






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MEMORANDUM

TO: City Council Members

FROM: Ann Turnquist, Policy and Project Manager 

THRU: Darin Atteberry, City Manager 
Diane Jones, Deputy City Manager 

RE: **Work Session Follow-up: Trash Services Study**

DATE: January 9, 2008

On January 8, City Council and staff met in Work Session to review the proposed project scope and timeline for the Trash Services Study which will be completed during 2008.

Council gave staff direction to proceed with the Study, including a range of options from the null alternative to districted trash service. Council generally agreed that it did not wish to pursue a municipally owned trash utility. Council also asked staff to develop alternatives that made improvements to the system without harming existing haulers.

Council provided direction to staff to eliminate the proposed survey from the scope of work and to instead pursue other avenues of public involvement. A series of forums was suggested as a way to both provide information and gather feedback from community members. Council Members also suggested that staff might consider doing a survey or poll once options have been developed, rather than in advance of the data collection and analysis.

In addition to the issues outlined in the staff report, Council Members asked staff to explore several other issues in the Study, including:

- In what ways can the pay-as-you-throw trash ordinance be made more effective, including more auditing of trash haulers?
- What detailed information about Fort Collins' recycling and waste diversion rates (including compost and construction debris) can be provided? Consider applying a "mass balance" or systems-based approach to analyzing local waste. Explain what is included in the definition of "waste diversion rate".
- What new concepts could be employed to increase recycling and diversion rates?
- What public/private partnerships might be possible to enhance waste diversion?

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- What impacts do emerging hazardous waste needs have on trash service (mercury, light bulbs, televisions, etc.)?
- How many street miles which are built to the new higher standards? Provide a map.
- How many HOAs are in the City; how many participate in consolidated trash agreements, and how many do not? How many lane miles does this cover? How many of those HOAs that have agreements still have a few residents who choose not to participate?
- Has more staff been added to recycling/solid waste programs in recent years?
- What technology options might be employed by haulers to address the issues without moving to a districted model?
- Find out what other communities are doing about trash and recycling. Check with National League of Cities on the number of cities that do their own trash collection, or that contract it out.
- How would Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMTs) change under a districted system (i.e. will they really decrease?)
- How is the impact of trash trucks different from the impact of other large vehicles such as delivery trucks, recycling trucks, busses, compost trucks, mail trucks, etc?
- What is the affect on air quality from the acceleration/deceleration of trash trucks versus the amount of VMT that occurs?
- How do we protect our streets assets?
- How do vehicle weights impact the calculations of trash truck damage to City streets? Does the City track violations of over-weight vehicles?
- If there are things that we are doing well, include that information in the report.

Staff will develop and issue the Request for Proposals for the Study with the goal of having a consultant working on the project as soon as possible.



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Date: January 9, 2008

To: Mayor & City Council

Thru: Darin Atteberry, City Manager *DA*

From: Kelly DiMartino, Communications & Public Involvement Director *KD*
Tracy Dyer, Chief Engineering Inspector *TD*

RE: January 8 Work Session Summary - News Racks

Staff presented two options for Council consideration about how to address concerns with news racks in downtown Fort Collins. The first option, recommended by City staff, the Downtown Development Authority and the Downtown Business Association, would require publications to be placed in news condominiums within a set downtown boundary. The second option, recommended and supported by a coalition of local publishers, would utilize news corrals managed through a voluntary agreement. The purpose of the meeting was to seek Council's feedback on whether they wish to address existing deficiencies in the City Code related to the placement of news racks in the public right-of-way, and if so, which of the two options they wished to have prepared for Council consideration at a Regular Meeting. All Council members were present for the discussion. Various local publishers and downtown business representatives were in attendance.

Council members expressed differing opinions on the merits of both options. Questions and discussion amongst Council members focused on existing enforcement efforts, the implications of both proposals in terms of maintenance and staffing, how the two options would, or would not, affect First Amendment Rights, and the pros and cons of both approaches. There was limited discussion about the impact of the proposed ordinance in areas outside of downtown.

Six Council members expressed a desire to fix the existing deficiencies in the City Code; one Council member does not believe there are existing deficiencies and does not wish to further pursue the issue. A majority of Council members indicated that staff should prepare both options for Council consideration. Direction was mixed as to which option Council prefers, and some Council members requested that the publishers and the downtown business community work together again to negotiate a mutually acceptable solution.

The City Attorney's Office and other City staff will work to prepare an ordinance that incorporates elements of the voluntary agreement proposed by the publishers. Per Council direction, the ordinance will limit the placement of news racks within corrals in the downtown area. Staff will also finalize the draft ordinance related to condominiums and bring both ordinances to Council at a Regular Meeting.