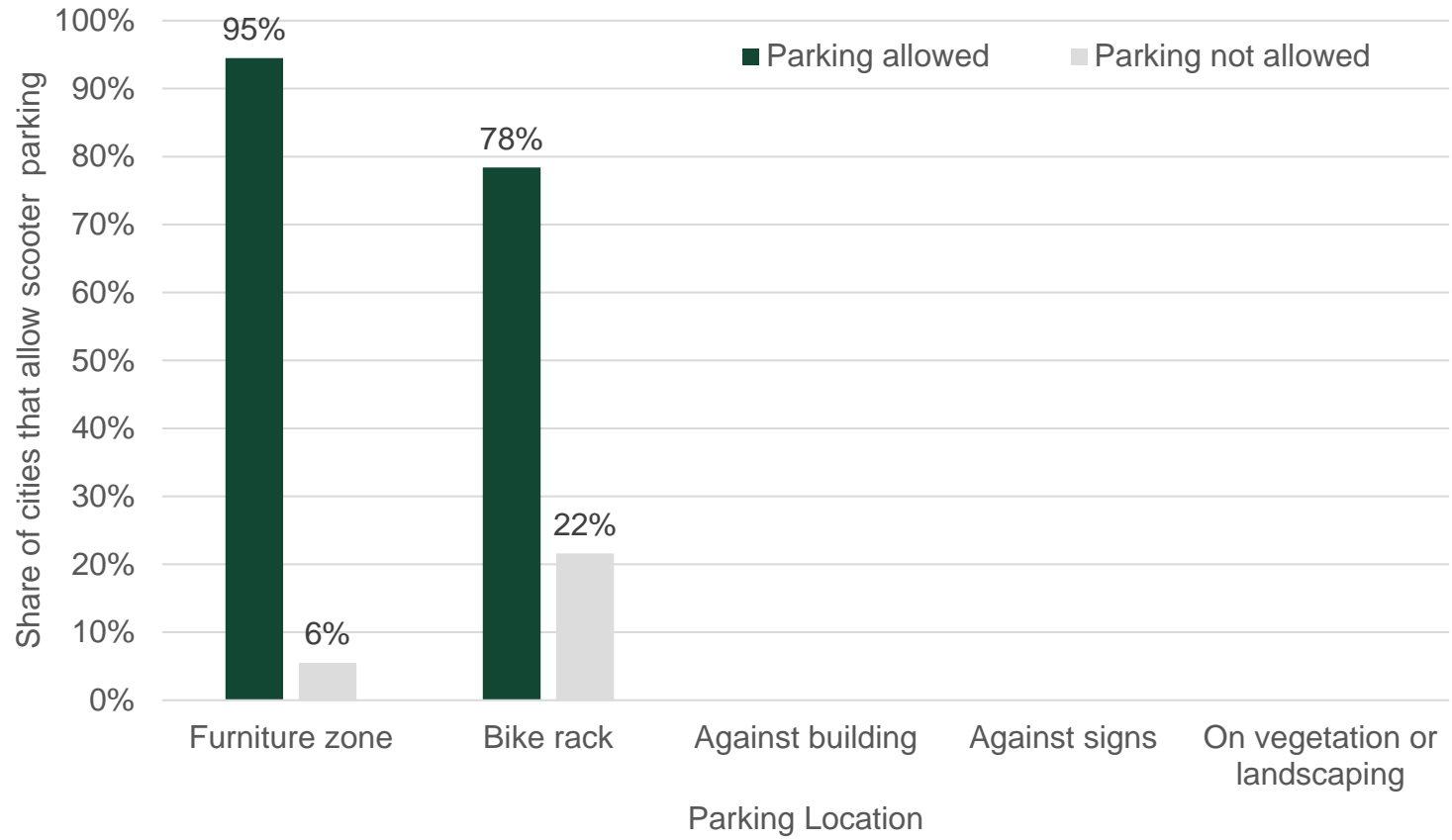
Some agreement...  
a lot of variation

