On Tuesday, April 9, the Ordinance Committee proposed changes to the Shared Mobility Ordinance, which regulates programs for scooter and bike sharing on City streets. If approved by City Council on April 30, the ordinance will ban scooter share in the City until the emerging technology is proven safe.

The amended ordinance also paves the way for a bike share pilot program in Santa Barbara. A bike share program would allow people to rent bikes throughout the City quickly and easily via a phone app. The potential benefit to Santa Barbara will be the “grab and go” ease of taking a bike for a short trip through town. A bike share pilot program trial will help the City see if bike share is a good fit for the community. If City Council decides to move forward, bike share vendor selection will depend upon the ability to deliver a right-size, “Santa Barbara style” program.

If Council approves the amendments, the City will move forward with a bike share pilot program within six to nine months. Questions about shared mobility may be directed to Sam Furtner, Mobility Coordinator, at SFurtner@SantaBarbaraCA.gov or (805) 897-2669.