



CITY OF NORMAN, OK STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: 05/08/2025

REQUESTER: City of Norman

PRESENTER: Bret Cabbiness, Garver

ITEM TITLE: CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL, ACCEPTANCE, REJECTION, AMENDMENT, AND/OR POSTPONEMENT OF RESOLUTION R-2425-106: RECOMMENDATION REGARDING A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORMAN, OKLAHOMA ADOPTING THE AIM NORMAN COMPREHENSIVE TRANSPORTATION PLAN UPDATE.

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 entered into 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 Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP) update. Mr. Bret Cabbiness 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 CTP update. Mr. Jim Adair was the chair of this sub-committee.

The CTP update features extensive amounts of public input including Open Houses and Listening Sessions. The Steering Committee met monthly for a period of seventeen months. The sub-committee met a total of eight times which included three special micro group meetings. The design team presented a summary of the CTP update to a special City Council Study Session on February 25, 2025.

The CTP update includes roadways, traffic, parking and transit, aviation, bridges, and active transportation. All of the work in these areas built off the work done in the 2014 CTP. The plan for aviation was taken directly from the Max Westheimer Airport Master Plan that was approved by the Federal Aviation Administration in 2024. The plan for transit was taken directly from the Go Norman Transit Plan that was adopted in 2021. The plan for parking was taken directly from the 2018 Strategic Parking Plan that was a joint venture between Cleveland County and the City

of Norman. The plan for bridges was taken from the 2023 Bridge Maintenance Bond Program. Other plan elements were updates to what was included in the 2014 CTP.

The highlights of the CTP update include a renewed emphasize on non-motorized forms of transportation or Active Transportation. Active Transportation includes pedestrians, bicycles, scooters, wheelchairs, and other vulnerable road users. The CTP also includes a ranked list of projects of different types over the next several years. This CTP rolls in previous studies for aviation, transit, parking, and bridges into a single document. One exciting roadway highlight is the development of an evaluation matrix for roundabouts that will allow the development of a score for potential roundabout locations that will allow future roundabouts to be ranked against one another to develop a priority list of locations.

RECOMMENDATION:

All of the plan updates, including the Comprehensive Transportation 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-2425-106, the Comprehensive Transportation Plan, which is presented to the members of the Planning Commission for consideration of a recommendation to the Norman City Council.