



CITY OF NORMAN, OK STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: 9/22/2026

REQUESTER: Jason Olsen, Director of Parks & Recreation

PRESENTER: Jason Olsen, Director of Parks & Recreation

ITEM TITLE: CONSIDERATION OF ADOPTION, REJECTION, AMENDMENT AND/OR POSTPONEMENT OF RESOLUTION R-2627-46: A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORMAN, OKLAHOMA, TRANSFERRING \$75,000 FROM THE OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (ODOT) AUDIT ADJUSTMENT PROJECT TO THE MAIN STREET LANDSCAPE MEDIANS RENOVATION PROJECT FOR THE REDISIGN OF THE LANDSCAPE ON THE TRAFFIC ISLANDS/MEDIANS ON WEST MAIN STREET BETWEEN COLLIER DRIVE AND 26TH AVENUE NW.

BACKGROUND:

The 2025-26 Capital Improvement Plan included funding for an ODOT Audit Adjustment Project. This funding has been set aside to pay any additional amounts owed for projects completed as a joint ODOT and City of Norman project. Once those projects are complete, an audit is performed, and if there are overages, the City will use the remaining funds to cover the overage.

The Parks and Recreation Department has started work on a project to redesign the landscape for the traffic islands/medians on west Main Street between Collier Drive and 26th Avenue NW (the location of a "Welcome to Norman" sign). The first median redesign was completed and constructed last year when crews were working on Main Street to replace road and drainage infrastructure at the Merkle Creek crossing. City staff took advantage of that contractor's work, which required removing some of the existing median landscape as part of their project. It removed all the old sod, landscape beds/soil, and irrigation, replacing them with new material. The new plants are a mixture of native plants, ornamental stone mulch, and boulders, with minimal irrigation and no sod. As a result, there have been greatly reduced maintenance and irrigation costs, and a higher survival rate, compared to the ornamental plant material and sod that used to be in that area. Staff is working on designs for the remaining medians and will always seek to take advantage of other projects to collaborate on the work, if possible. We will also look to partner with local businesses on costs, if possible.

DISCUSSION:

As part of the current construction project for the new Quick Trip store at the southwest corner of 26th Avenue NW, their crews proposed extending the left-turn lane on westbound Main Street to improve traffic flow once the store opens and more people try to turn left. City staff attended a pre-construction meeting where we discussed the process of making this traffic median the next one to be renovated. In return for removing several damaged and declining trees in that median, we would allow the contractor to utilize the cleared median to more safely stage their equipment and crews. At the same time, they worked on the turn lane extension project they were already going to do. This also allowed us to disconnect and cut back the irrigation on the island that watered the trees and sod in that median, and to plan for the replacement landscape while they did their work.

Part of the new design will include a large flagpole behind the Welcome sign, along with the native plant palette, which will include a mix of trees, grass, and perennial plants, along with a more efficient irrigation system and decorative stone mulch and boulders. A separate contractor will be used to remove the remaining median soil to a depth that eliminates the old roots of the diseased trees and the aggressively invasive bermudagrass that used to be on that island.

In recent weeks, construction of the turn lane extension has been completed, and it is now time to proceed with the landscape replacement described above. The cost estimate for the remaining work is \$75,000, which also includes purchase and installation of the new 60-foot flagpole at the west end of the median—to be seen from the I-35 corridor as part of our “Welcome” sign.

At this time, we are proposing to pay for this median renovation using a portion of those funds from the ODOT Audit Adjustment Project by transferring them into a new capital project to be used solely for west Main Street median work, as funds are made available by the city or any partner organizations that may wish to help complete a project on any of the other medians in the coming years.

RECOMMENDATION:

City Staff recommends approval of Resolution Number R-2526-46 to transfer \$75,000 from the ODOT Audit Adjustment Project TR0068 (Account No. 50595535-46101) to a new Main Street Median Landscape Renovation Project PR0175 (Account No. 50793375-46101), to be used for the completion of the 26th Avenue NW and Main Street median landscape renovation.