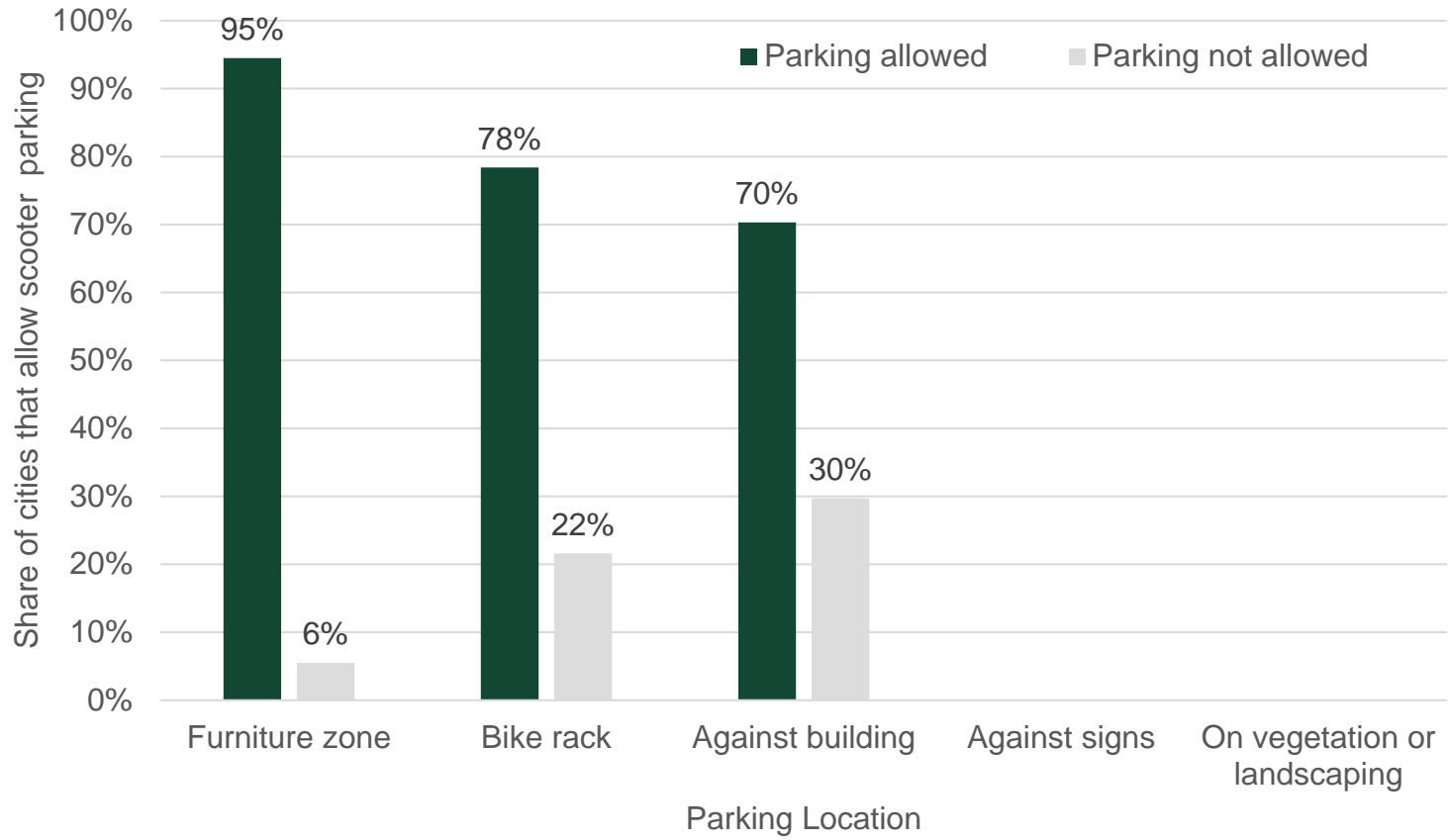


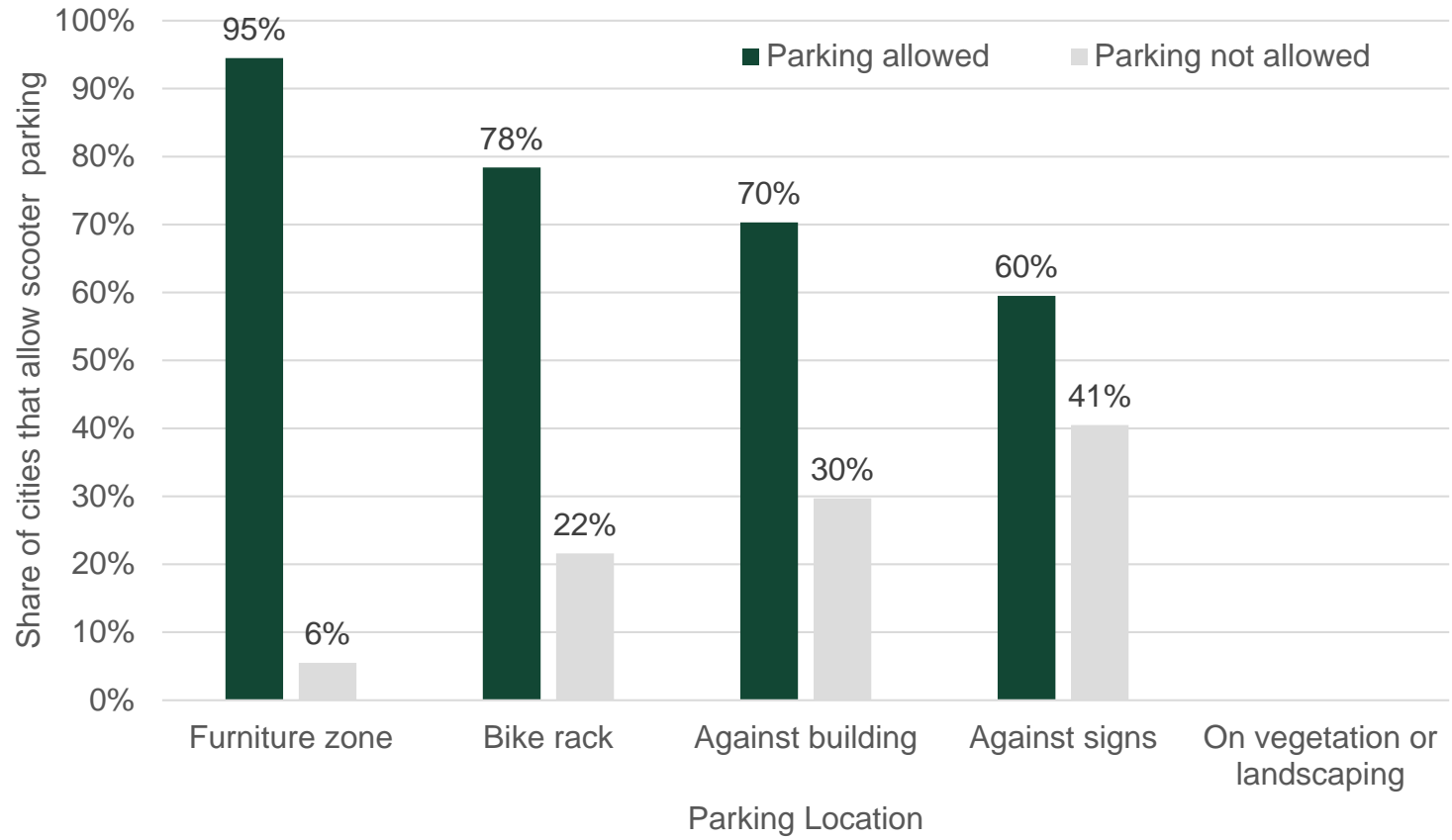
