



CITY OF NORMAN, OK STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: 01/10/2023

REQUESTER: Katherine Coffin

PRESENTER: David Riesland, Transportation Engineer

ITEM TITLE: CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL, ADOPTION, ACCEPTANCE, REJECTION, AMENDMENT AND/OR POSTPONEMENT OF CONTRACT K-2223-79: A PROJECT AGREEMENT BY AND BETWEEN THE CITY OF NORMAN, OKLAHOMA, AND THE OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR J/P 35856(04), THE INTERSECTION OF U.S. HIGHWAY-77 AND HIGH MEADOWS DRIVE AND RESOLUTION R-2223-81

BACKGROUND:

The intersection of 12th Avenue NE and High Meadows Drive has been a traffic safety and congestion concern for nearly 20 years. The intersection has long needed an exclusive southbound left-turn lane for movements onto High Meadows Drive to the east. This intersection provides critical access to Eisenhower Elementary School. As such, new complaints arrive at the beginning of each school year either from concerned parents or from Norman Public Schools.

12th Avenue NE is part of U.S. Highway 77 in Norman. U.S. Highway 77 enters Norman from Noble on Classen Boulevard. At the 12th Avenue SE intersection with Classen Boulevard, U.S. Highway 77 follows 12th Avenue SE. At the Alameda Street intersection, U.S. Highway 77 continues across Alameda Street on the 12th Avenue NE alignment. U.S. Highway 77 makes the turn from 12th Avenue NE onto Tecumseh Road and from Tecumseh Road onto Flood Avenue before merging with Interstate 35. Traditionally, making improvements to any portion of the U.S. Highway 77 corridor was only done with the assistance of the Oklahoma Department of Transportation (ODOT) as they are responsible for maintenance of the federal route in Norman.

The redevelopment of Griffin Park at the northwest corner of the Robinson Street intersection with 12th Avenue NE has brought new focus to this intersection, as a major access to the Griffin Park Soccer Complex is planned as the fourth leg of the existing 12th Avenue NE intersection with High Meadows Drive (conceptual drawings of the intersection and park are attached). This movement within the City's NORMAN FORWARD project, along with a change in the vision of the Oklahoma Department of Transportation (ODOT) regarding funding for improvements on the state system have combined to generate renewed interest in a project at this intersection. ODOT has realized that the City of Norman is severely handicapped in terms of its ability to improve this intersection without State participation.

Garver Engineers (Garver) has been under contract with the City of Norman since 2013 to design the improvements at the 12th Avenue NE intersection with High Meadows Drive. While the design progressed slowly, it was not until the last year or so that ODOT announced it would be willing to participate in a project to construct the improvements to the intersection. The announcement indicated that the City would be responsible for design, any right-of-way acquisition, all utility relocation, for bidding the project, for construction administration on the project, and for 20% of the construction cost. The proposed improvements to the intersection include a dedicated left-turn lane on southbound 12th Avenue NE onto High Meadows Drive, a dedicated left-turn lane on northbound 12th Avenue NE into Griffin Park, associated traffic signal modifications, and fiber optic interconnect along 12th Avenue NE between Robinson Street and Rock Creek Road.

DISCUSSION:

As this project will be bid and administered by the City of Norman, ODOT requires the City to execute a Project Agreement and to adopt it by resolution in order for the City of Norman to be able to invoice ODOT for 80% of the construction bid. The agreement addresses the responsibilities of the City and the Department of Transportation during the construction of the project. Unlike other ODOT agreements, this Agreement requires that the City construct the project and convey acquired right-of-way to ODOT. Other responsibilities arise from the City's role in construction, such as the City obtaining its own environmental study prior to construction. Both the agreement and resolution have been reviewed by staff and approved by the City Attorney.

The project will be funded by three sources: ODOT will contribute 80% of the construction costs with the City of Norman contributing the remaining 20%. Internally, NORMAN FORWARD funds will contribute to the cost of the project relative to the Griffin Soccer Complex.

Funds are available in 12th Ave NE & High Meadows Drive, Construction (Account 50590079-46101; Project TR0051) to cover the anticipated City construction cost share.

Staff will receive final plans from Garver in early January 2023 and staff is currently working on a bid package for the project. Anticipating a bid in February 2023 will likely mean that construction will begin in the early spring of 2023 with construction completed by late summer 2023.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends approval and execution of Contract K-2223-79 and Resolution R-2223-81.