



CITY OF NORMAN, OK STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: 03/22/2022

REQUESTER: City Council

PRESENTER: Kathryn Walker, City Attorney

ITEM TITLE: CONSIDERATION OF ADOPTION, REJECTION, AMENDMENT AND/OR POSTPONEMENT OF RESOLUTION R-2122-106: A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORMAN, OKLAHOMA, DECLARING THE NEED FOR FURTHER STUDY OF ACCESS OKLAHOMA'S IMPACT ON LAKE THUNDERBIRD; CITING THE LACK OF INFORMATION TO SUPPORT THE KICKAPOO TURNPIKE EXTENSION THROUGH NORMAN, AND EXPRESSING THE CITY'S OPPOSITION TO THE OKLAHOMA TURNPIKE AUTHORITY'S 'ACCESS OKLAHOMA' PLAN AS IT IMPACTS NORMAN.

BACKGROUND:

Since the announcement of its long range plan entitled "Access Oklahoma" by the Oklahoma Turnpike Authority ("OTA") on February 22, 2022, Council has discussed the plan with impacted constituents and staff. Staff has received multiple requests from Councilmembers for a formal resolution opposing the Access Oklahoma plan.

DISCUSSION:

Resolution R-2122-106 notes the legislative and policy history in the development of OTA's Access Oklahoma Plan as well as the concerns related to the water quality of Lake Thunderbird and the effort of Norman to positively impact the quality of the Lake. It also notes the City's planning history related to land use and transportation. The resolution establishes the City's position that the OTA should study the impact of the proposed turnpike on the Lake Thunderbird watershed prior to moving forward and make the results of such study publicly available, that insufficient information exists to support the construction of the Kickapoo turnpike extension through Norman, and that the City opposes the construction of all aspects of Access Oklahoma proposed to occur within Norman without this information.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff forwards Resolution R-2122-106 for Council's consideration.