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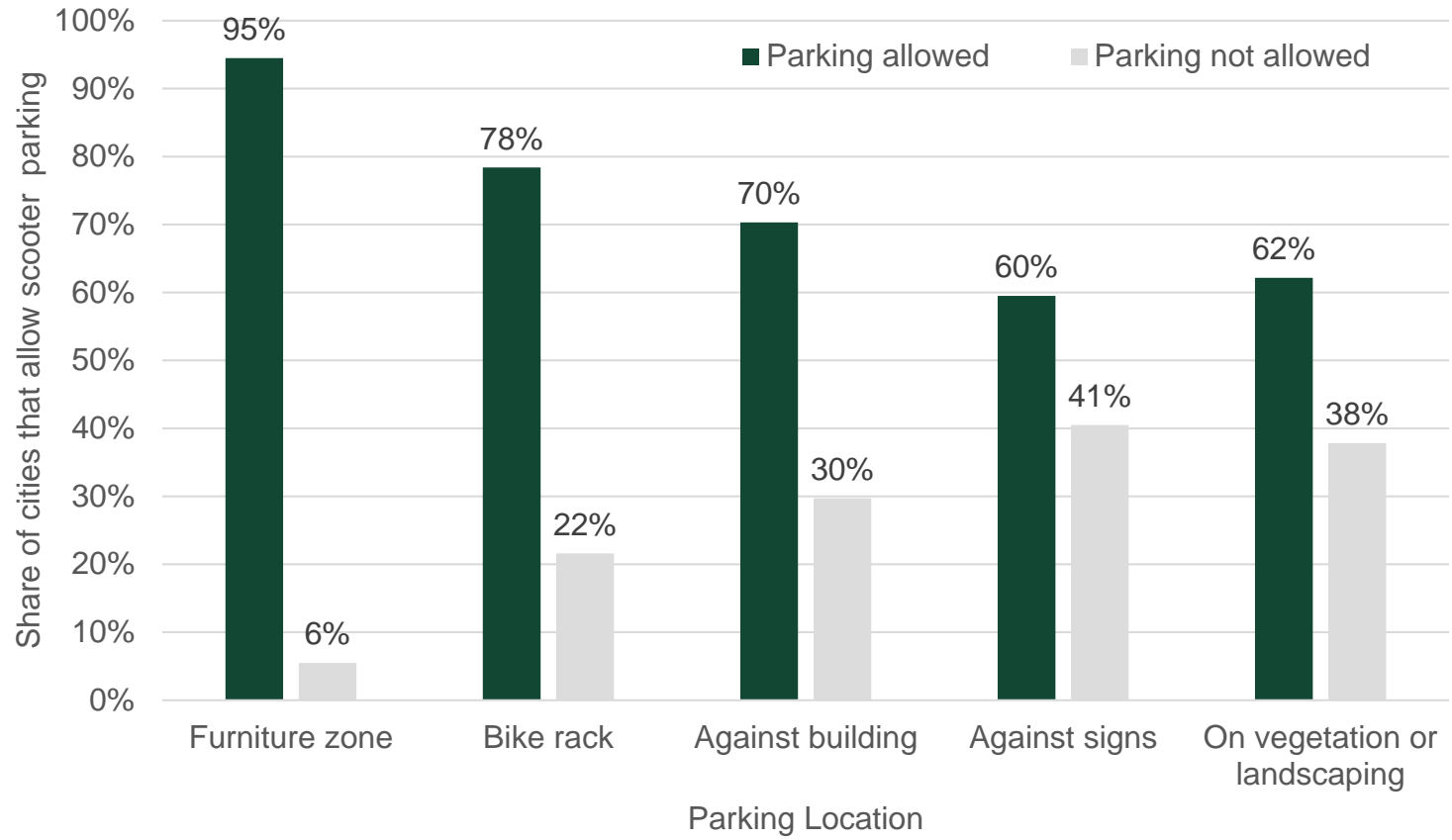












