



# CITY OF NORMAN, OK CITY COUNCIL STUDY SESSION MEETING

Municipal Building, Executive Conference Room, 201 West Gray, Norman,  
OK 73069

Tuesday, July 30, 2024 at 5:30 PM

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## MINUTES

The City Council Study Session of the City of Norman, Cleveland County, State of Oklahoma, will meet in Regular Session in the Executive Conference Room in the Municipal Building, on Tuesday, July 30, 2024 at 5:30 PM, and notice of the agenda of the meeting was posted at the Norman Municipal Building at 201 West Gray and on the City website at least 24 hours prior to the beginning of the meeting.

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### CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Heikkila called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

### PRESENT

Mayor Larry Heikkila  
Councilmember Ward 1 Austin Ball  
Councilmember Ward 2 Matthew Peacock  
Councilmember Ward 3 Bree Montoya  
Councilmember Ward 4 Helen Grant  
Councilmember Ward 5 Michael Nash  
Councilmember Ward 6 Joshua Hinkle  
Councilmember Ward 7 Stephen Holman

### ABSENT

Councilmember Ward 8 Scott Dixon

### AGENDA ITEMS

1. DISCUSSION REGARDING THE CITY OF NORMAN'S INFRASTRUCTURE NEEDS RELATED TO THE OKLAHOMA TURNPIKE AUTHORITY'S ACCESS PROGRAM.

Mr. Darrel Pyle, City Manager, provided background on a call from the City of Moore, Oklahoma.

## Item 1, continued

Mr. Scott Sturtz, Director of Public Works, provided an in-depth presentation on the Oklahoma Turnpike Authority's (OTA) Access Oklahoma Program and its implications for the City of Norman's infrastructure. Key points from the discussion included:

### Background and Legal Proceedings:

- On December 7, 2021, OTA announced the \$5 billion Access Oklahoma long-range plan, which includes the alignment of turnpikes across north and east Norman.
- Norman passed a resolution opposing the turnpikes in Norman on March 22, 2022.
- Subsequent legal actions culminated in the Oklahoma Supreme Court ruling on August 1, 2023, affirming OTA's statutory authority to build the new turnpikes included in Access Oklahoma.

### Recent Engagement with OTA:

- City staff, including Mr. Sturtz, met with OTA representatives on July 15, 2024, to discuss the Access Oklahoma projects in Norman.
- Discussions covered the current design for the East-West Connector (EWC), Norman's plans for roadways in the corridor, and the City's requests to be incorporated into the turnpike design.

### East-West Connector (EWC) Design and Phases:

#### - Phase 1:

- Design is underway for 60% plans from I-44 to 24th Avenue NW.
- Access points are planned at 60th Avenue NW and 36th Avenue NW.
- Norman is requesting one-way frontage roads from 60th Avenue NW to the end of the project, a 10-foot multimodal trail on the south side, construction of 36th Avenue NW to current Norman design standards, and green infrastructure to protect water quality.

#### -Future Phases:

- Access points are planned at 12th Avenue NW, 12th Avenue NE, 48th Avenue NE, 120th Avenue NE, and 156th Avenue NE.
- Norman is requesting one-way frontage roads from 24th Avenue NW to 48th Avenue NE, a 10-foot multimodal trail on the south side, and green infrastructure to protect water quality.

### Environmental Studies and Construction Timeline:

#### - Phase 1:

- Environmental studies are underway, focusing on water bodies, wetlands, threatened and endangered species, and cultural resources.
- 60% plans are expected to be completed by Fall 2024, with final plans by mid-2025.
- Construction is anticipated to begin in late 2025, with the mainline open to traffic by the end of 2027.

Item 1, continued

-Future Phases:

- Environmental studies will commence once design is underway.
- 60% plans are expected by early 2025, with final plans by early 2026.
- Construction is anticipated between 2025 and 2027, with the mainline open to traffic to I-40 by the end of 2030.

OTA Resolution Request:

- OTA has requested a resolution from the City of Norman indicating cooperation in the process.
- The resolution would include statements regarding water quality and coordination with the Central Oklahoma Master Conservancy District (COMCD), green infrastructure to protect water quality, locations of future interchanges on the EWC, addition of two-lane, one-way frontage roads from 60th Avenue NW to 48th Avenue NE, assistance in the construction of 36th Avenue NW, and a 10-foot multimodal trail on the south side of the turnpike.
- OTA has requested the resolution by September 2, 2024, to incorporate items into the plans.
- Staff can bring the resolution to Council on August 13, 2024, for consideration.

Councilmembers engaged in a discussion regarding the proposed plans, expressing concerns about environmental impacts, infrastructure integration, and the importance of maintaining open communication with OTA. The Council emphasized the need for transparency and public engagement throughout the planning and construction phases.

## ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:59 p.m.

Attest:

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City Clerk

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Mayor