



CITY OF NORMAN, OK STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: 7/23/2024

REQUESTER: Katherine Coffin

PRESENTER: David Riesland, Transportation Engineer

ITEM TITLE: CONSIDERATION OF ADOPTION, REJECTION, AMENDMENT, AND/OR POSTPONEMENT OF RESOLUTION R-2425-13: A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORMAN, OKLAHOMA, PROGRAMMING ACOG TAP FUNDING FOR A PEDESTRIAN HYBRID BEACON SIGNAL ON 36TH AVENUE NW AT RUBY GRANT PARK.

BACKGROUND:

The Association of Central Oklahoma Governments (ACOG) Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) program has historically provided funding for projects and programs defined as transportation alternatives that advance non-motorized transportation opportunities, including on- and off-road pedestrian and bicycle facilities, infrastructure projects for improving non-driver access to public transportation and enhanced mobility, community improvement activities, historic transportation preservation, environmental mitigation and vegetation management activities; recreational trail programs; safe routes to school projects; and projects for planning, designing, or constructing boulevards and other roadways largely in the right-of-way of former Interstate System routes or other divided highways. TAP continues to build upon the legacy of the Transportation Enhancements (TE) and Safe Routes to Schools (SRTS) programs by providing funding opportunities for local projects that support additional transportation options, strengthen local economies, improve quality of life, protect the natural environment, and enhance transportation infrastructure.

Funds set aside for ACOG TAP include all projects and activities that were previously eligible under TE, encompassing a variety of transportation projects that prioritize safety, comfort, and connectivity to destinations for all people who use the street network such as pedestrian and bicycle facilities, recreational trails, safe routes to school projects, community improvements such as historic preservation and vegetation management, and environmental mitigation related to Stormwater and habitat connectivity. The call for projects, through the (ACOG), is now open and will remain open through September 3, 2024.

DISCUSSION:

The establishment of a pedestrian hybrid beacon signal on 36th Avenue NW at the entrance to Ruby Grant Park (location may attached) has been the subject of much discussion and study over the past couple of years. The proposed project would install the City's first pedestrian hybrid beacon to facilitate pedestrian movements to and from Ruby Grant Park across 36th Avenue NW. The system would display red indications, much like a standard traffic signal, when pedestrians are present needing to cross 36th Avenue NW to and from Ruby Grant Park. This technology has been successfully deployed at numerous other locations in the Oklahoma City Metro Area but would be the first for Norman. This project will help to increase pedestrian mobility in Norman. If City Council approves this programming resolution, staff will submit an application for the pedestrian hybrid beacon signal on 36th Avenue NW at the entrance to Ruby Grant Park.

The call for projects documentation indicates that this round of TAP funding is for federal fiscal year 2024-2025 (FFY 2025). City Staff would complete the plans in-house so the only cost to the City would be the 20% City share of construction, which is estimated at \$38,864. The engineer's estimate for the projects is attached. City staff may recommend the re-allocation of Capital Project Funds in FYE 2025 and bid the project through ODOT on or before October 2024 so the funds are spent in FFY2025. In that case, construction of these two pedestrian crossing systems might take place in early 2025.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends approval of Resolution R-2425-13 (Pedestrian Hybrid Beacon on 36th Avenue NW for Ruby Grant Park) requesting ACOG TAP funding to provide 80% of the anticipated \$194,316 construction cost.