# Lock-to requirements

- Just 3 US cities (currently)
- Motivations
- Deterrents
- Do locks prevent misparking?





SFMTA. 2021. Shared Mobility Citations Dashboard.





SFMTA. 2021. Shared Mobility Citations Dashboard.





SFMTA. 2021. Shared Mobility Solutions Dashboard.

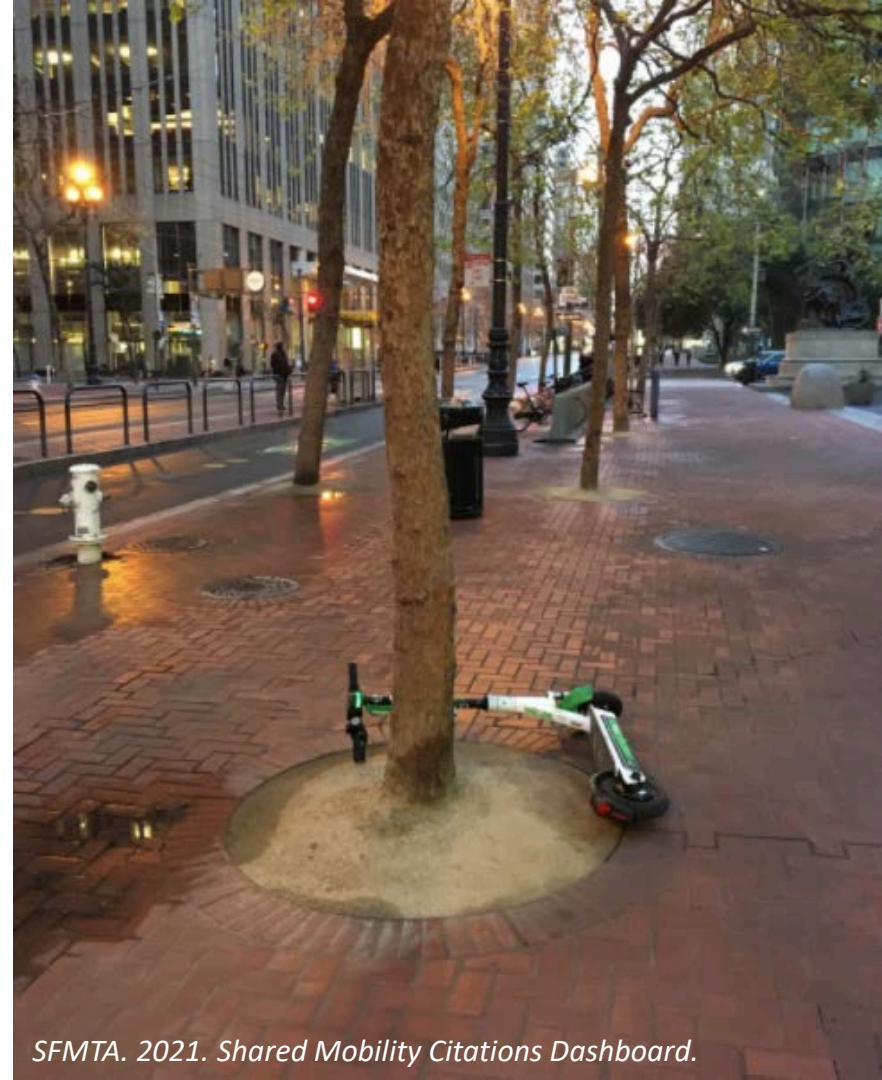




SFMTA, 2021. Shared Mobility Citations Dashboard.



