



CITY OF NORMAN, OK STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: 03/10/2026

REQUESTER: Nathan Madenwald, Utilities Engineer

PRESENTER: Nathan Madenwald, Utilities Engineer

ITEM TITLE: CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL, ACCEPTANCE, REJECTION, AMENDMENT AND/OR POSTPONEMENT OF CONTRACT K-2526-139: BY AND BETWEEN THE CITY OF NORMAN AND THE OKLAHOMA TURNPIKE AUTHORITY FOR THE EAST-WEST CONNECTOR UTILITY RELOCATION AGREEMENT, FOR THE RELOCATION OF WATER WELLS AND WATERLINES GENERALLY BETWEEN 48TH AVENUE NW AND 24TH AVENUE NW AND ASSOCIATED BUDGET APPROPRIATION AS OUTLINED IN THE STAFF REPORT. (WARDS 3 & 8)

BACKGROUND:

The Oklahoma Turnpike Authority (OTA) is currently constructing the East-West Connector (EWC) turnpike across the north side of Norman. From west to east, the alignment generally follows along the Indian Hills Road corridor until 84th Avenue NE, where the future turnpike will turn northeasterly for several miles before connecting to the existing Kickapoo Turnpike and Interstate 40.

With large transportation projects, impacts to local infrastructure are common and will typically require one or more agreements to formalize the responsibilities for all entities involved. This occurred recently with the modifications to Interstate 35 by the Oklahoma Department of Transportation (ODOT) when the latest expansion occurred through Norman where additional lanes were added and various interchanges were improved. With the EWC, specifically the sections from I-35 Interchange to the west, the OTA contacted City staff regarding potential agreements for the 36th Avenue NW corridor and water system impacts and relocations. City staff from multiple departments have been working closely together on two separate agreements with OTA that you will consider tonight.

DISCUSSION:

Contract K-2526-139 is a proposed Utility Relocation Agreement that addresses the City of Norman's water infrastructure that will be impacted by the proposed EWC generally between 48th Avenue NW and 24th Avenue NW. No wastewater facilities are impacted within this corridor.

For the utility relocation process, the EWC was evaluated against Norman water and wastewater facilities to determine conflicts and where relocations were required. The facilities impacted are:

1. Two active water wells – 19 (currently out of service due to car accident) and 20
2. Two inactive water wells – 17 and 18
3. Approximately 17,500 feet of water line and appurtenances

Pursuant to State regulations, facilities that are located within private easement or right-of-way are eligible for relocation by the OTA. The wells and water lines were evaluated against this criteria with the majority of water lines and the wells meeting this requirement. Additionally, staff considered future infrastructure needs, specifically the most recent AIM Water Master Plan, to determine betterments for improvement of the water system.

OTA Responsibilities	Norman Responsibilities
Pay \$8,950,000 for the City to relocate four water wells	Pay \$1,964,400 for water line relocations and betterments
Construct approximately \$11.7 million in water line relocations and betterments	Provide design requirements
Provide engineering services	Review and adopt design plans for water line relocations and betterments
Obtain all right-of-way for water line relocations and betterments	Plug Wells 17-20 by December 31, 2026

This proposed agreement will allow several capital needs to be addressed for the water system. The following sections discuss each capital improvement in greater detail.

Groundwater Wells

The Norman Utilities Authority is currently under design for the Norman Groundwater Facility at 4020 E Tecumseh Road to provide disinfection of the groundwater supply. Wells 19 and 20 are not within a feasible range to pipe east to this facility. Additionally, these wells were installed in the 1950s and, for Wells 19 and 20, have exceeded their useful life. Wells 17 and 18 are not currently in use or planned to be brought back into service.

Additionally, the Area & Infrastructure Master (AIM) Water Plan recommended water supply improvements to meet future water demands; specifically, increased supplies from Oklahoma City and additional groundwater wells for additional water in the next 10 years. The \$8.95 million from this agreement for the four wells to be relocated could provide an offset for those required capital funds.

24-Inch Water Transmission Main

The AIM Water Master Plan recommended a 24-inch water transmission main along Indian Hills from 36th Avenue NW east to 48th Avenue NE including a bore under Interstate 35. Under this agreement, approximately 3,350 linear feet of 24-inch water line would be constructed from 36th Avenue NW to east of Huettner Road including the required bore. Additionally, the construction of this line would be expedited as part of the EWC. This section of line is considered a betterment since it is increasing the size of the new line; however, other segments of water lines were determined not to be required based on the proposed EWC alignment which allowed for these unnecessary segments to offset the cost of the betterment. The cost for this betterment is \$772,320 but the full estimated, if completed by the City as a separate project, is estimated to cost approximately \$5 to \$6 million for engineering and construction.

12-Inch Water Line Replacement on Interstate Drive East of Interstate 35

The existing 12-inch water line running parallel to Interstate Drive was constructed with the water wells in the 1950s and has shown increased rates of failure. With the proximity to Interstate 35, repairing and replacing this water line can be challenging for staff. This agreement will replace this line from Indian Hills north to Well 20 as part of the relocations without funding from the City. If completed as a separate project by the City, this project would be expected to cost between \$2 to \$3 million.

Other relocations and betterments in the agreement are not currently programmed but will renew existing water system infrastructure including a new 12-inch line under Interstate 35 near Well 20, new water lines along the north and south sides of the EWC, and other relocations required. In total, the City share for the agreement is a maximum of \$1,964,400 or about 10 percent of the estimated overall capital cost of \$20 million.

Funding for the relocations and betterments that are the responsibility for the City of Norman will be from the Water Fund Balance. Staff proposes to appropriate \$1,964,400 from the Water Fund Balance (Account 31-29000) into the OTA Waterline Relocation – 48th-24th NW construction account (Account 31997727-46101 / Project WA0393). Funds received from the OTA to be deposited into Other Revenue – Sale of Fixed Assets account within the Water Fund (Account 319-373153).

RECOMMENDATION 1:

Staff recommends the City of Norman approve Contract K-2625-139 with the Oklahoma Turnpike Authority for the East-West Connector Utility Relocation Agreement between 48th Avenue NW and 24th Avenue NW.

RECOMMENDATION 2:

Staff recommends the City of Norman appropriate \$1,964,400 from the Water Fund Balance (Account 31-29000) into OTA Waterline Relocation – 48th-24th NW construction account (Account 31997727-46101 / Project WA0393).