



## CITY OF NORMAN, OK STAFF REPORT

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**MEETING DATE:** 12/12/2023

**REQUESTER:** Paul D'Andrea, Capital Projects Engineer

**PRESENTER:** Shawn O'Leary, Public Works Director

**ITEM TITLE:** CONSIDERATION OF ADOPTION, REJECTION, AMENDMENT, AND/OR POSTPONEMENT OF RESOLUTION R-2324-91: A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF NORMAN, OKLAHOMA, TRANSFERRING \$189,700 FROM THE RAILROAD QUIET ZONE ACCOUNT AND TRANSFERRING \$45,641 FROM THE RAILROAD CORRIDOR SAFETY ACCOUNT TO THE JAMES GARNER AVENUE PHASE 3 ACRES STREET TO DUFFY STREET PROJECT CONSTRUCTION ACCOUNT.

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### **BACKGROUND:**

On April 2, 2019, the citizens of Norman voted in favor of a \$72 million transportation bond issue, which includes nineteen (19) projects. With the anticipated \$67 million in federal dollars being leveraged for these projects, approximately \$139 million is budgeted for the nineteen (19) projects.

On August 19, 2019, City staff advertised Request for Proposal RFP 1920-16 to solicit Consulting Engineering Services for the fourteen (14) bond projects still requiring design. This RFP was written to select a group of approximately five (5) consultants to complete the design on the remaining 2019 Transportation Bond Projects that will be completed over the next ten (10) years. Twenty-two (22) proposals were received, and a selection committee consisting of three (3) City staff and two (2) citizens "shortlisted" nine (9) consultant teams for interviews held on October 2, 2019. The five (5) consultant teams selected after interviews to complete the design on these projects were:

- Cabbiness Engineering, Norman
- Cowan Group, Oklahoma City
- Freese and Nichols, Oklahoma City
- MacArthur Associated Consultants, Oklahoma City
- Olsson Associates, Oklahoma City

These consultants will be assigned the various projects by City staff based on capacity, performance on their current projects and capabilities of their firm to complete a specific project.

On February 25, 2020, the Norman City Council approved Contract K-920-116, between the City of Norman and Cowan Group Engineers, in the amount of \$526,600, for the design of the James Garner Avenue Phase 3 (Duffy Street to Acres Street) 2019 Bond Project.

Phase 1 of the James Garner Avenue Project was completed in 2019 adjacent to the City's new Central Library north of Acres Street. Phase 2, from Acres Street north to Flood Avenue is currently under construction with a projected completion date of April, 2024. This project, James Garner Avenue Phase 3 - Acres Street to Duffy Street - will begin construction in spring of 2024. It will consist of the following:

- Reconstruction of James Garner Avenue from Duffy Street to Acres Street.
- Transition of parking within the project limits to reverse angle parking
- New signals at the James Garner Avenue and Main Street intersection
- New ADA compliant sidewalks within the corridor and pedestrian safety improvements
- Decorative street lighting
- Landscaping
- Railroad safety and quiet zone improvements

## **DISCUSSION:**

The James Garner Avenue Phase 3 2019 Bond Project (Project BP0419), requires the construction of improvements to intersections adjacent to railroad crossings at various locations to comply with railroad quiet zone requirements. In addition, the BNSF Railroad has asked the City to provide a fence separating pedestrians throughout the corridor from the railroad right of way.

Currently, the City has two existing project accounts with available funding, not currently allotted for specific improvements, which could be used to help offset the project costs associated with these railroad-related improvements for James Garner Phase 3.

The Railroad Quiet Zone project (Project TR0066) has \$189,700.50 in unused funds and the Railroad Corridor Safety project (Project TR0019) contains \$45,641.12 in unused funds. These funds were originally intended to be used to address improvements, like the fencing along the railroad, proposed in the James Garner Phase 3 project. For this reason staff requests the transfer of these fund balances to the James Garner Phase 3 project to help offset a portion of the railroad related cost of the 2019 Bond Project.

## **RECOMMENDATION 1:**

Staff recommends the transfer of \$189,700.50 from the Railroad Quiet Zone Construction account (Account 50591169-46101; Project TR0066) and \$45,641.12 from the Railroad Corridor Safety Construction account (50591169-46101; Project TR0019) to the James Garner Avenue Phase 3 Acres Street to Duffy Street Project Construction account (50594405-46101; Project TR0419).