



## CITY OF NORMAN, OK STAFF REPORT

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**MEETING DATE:** 10/14/2025

**REQUESTER:** Taylor Johnson, AICP, Transit and Parking Program Manager

**PRESENTER:** Scott Sturtz, P. E., Public Works Director

**ITEM TITLE:** CONSIDERATION OF ADOPTION, REJECTION, AMENDMENT, AND/OR POSTPONEMENT OF RESOLUTION R-2526-56: A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORMAN ACCEPTING THE AWARD OF \$1,522,828 THROUGH THE FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION'S (FTA) FISCAL YEAR 2023 AND 2025 SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BLOCK GRANT URBANIZED AREA (STBG-UZA) AND AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER OR HIS DESIGNEE TO SUBMIT, EXECUTE, AND FILE AN APPLICATION ON BEHALF OF THE CITY OF NORMAN WITH THE OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (ODOT) AND/OR THE ASSOCIATION OF CENTRAL OKLAHOMA GOVERNMENTS (ACOG) TO PROGRAM THE PROJECT AWARD.

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### **BACKGROUND:**

Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act (P.L. 114-94), signed into law on December 4, 2015, authorized federal highway, highway safety, transit, and rail programs. The FAST Act amended the Surface Transportation Program (STP) contained in 23 U.S.C. 133, and changed the program name to the Surface Transportation Block Grant Urbanized-Area Program (STBG-UZA). The STBG-UZA promotes flexibility in State and local transportation decisions and provides flexible funding to best address State and local transportation needs.

The Association of Central Oklahoma Governments (ACOG), which serves as the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the greater Oklahoma City Metropolitan Area, is responsible for coordinating with Oklahoma Department of Transportation (ODOT), area local governments, and transit providers, such as the City of Norman, to implement the applicable Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP).

The City of Norman took over the operations of the City public transportation system on June 1, 2019, from the University of Oklahoma. Since then, staff has worked diligently to pursue federal grant opportunities to maximize local funding to replace the aged vehicles that were inherited as a part of the transition of service. As of October 2025, There are four (4) remaining vehicles in the transit fleet which are past their useful life according to FTA standards. Of these four vehicles, three are full sized buses in the fixed-route fleet and one is an ADA accessible van in the paratransit fleet.

On June 27, 2019 the City of Norman was recognized by the FTA as an eligible direct recipient of federal grant funds under 49 U.S.C.: Section 5307, Public Transit Systems in Urbanized Areas; and Section 5339, Grants for Buses and Bus Facilities Program. Transit capital projects are eligible for STBG funding under chapter 53 of title 49, of the United States Code, including vehicles and facilities that are used to provide intercity passenger bus service.

ODOT, through ACOG, awarded the City of Norman \$505,953 in FYE 2023 STBG-UZA funds and \$1,016,875 in FYE 2025 STBG-UZA funds for a total federal award amount of \$1,522,828 to be used for the replacement of three 35-foot low-floor CNG transit buses. These funds have been “flexed”, or transferred, from Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) to the Federal Transit Administration (FTA).

#### **DISCUSSION:**

The proposed resolution, R-2526-56, is for the formal acceptance of the award of the federal grant funds described above. The financing stipulated by the grant award is for eighty-five percent (85%) of total actual auditable costs for the STBG-UZA funds and will require a minimum fifteen percent (15%) local match. If the entire grant amount is utilized the minimum local match amount will be \$268,735. Any cost above the grant amount will be the responsibility of the City of Norman. The grant funds are available for reimbursement for three fiscal years after the fiscal year in which the grant is awarded.

The proposed use of grant funds would be to replace three buses which are currently in use (units 5-0704, 5-1029, and 5-1533) but that have reached the end of their useful life according to FTA standards. Staff have been working with the transit vehicle manufacturer Gillig to finalize a price for the 3 (three) 35ft low-floor CNG transit buses. Currently, ten (10) of the City’s twelve (12) fixed route buses are manufactured by Gillig. A separate agenda item is also before Council for authorization to effectuate the purchase of the buses, if these funds are accepted.

#### **RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends that City Council approve resolution R-2526-56 accepting the Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) funds from the Oklahoma Department of Transportation (ODOT) through the Association of Central Oklahoma Governments (ACOG) in the amount of \$1,522,828 to be used for the procurement of three 35ft low-floor compressed natural gas (CNG) transit buses.