



CITY OF NORMAN, OK STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: 11/25/2025

REQUESTER: Anthony Francisco, Finance Director

PRESENTER: Anthony Francisco, Finance Director

ITEM TITLE: CONSIDERATION OF ACCEPTANCE, APPROVAL, REJECTION, AMENDMENT AND/OR POSTPONEMENT OF THE UPDATED NORMAN FORWARD IMPLEMENTATION PLAN THAT WAS RECOMMENDED BY THE NORMAN FORWARD CITIZEN'S FINANCIAL OVERSIGHT BOARD.

BACKGROUND:

On August 11, 2015, the Norman City Council adopted Ordinance O-1516-5, which levied a ½ percent “Norman Forward” sales tax for a period of fifteen years, subject to voter approval. The voters of Norman approved the Ordinance on October 13, 2015. The NORMAN FORWARD Sales Tax (NFST) provides funding for a series of quality of life capital projects.

To assist with carrying out the approved NORMAN FORWARD projects in an orderly fashion, the Council appointed a Citizen’s Financial Oversight Board (Resolution R-1516-75, adopted December 22, 2015) and hired a Program Management firm, ADG, Inc. (Contract K-1516-110, approved on February 23, 2016; amended on February 26, 2019) to assist City staff with the implementation of the projects. One of the major tasks performed by ADG was to assist in the preparation of an Implementation Plan (“I-Plan”) document, to help guide the development of the NORMAN FORWARD projects on anticipated schedules and within anticipated budget allocations, and to report on the progress of the individual projects. City Staff has maintained preparation of periodic updates to the Implementation Plan since the completion of the Program Manager’s contracted assignment.

The Norman Forward Implementation Plan was originally adopted by the City Council/Norman Municipal Authority (NMA) on June 28, 2016 (Resolution 1516-130), as recommended by the NORMAN FORWARD Citizen’s Financial Oversight Board (CFOB). The Implementation Plan is intended to be a “living document”; subject to change, periodic review and re-approval as NORMAN FORWARD projects progress. On the recommendation of the CFOB, an amended Implementation Plan was adopted by the NMA/Council October 8, 2019 (Resolution R-1920-44), and updated Implementation Plan reports were accepted by the Trustees and Council in April, 2022 and May 2023, and April, 2024.

DISCUSSION:

The CFOB has reviewed the I-Plan document on a periodic basis and made necessary changes to the Plan. As the NORMAN FORWARD program has progressed, several major projects have been completed or are nearing completion, and some major program changes have been approved by the Council/NMA. This progress and these program changes have necessitated another update to the Implementation Plan, to be considered for adoption by the City Council and Norman

Municipal Authority Trustees. The CFOB considered the attached updated Implementation Plan at its meeting on November 14, 2025 and recommended its adoption by the City Council and NMA.

Some of the significant changes that have been made to the NORMAN FORWARD program that will be incorporated in this updated Implementation Plan include the following:

- The final purchase of the land underlying the Griffin Park Soccer Complex, using NORMAN FORWARD funding of \$2,400,000, from the Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services. This purchase is noted in the updated I-Plan.
- The completion of the James Garner Avenue project, using \$6,000,000 in NORMAN FORWARD funds and matching funds from the Federal Highway Administration and Oklahoma Department of Transportation.
- The completion of the first major NORMAN FORWARD-funded Trails projects, along Flood Avenue between Robinson and Tecumseh Streets, and along Constitution Street east of Jenkins Avenue.
- Discussion of recently-completed or under construction Neighborhood Park projects is included.

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the updated NORMAN FORWARD Implementation Plan be accepted.