



CITY OF NORMAN, OK STAFF REPORT

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-2526-57 REQUESTING THE ASSOCIATION OF CENTRAL OKLAHOMA GOVERNMENTS TO CONSIDER THE CITY OF NORMAN'S SELECTED TRANSIT IMPROVEMENT PROJECT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2029 FEDERAL SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BLOCK GRANT FUNDS

BACKGROUND:

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 the 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). As the MPO, ACOG is also responsible for coordinating the selection of projects for many federal grant funds that are allocated to our central Oklahoma urbanized area. On Wednesday September 2, 2025, ACOG announced the annual Surface Transportation Block Grant Program – Urbanized Area (STBG-UZA) call for projects.

The Surface Transportation Block Grant Program (STBG) promotes flexibility in State and local transportation decisions and provides flexible funding to best address State and local transportation needs. ACOG is currently estimating \$40 million in STBG-UZA funds for this year's call for projects, which will be available in federal fiscal year 2029. Eligible projects include road widening, road new construction, road intersections, road resurfacing, bridges, bicycle and pedestrian facilities, transit, and safety. There is a ten percent (10%) cap for bicycle and pedestrian projects, as well as a separate 10% cap on transit projects. All projects must be located on a functionally classified road and be included in, or be consistent with, the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP). Proposed projects must also comply with the ACOG Complete Streets Policy.

Entities can submit a total of 10 applications requesting up to \$7.5 million per project and no one entity may receive more than 56% of the total amount of funding available. Submitted project applications will be chosen based on the Project Scoring Criteria, developed by ACOG member entities and approved by the ACOG MPO Policy Committee. The deadline for grant application is October 31, 2025, and it is anticipated that grant awards will be made in January 2026.

DISCUSSION:

The City of Norman took over administration of the public transit operations in Norman from the University of Oklahoma in July 2019. Since that time the City has submitted a request for transit bus replacements in three of the last four STBG-UZA call for projects. This allows the City to maximize local funding for transit fleet replacement as split for STBG-UZA projects is usually 80% federal and 20% local. The City has been successful in the past, with securing funds for bus replacements in fiscal year 2020-2021 (FY 2021), FY 2022, and FY 2023 call for projects.

For this STBG-UZA call for projects cycle, staff is requesting to submit a project for replacing 5 paratransit vehicles in the Transit fleet with new CNG units. Staff have obtained a quote from TESCO in the amount of \$199,505 each (\$997,525 total for 5 units). Due to inflation and market volatility, City and TESCO staff have done their best to estimate how much these units would cost in FY 2029.

Local City match funds to be made available for the project are currently estimated at \$199,505 (\$39,901 each unit) or 20%. Funding for the City's local match could be provided through the General Fund, Public Transit Sales Tax Fund or Capital Fund, if the project is selected.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends approval of Resolution R-2526-57 requesting ACOG STBG-UZA funding for enhancements to the City's transit fleet.