How concerned should we be about scooter (mis)parking?



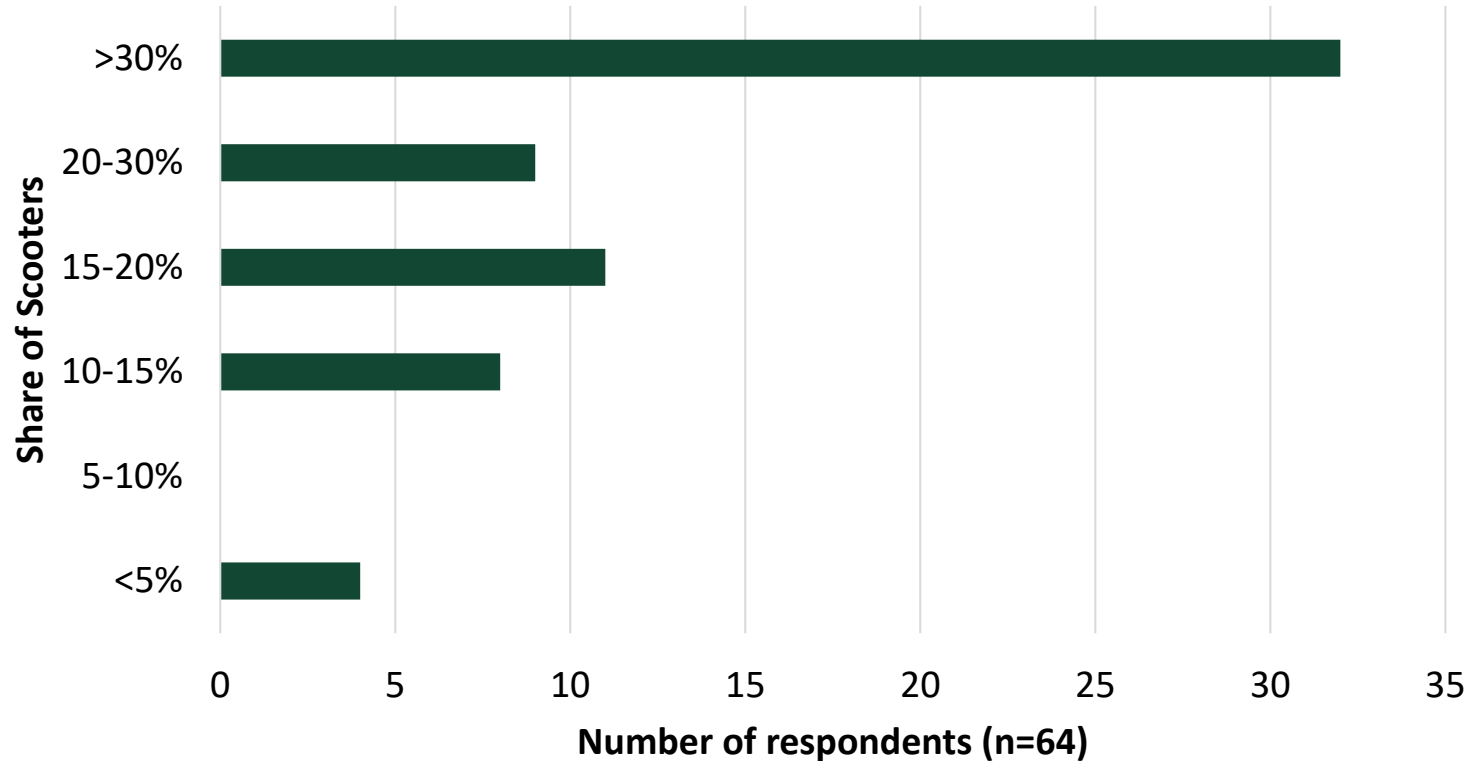
# Public perceptions of scooter parking

