

STAFF REPORT

To: PED Committee Date: October 18, 2011
Via: Gary Jackson, City Manager
From: Ken Putnam, PE, Transportation Department Director
Subject: FY 2011-12 Strategic Operating Plan Multi-Modal Transportation Clarification

Summary Statement: Clarify City Council's intent regarding Objective # 7 under the Multi-Modal Transportation Focus Area.

Review: Objective # 7 under the Multi-Modal Transportation Focus Area states the following: "Study alternative options for downtown parking, to include the creation of a downtown trolley".

The Downtown Master Plan Transportation Committee is responsible to research the subject objective and provide recommendations to the City Council to satisfy the objective. Staff needs clarification regarding the objective in order for the committee to provide appropriate information. Specifically what is City Council's meaning of a downtown trolley?

Recently, a private entity made a presentation to the DMP Transportation Committee regarding a shuttle service called E-Shuttle. This service is currently in the planning stage and it is intended to be totally privately funded. It would provide fixed route service within the central business district and possibly to Biltmore Village. It would complement the Asheville Transit System not compete against it. Would this type of service meet City Council's objective?

The DMP Transportation Committee looks forward to working on the subject assignment and we would appreciate any help that you can offer.

Please let me know if additional information is needed.