



CITY OF NORMAN, OK STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: 1/10/2023

REQUESTER: Katherine Coffin

PRESENTER: David Riesland, Transportation Engineer

ITEM TITLE: CONSIDERATION OF ADOPTION, REJECTION, AMENDMENT, AND/OR POSTPONEMENT OF CONTRACT K-2223-81: A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE CITY OF NORMAN, OKLAHOMA AND THE ABSENTEE SHAWNEE TRIBE, RECOGNIZING THE CITY OF NORMAN'S MUNICIPAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR PORTIONS OF CEDAR LANE ROAD AND POST OAK ROAD AND SUPPORTING THE ADDITION OF THESE PORTIONS TO THE TRIBE'S INVENTORY OF ROUTES ELIGIBLE FOR TRIBAL TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM SAFETY FUNDS.

BACKGROUND:

The Absentee Shawnee Tribe (AST) is working with Cross Timbers Consulting, LLC, (Cross Timbers) to prepare a grant application for funding through the Tribal Transportation Program Safety Funds. Cross Timbers reached out to the City of Norman to collaborate since many of the proposed improvements lie within the jurisdiction of the City of Norman. During a meeting in December 2022, Cross Timbers presented their safety plan which identified candidates for improvements on the 72nd Avenue SE corridor south of State Highway 9. The needs identified at that meeting were a Resolution supporting the effort to secure funding and a Memorandum of Understanding supporting an AST application to add Cedar Lane Road and Post Oak Road to the inventory of roads eligible for this safety funding.

In the December 2022 meeting, Cross Timbers identified the intersections along 72nd Avenue SE at Cedar Lane Road, Post Oak Road, and Etowah Road as candidates for implementation of safety countermeasures as all had experienced either fatality or severe injury collisions in the past. Planned improvements include conversion to all-way STOP control. During that same meeting, Cross Timbers asked if there were other locations that the City of Norman may wish to include in the grant application. The City suggested the addition of the intersection of 168th Avenue NE and Franklin Road and the segment of 156th Avenue NE north of State Highway 9 where a series of back-to-back 90-degree turns exist and run-off-the-road collisions have occurred over a number of years. Planned improvements include the installation of chevron signs to guide motorists through difficult curves. These additional routes are already listed on the Tribe's TTP inventory and do not require additional designation at this time in order to install the planned improvements.

The nature of the Tribal Transportation Program Safety Funds is that the grant will pay for 100% the materials, to be installed by City of Norman maintenance crews with all future maintenance being the responsibility of the City of Norman. In order that funds be eligible, the improved route must be included on the Tribe's TTP inventory, so portions of Cedar Lane Road and Post Oak Road must both be added by way of Memorandum of Understanding K-2223-81, which was prepared with participation of the City's Legal Department. The MOU addresses the addition of the following portions: (a) Cedar Lane Road between 48th Avenue SE and 84th Avenue SE and Post Oak Road between 60th Avenue SE and 132nd Avenue SE.

DISCUSSION:

Since the December 2022 meeting, Staff has been working to provide descriptions for the safety countermeasures sought at each of the five locations and to develop cost estimates and timelines for each location. The grant application must be submitted on January 16, 2023 with the request to add Cedar Lane Road and Post Oak Road to the eligible inventory due on March 15, 2023. The goal is to submit both at the same time.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends approval of Memorandum of Understanding K-2223-81 which supports the addition of portions of both Cedar Lane Road and Post Oak Road as tribal TTP routes that can then be funded by the Tribal Transportation Program Safety Funds along with other potentially eligible projects.