



CITY OF NORMAN, OK STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: 8/25/2026

REQUESTER: Scott Sturtz, Director of Public Works

PRESENTER: Paul D'Andrea, Capital Projects Engineer

ITEM TITLE: CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL, REJECTION, AMENDMENT, AND/OR POSTPONEMENT OF WORK ORDER PW1 TO ON-CALL CONTRACT K-2526-71: BY AND BETWEEN THE CITY OF NORMAN AND COWAN GROUP ENGINEERING, L.L.C., IN THE AMOUNT OF \$194,500 FOR THE PRELIMINARY STUDY AND CONCEPTUAL DESIGN REPORT FOR THE MAIN STREET TWO-WAY PROJECT AND BUDGET TRANSFERS AS OUTLINED IN THE STAFF REPORT. (WARD 4)

BACKGROUND:

Converting Main Street from one-way eastbound traffic to two-way traffic, between University Boulevard and Porter Avenue, has long been discussed to improve access to downtown businesses and redefine how traffic flows through downtown Norman.

On August 2, 2016, Freese and Nichols, Inc. completed a study of converting Main Street and Gray Street to two-way, between University Boulevard and Porter Avenue. The study determined that making Main Street and Gray Street two-way would create a calmer traffic environment, better suited to a downtown destination, which is desirable for the downtown businesses. One downside is that delays will be longer since one through lane is lost on each street and replaced with a center-turn lane, resulting in higher average delays. These delays may result in current pass-thru traffic diverting to other routes.

Now that Gray Street has been converted to two-way between University Boulevard and Porter Avenue, there is only one eastbound lane on these two arterial streets. As a result of the reduced eastbound capacity and the success of the Gray Street two-way project, there is growing support from City Council, downtown businesses and citizens to make similar changes to Main Street.

DISCUSSION:

The recently designed James Garner Phase 3 2019 Bond Project through downtown Norman intersects Main Street. Due to the proximity of the intersection of Main Street and James Garner Avenue to the BNSF railroad crossing, extensive coordination is necessary between

the James Garner Phase 3 and the Main Street Two-Way Conversion so that the first project constructed installs the necessary infrastructure to minimize changes to the second project.

Cowan Group Engineering LLC is the design firm for the James Garner Phase 3 project. Furthermore, in 2025 Cowan Group Engineering, LLC was selected for and awarded On-Call Contract K-2526-71 for On-call Engineering Services. For these reasons, Cowan Group has been chosen to begin preliminary investigations into the Main Street Two-Way conversion under their On-Call Contract.

The scope of the preliminary analysis and report will include a detailed topographic survey, a new traffic analysis to determine present and future traffic volumes and movements, analysis of proposed parking configurations for two-way main, investigation of required modifications to traffic signals including signalization and signage for the BNSF Railroad Crossing of Main Street, and preliminary construction cost estimates. The proposed fee for the preliminary analysis and report is \$194,500.

Dedicated funding for the Main Street Two-Way Project has not yet been allocated to the project. As a result, City staff in Finance have found funds from two other project accounts the will require balance transfers to fund the preliminary design and study. The first is a transfer of \$100,000 from the ODOT Audit Adjustment Project Construction account (Project No. TR0068, Account No. 50595535-46101) to the Main Street Two-Way Conversion Project Design account (Project No. TR0131, Account No.50594405-46201). The second is a transfer of \$94,500 from the Emergency EF Projects & Contingency Project account (Project No. EF1010, Acct. No. 50595540-46101) to the Main Street Two-Way Conversion Project Design account (Project No. TR0131, Account No. 50594405-46201).

RECOMMENDATION No. 1:

City staff recommend that the City Council approve a balance transfer in the amount of \$100,000 from the ODOT Audit Adjustment Project Construction account (Project No. TR0068, Account No. 50595535-46101) to the Main Street Two-Way Conversion Project Design account (Project No. TR0131, Account No. 50594405-46201).

RECOMMENDATION No. 2:

City staff further recommend that the City Council approve a balance transfer in the amount of \$94,500 from the Emergency EF Projects & Contingency Project (Project No. EF1010, Account No. 50595540-46101) to the Main Street Two-Way Conversion Project Design account (Project No. TR0131, Account No. 50594405-46201).

RECOMMENDATION No. 3:

City staff further recommend that the City Council approve Work Order No. PW1 to Contract K-2526-71 with Cowan Group Engineering, L.L.C., to provide preliminary engineering services for the Main Street Two-Way Conversion Project.