



CITY OF NORMAN, OK STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: 02/10/2026

REQUESTER: JEANNE SNIDER, ASSISTANT CITY ATTORNEY

PRESENTER: JEANNE SNIDER, ASSISTANT CITY ATTORNEY

ITEM TITLE: CONSIDERATION OF ADOPTION, REJECTION, AMENDMENT, AND/OR POSTPONEMENT OF ORDINANCE O-2526-41 UPON FIRST READING BY TITLE: AN ORDINANCE OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORMAN AMENDING SECTION 32-509 TO INCLUDE PROHIBITING THE USE OF HANDHELD ELECTRONIC DEVICES WHILE OPERATING A MOTOR VEHICLE IN DESIGNATED SCHOOL ZONES AND ACTIVE CONSTRUCTION WORK ZONES

BACKGROUND:

The Oklahoma Legislature enacted House Bill 2263 (codified in 47 O.S. § 11-901d), which prohibits the use of handheld electronic devices while operating a motor vehicle in designated school zones and active construction or maintenance work zones. The law became effective November 1, 2025. This ordinance will allow local law enforcement to issue citations in municipal court, improving safety near schools and construction areas.

DISCUSSION:

The proposed ordinance amendment makes it unlawful for any driver to operate a motor vehicle while manually using, holding, or supporting a handheld electronic device (including cell phones, tablets, or similar devices) within a marked school zone during posted hours or an active construction zone where workers are present. Violations would be considered a traffic offense, punishable by a total fine and court costs of not more than \$100.

Exceptions include use of a hands-free or voice-activated system, emergency communication to law enforcement, fire, or medical personnel and emergency vehicle operators performing official duties. It also requires that the driver consent to an officer confiscating the phone to determine if a violation occurred. The goal of this ordinance is to reduce distractions that lead to crashes, keep road workers safe, and protect school children and crossing guards in school zones.

RECOMMENDATION:

To ensure consistency with state law and enhance local enforcement within the city limits, staff recommends adoption of the proposed ordinance amendment prohibiting the use of handheld electronic devices while operating a motor vehicle in an active construction zone or designated school zone.