



## CITY OF NORMAN, OK STAFF REPORT

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**MEETING DATE:** 05/08/2025

**REQUESTER:** City of Norman

**PRESENTER:** Alan Dennis P.E., Garver

**ITEM TITLE:** CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL, ACCEPTANCE, REJECTION, AMENDMENT, AND/OR POSTPONEMENT OF RESOLUTION R-2425-105: RECOMMENDATION REGARDING A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORMAN, OKLAHOMA ADOPTING THE AIM NORMAN STORMWATER MASTER PLAN UPDATE.

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### **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, Inc. (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 Stormwater Master Plan (SWMP) update. Mr. Alan Dennis 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 SWMP update. Ms. Amanda Nairn was the chair of this sub-committee.

The SWMP 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 in addition to several micro-committee meetings that focused on specific areas of the SWMP. The design team presented a summary of the SWMP update to a special City Council Study Session on February 27, 2025.

The City of Norman's original Stormwater Master Plan was adopted by Council in 2009 and was a complex, comprehensive document outlining problems and solutions throughout all the major watersheds in the City of Norman. It also addressed concerns with flooding, erosion, water quality protections and outlined and ranked priority projects throughout the City. Several of those projects have been completed and other key recommendations have been implemented in the years since the 2009 SWMP adoption, including addressing problems such as "Lake McGee"

and other large capital projects, implementing a Water Quality Protection Zone Ordinance and a fertilizer ordinance, a first of its kind in the State of Oklahoma.

For the 2025 update, Garver updated the existing HEC-RAS and hydrologic models for watersheds throughout Norman using data from studies that have been performed since the 2009 plan and using current versions of the modeling software. Based on sub-committee recommendations, citizen feedback from the public meetings, and City Staff input, the rubric used to rank priority capital projects was updated and existing priority projects were reevaluated using the new criteria. Costs of those projects were also reevaluated based on current costs for 2025. In addition to the technical updates to the SWMP, input from the Stormwater sub-committee and public input were used to update overall goals of the plan. A list of recommendations for additional studies and projects to better help city staff anticipate and react to the City's needs, especially in the areas of public safety and water quality protections, was provided in the report.

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

All of the plan updates, including the SWMP updates 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 of R-2425-105, the Stormwater Master Plan Update, which is presented to the members of the Planning Commission for consideration of a recommendation to the Norman City Council.