

SCW Solar Electric Station Project Overview: Chris Barker, Founder & President of CBC Transportation, delivered **an overview of a possible six-month pilot study for an electric solar-powered, safe autonomous (driverless) vehicle shuttle program for Sun City West.**

Mr. Barker is a senior mobility specialist in New Community Transport Options who has current operations in Las Vegas, Nevada, and Orlando, Florida, as well as international urban locations.

Mr. Barker outlined the **conceptual framework for a SCW pilot study** using two-seat “dash vehicles and a 12-passenger shuttle vehicle operating in the RH Johnson facility between the Library and Walgreens.

All vehicles would be charged and stored at a covered zero-emissions, off-grid electric solar power station to be erected near the Library, where the vehicles would be available to SCW residents (with valid driver’s licenses) on an online-reservation basis.

His vehicles are crash-tested, climate-controlled and can accommodate walkers, canes and store purchases. The larger 12-passenger vehicle can accommodate the handicapped and wheelchairs.

Mr. Barker clarified that the pilot study would be fully funded and managed by CBC project managers and contractors – resulting in no additional support by Association Staff. **A pilot study could begin as early as Fall 2021.**

He also indicated that SCW is a desirable location for resident-use solar-powered vehicles because they are safer than golf carts, have seat belts and are geared to an older population that is less comfortable or unable to drive their own vehicles. There is also no public transportation system in place.

GB Directors engaged in discussion on:

- The cost, ownership and other factors of the general program and electric solar power station after the conclusion of the six-month pilot study.
- The method of accessing the vehicles during and after the pilot study. Northwest Valley Connect might be involved in resident transport to the program – since they already provide transportation services to SCW residents.
- The need for pilot study metrics to evaluate the success of the program (e.g., rider/usage numbers).
- The vehicle reservation system and logistics of use (e.g., how to connect to the power station).
- The maintenance and upkeep (cleaning) of the vehicles.
- The usage of the program by residents with handicaps/mobility issues.

- The impact of resident “driving competency” in using the vehicles and correctly matching residents with smaller vehicles or larger shuttles.
- Misuse of the covered parking by residents looking for shaded parking and/or misuse of the electric power station by residents with personal electric car charging needs.

Director Sharon Hettick, who has been affiliated with Northwest Valley Connect, suggested that the pilot study will help to better address specific issues and help to introduce and educate the community on these newest transportation options. Refer to the full presentation (which is attached to the agenda) for further detail and renderings.

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