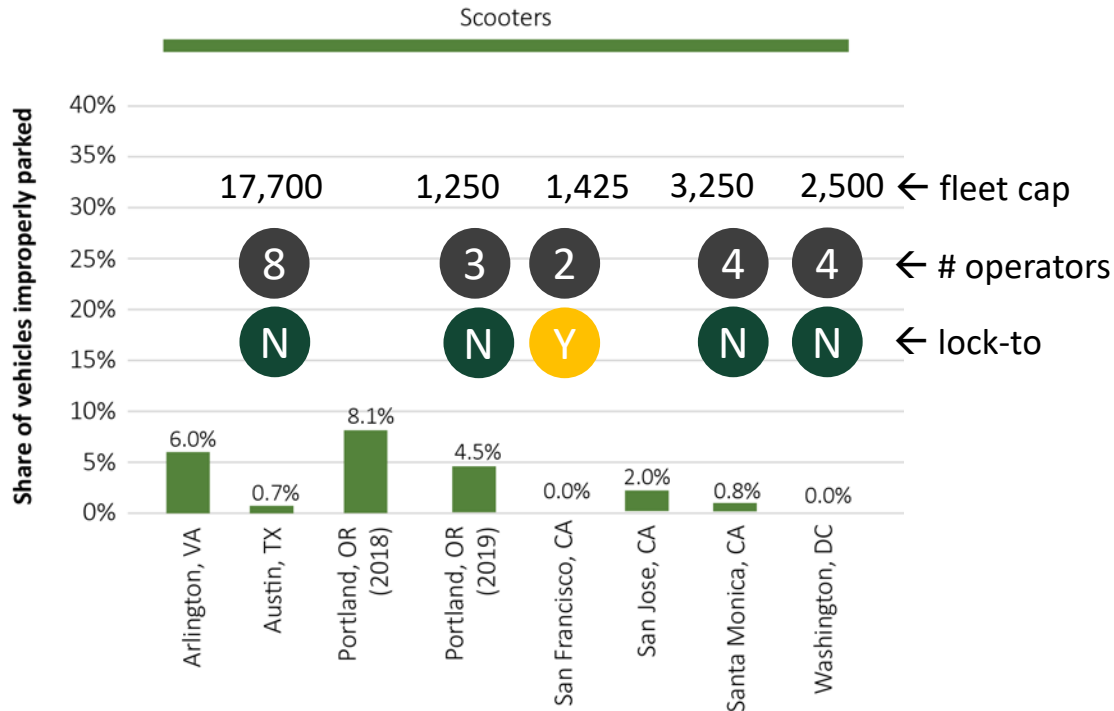




## Professional Perceptions

About what percentage of scooters are parked improperly (even briefly)?

