

Memorandum

Date: August 25, 2014
To: Public Safety Committee
From: Ken Putnam, PE, Transportation Department Director
Re: Franchise Agreements Renewals

The purpose of this memorandum is to update the Finance Committee (and City Council) on various franchise agreements renewals for transportation-related services including a trolley bike tour (pub-cycle) service, a pedal bicycle taxi service, and a trolley service. In addition, a River Arts District Route is being added to the trolley bike tour (pub-cycle) agreement.

Typically, franchise agreements are a tool used by cities for certain services that use city streets, rights-of-way, or other city-controlled assets in order to exert a measure of control regarding the specific details of the services to ensure the health, safety, and welfare of its citizens.

The pub-cycle service has been operating for a year now and it has become a popular attraction. The Asheville Police Department and the Transportation Department are not aware of any negative traffic-related or public safety issues regarding the service. The business owner would like to add another route identified as the River Arts District Route as shown highlighted in purple on Attachment 1. At first, the route would only be used during weekends and by request. Since the primary terminal point is the New Belgium site, the route would probably not be fully implemented until 2015 or 2016. The route has been reviewed and approved by the Asheville Police Department and the Transportation Department.

The pedal bicycle taxi service has been operating for two years now and it has become a popular attraction. The Asheville Police Department and the Transportation Department are not aware of any negative traffic-related or public safety issues regarding the service.

The trolley service has been operating for seven years now and it is a popular attraction. The Asheville Police Department and the Transportation Department are not aware of any negative traffic-related or public safety issues regarding the service.

The terms of all three franchise agreements will now be indefinite and they will automatically renew. Either party may revoke the specific agreement with 30 days' notice to the respective party. The annual franchise agreement fee is \$365 per year.

Transportation Department staff and Finance Department staff will be working together to develop an action plan to be sure that the appropriate annual fees and insurance requirements are kept up-to-date.

Please let me know if additional information is needed.

KJP/

Attachment

ATTACHMENT 1

