



## CITY OF NORMAN, OK STAFF REPORT

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**MEETING DATE:** 05/08/2025

**REQUESTER:** City of Norman

**PRESENTER:** Cole Niblett, PE – Garver

**ITEM TITLE:** CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL, ACCEPTANCE, REJECTION, AMENDMENT, AND/OR POSTPONEMENT OF RESOLUTION R-2425-104: RECOMMENDATION REGARDING A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORMAN, OKLAHOMA ADOPTING THE AIM NORMAN WASTEWATER UTILITY MASTER PLAN.

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### **BACKGROUND:**

The City of Norman released a Request for Proposal (RFP-2223-29) in September of 2022, seeking proposals from qualified consultants for professional services to prepare the following documents for the City of Norman:

- Comprehensive Land Use Plan;
- Housing Strategy Plan;
- Comprehensive Transportation Plan Update;
- Stormwater Master Plan Update;
- Water Hydraulic Modeling Update;
- Wastewater Master Plan; and
- Sanitation Master Plan.

The citywide proposal will develop an all-encompassing vision for the community that can be supported by all. To facilitate this objective, the City of Norman is seeking to update its Comprehensive Transportation Plan, Stormwater Master Plan, Water Hydraulic Modeling, and develop Wastewater and Sanitation Master Plans to ensure improvements to the City's infrastructure align with the vision and policies of the new Comprehensive Plan.

As set forth in the RFP, Public Engagement was designed to address three key tasks:

Task 1 – Norman Today – Where are we now?

This process was designed to consist of a review of background documents, economic and development trends, hazard mitigation and environmental constraints, land use inventory and urban design, transportation, public facilities and infrastructure, and housing and neighborhoods.

Task 2 – Norman Tomorrow – Where do we want to go?

This process was designed to review the vision and future land use opportunities, or constraints and develop goals and principles based on community engagement and understanding where we are today.

### Task 3 – Norman Tomorrow – How do we get there?

This process was designed to develop Plan Elements for the various included master plans, utilizing the overarching goals and principles to define the program and design of the city and outline the specific plan elements and systems that guide the City's future, thus creating a cohesive strategy across the city and departments, and for all of the included individual masterplans.

Through the RFP process, a team consisting of seven City Staff members and two citizen members selected RDG Planning & Design, Inc. Contract K-2324-46 with RDG was approved by City Council on July 25, 2023. The final scope included all of the proposed individual master plans except that it was determined that the City did not require a Sanitation Master Plan update at this time. Thereafter, and on September 26, 2023, K-2324-46 was amended to include services for the creation of a Parks Recreation and Trails Master Plan, again bringing the total number of included master plans to seven.

An Ad Hoc Steering Committee to work with the City and its consultants in creating the "Area and Infrastructure Master Plan" ("AIM Norman") was originally appointed by Resolution R-2324-52 on August 22, 2023, and its membership and procedures finalized by Amendment 1 to R-2324-52 on November 14, 2023. The Steering Committee, and its appointed individual Sub-Committees for Housing, Stormwater, Water/Wastewater, Transportation, and Parks, have worked tirelessly to offer input and guidance on the creation of the seven AIM Norman master plans now submitted for the Planning Commission's review and consideration.

### **DISCUSSION:**

The City of Norman selected the RDG Planning and Design (headquartered in Omaha, Nebraska) (RDG) team to develop all of the Master Plans or Master Plan updates. Garver is a member of the RDG team and was tasked to lead the development of the Wastewater Utility Master Plan. Mr. Michael Niblett led the Garver team in this endeavor. An AIM Steering Committee was established by the Mayor and City Council to guide the planning process. A Sub-Committee was formed to specifically guide the development of the Water and Wastewater Utility Master Plans. Mr. Dan Bergey was the chair of this Sub-Committee.

The Wastewater Utility Master Plan features extensive amounts of public input including Open Houses and Listening Sessions. The Steering Committee met monthly for a period of seventeen months. Additionally, the Sub-Committee met a total of eight times plus three tours of key Norman water and wastewater facilities.

The Wastewater Utility Master Plan built upon past master plans and engineering studies to determine required improvements to meet wastewater collection and treatment demands for current and future demands. The work was a thorough, exhaustive effort to look at numerous alternatives to provide our current and future customers a reliable and resilient wastewater system as efficiently as possible while maximizing the level of service.

Key highlights from the Wastewater Utility Master Plan include:

1. Evaluation of the existing wastewater distribution network under current dry and wet weather flows to determine required system improvements;
2. Evaluation of the proposed land use under the AIM Norman to determine required system improvements to meet future estimated demands;
3. Evaluation of various wastewater treatment alternatives including an additional water reclamation facility at various locations which determined that further utilizing the existing Water Reclamation Facility with lift stations to collect flows from the Little River, Rock Creek and Dave Blue drainage basins would be the most cost efficient method; and
4. Preparation of a capital improvement program to construct required improvements.

The design team presented a summary of the Wastewater Utility Master Plan to a special City Council Study Session on January 17, 2025. The Wastewater Utility Master Plan was recommended by the Sub-Committee for consideration by the Steering Committee on January 28, 2025.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

All of the plan updates, including the Wastewater Utility Master Plan were approved for presentation to the Planning Commission and the Norman City Council by the AIM Steering Committee. This unanimous vote was part of the March 12 Steering Committee Meeting.

Staff recommends the approval R-2425-104, the Wastewater Utility Master Plan, which is presented to the members of the Planning Commission for consideration of a recommendation to the Norman City Council.