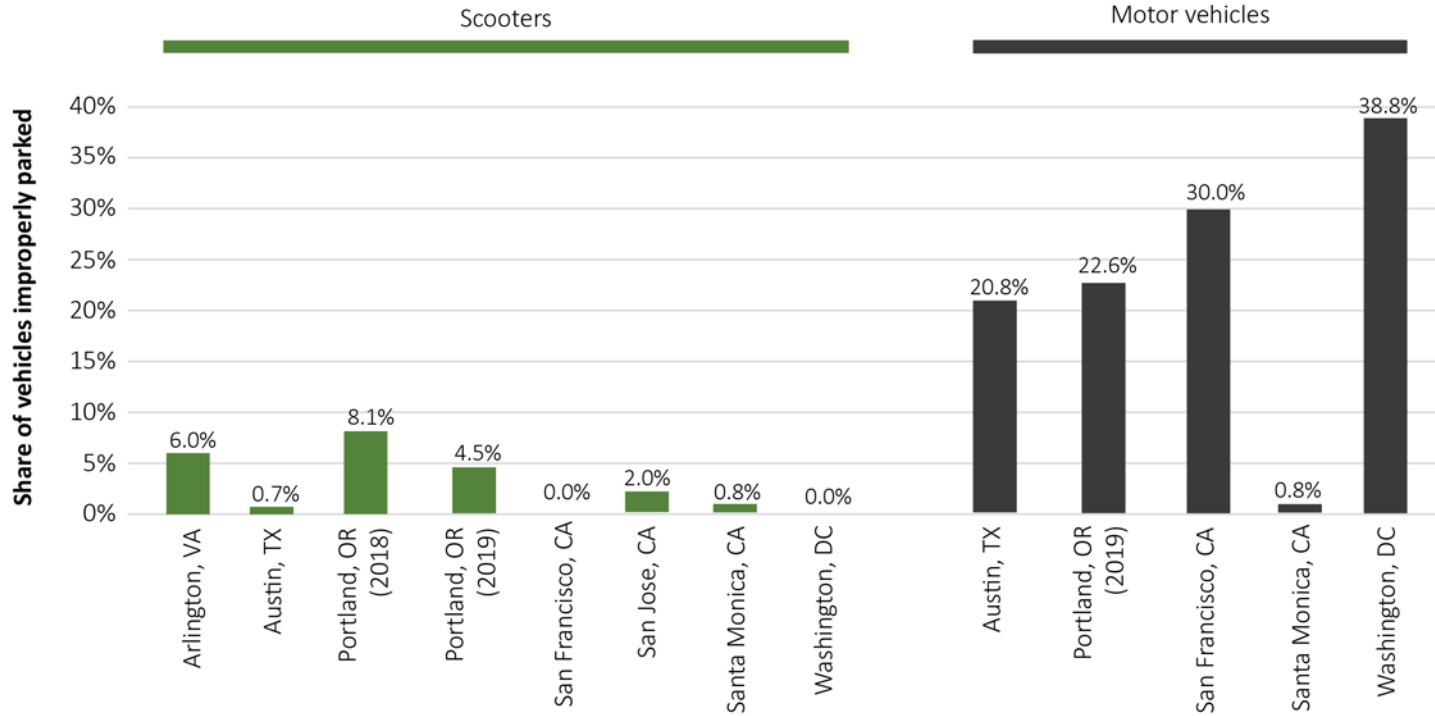




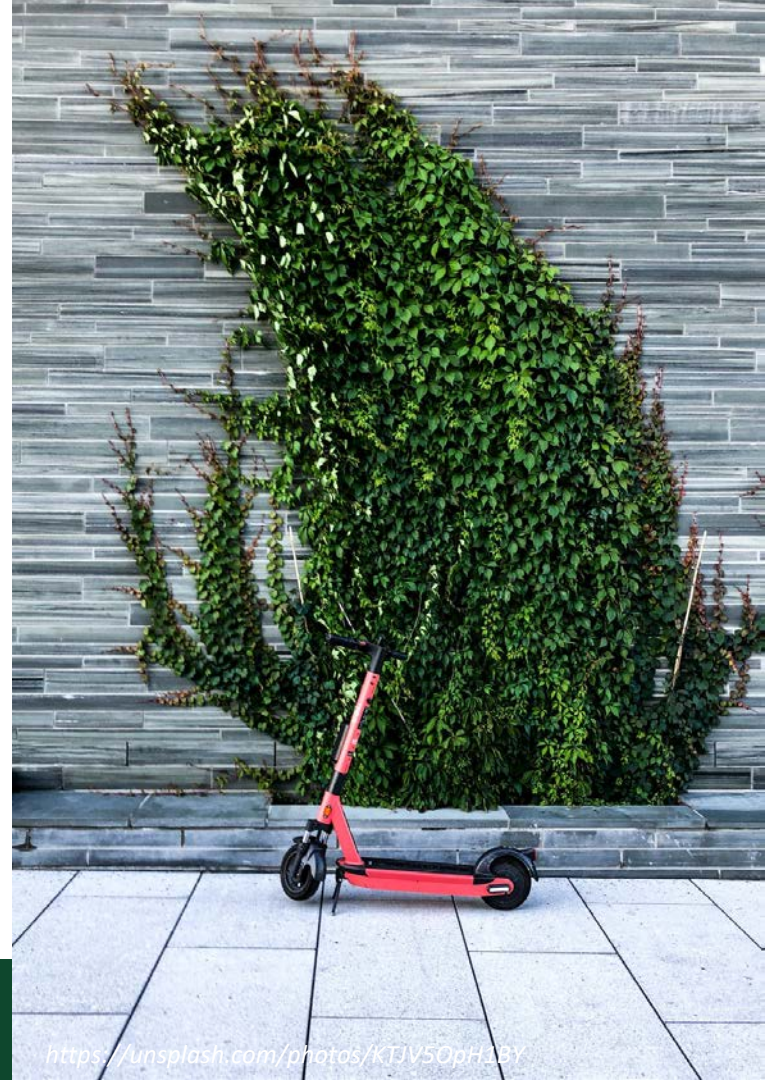
What about the number of operators and fleet caps?

- City staff cited relationships and staff capacity
- But no observable correlation with (mis)parking





