



CITY OF NORMAN, OK STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: October 22, 2024

REQUESTER: Scott Sturtz

PRESENTER: Scott Sturtz, Interim Director of Public Works

ITEM TITLE: CONSIDERATION OF ADOPTION, REJECTION, AMENDMENT, AND/ OR POSTPONEMENT OF RESOLUTION R-2425-60: RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF NORMAN REQUESTING THE OKLAHOMA TURNPIKE AUTHORITY'S ACCESS OKLAHOMA PROGRAM TO IMPROVE AND CONSTRUCT FACILITIES IN THE VICINITY OF THE CITY OF NORMAN ALONG THE EAST-WEST CONNECTOR.

BACKGROUND:

The Oklahoma Turnpike Authority (OTA) operates a turnpike system within Oklahoma that connects state highways/interstates and local road systems. Access Oklahoma was introduced by the OTA in December 2021 with plans to upgrade and expand the turnpike system across the state. The Access Oklahoma plan proposed two new turnpike corridors in the Norman City limits. The first was the East West Connector (EWC) that would connect I-44 near Newcastle to I-40 at the Kickapoo Turnpike across northern Norman. The second was the South Extension Turnpike (SET) that would connect to I-35 north of Purcell and continue through east Norman and connect to the EWC. This Resolution applies exclusively to the EWC.

DISCUSSION:

The OTA has requested that the Norman City Council pass a resolution to present the City's requests and expectations of the OTA for any future coordination and construction on the EWC. Currently the EWC is under evaluation for the alignment of the roadway to begin further design work on this corridor. The OTA has requested that a resolution be provided so any City of Norman requests can be incorporated into the plans for the first phase that will impact Norman from 72nd Avenue Northwest to 48th Avenue Northeast including the interchange at I-35. The construction of the turnpike system is expected begin in late 2025 with the mainline opening to traffic by the end of 2027. Future sections may follow.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends approval of Resolution No. R-2425-60 a resolution of the Council of the City of Norman, Oklahoma acknowledging the Oklahoma Turnpike Authority's Access Oklahoma program to improve and construct turnpike facilities in the City of Norman and to protect and preserve the Lake Thunderbird watershed, the Canadian River corridor, the City's drinking water supply, and the City's flood hazard areas.