# Aligning scooter regulations with city goals



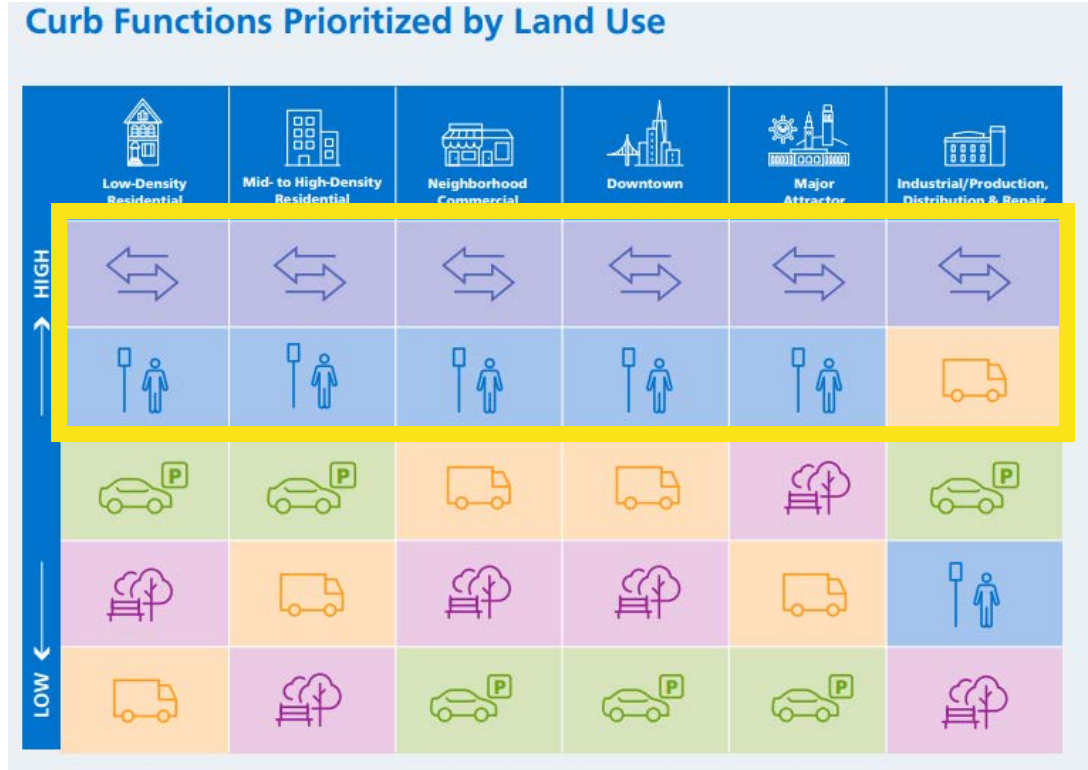
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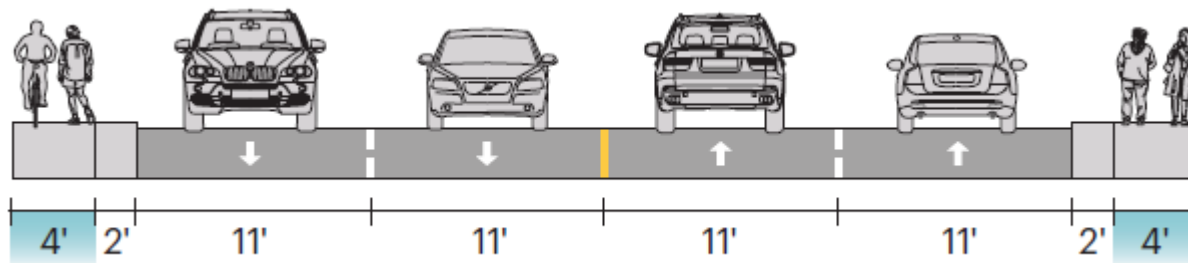
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# Scooters as part of the bigger picture

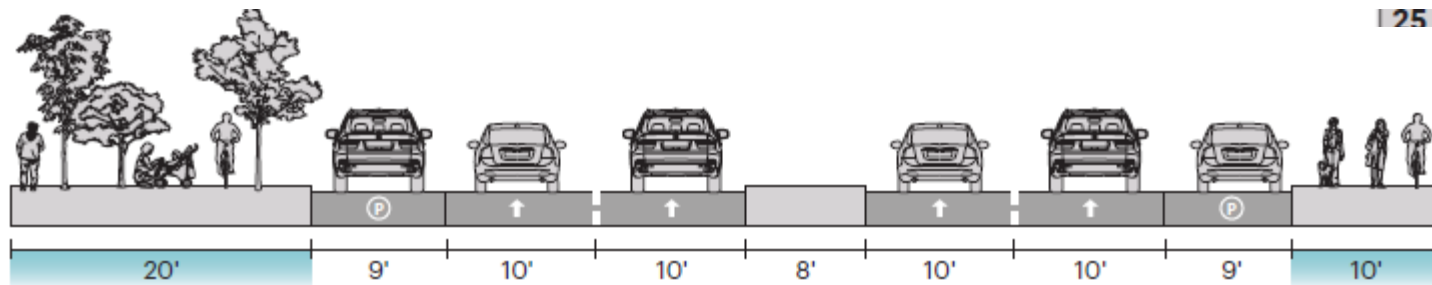
- Part of a multi-modal future?
  - Compact, mixed-use development
  - Pricing parking
  - Managing the curb



# Prioritize street and sidewalk space



Austin, TX – 8/56 feet (14%)



Boston, MA – 30/96 feet (31%)



# Access for all

- Enforcing scooter regulations that ensure access *is* important
  - Not all regulations relate to access



# Access for all

- Enforcing scooter regulations that ensure access *is* important
  - Not all regulations relate to access
- But so are other measures
  - Complete & safe sidewalks
  - Curb cuts
  - Loading zones for vehicles to not block bike/micromobility lanes







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