



CITY OF NORMAN, OK STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: 10/28/2025

REQUESTER: David Riesland, Transportation Engineer

PRESENTER: Scott Sturtz, P. E., Public Works Director

ITEM TITLE: CONSIDERATION OF ADOPTION, REJECTION, AMENDMENT, AND/OR POSTPONEMENT OF RESOLUTION R-2526-74: REQUESTING TOBACCO SETTLEMENT ENDOWMENT TRUST (TSET) BUILT ENVIRONMENT GRANT PROGRAM FUNDING FOR THE DESIGN OF ONE MILE OF MULTI-MODAL PATH ALONG THE NORTH SIDE OF STATE HIGHWAY 9 BETWEEN 84TH AVENUE SE AND 96TH AVENUE SE.

BACKGROUND:

Between 1994 and 1998, Attorneys General from all fifty U.S. States, including Oklahoma in 1996, had filed various lawsuits against the major manufacturers of tobacco products for predatory marketing and egregious efforts to normalize smoking despite known health risks. Due to the nationwide nature of the suit a 'global settlement agreement' was proposed and resulted in the Master Settlement Agreement encompassing all but four states (Mississippi, Florida, Texas, and Minnesota) which had reached individual settlements prior to the adoption of the Master Settlement Agreement.

As part of the Master Settlement Agreement, states receive an annual payment from the tobacco industry as long as cigarettes are sold nationally. After bipartisan support for legislation to create a state question to amend the Oklahoma Constitution, voters in 2000 approved the creation of the Oklahoma Tobacco Settlement Endowment Trust (TSET), making Oklahoma the first state to protect its Master Settlement Agreement payments in a constitutional trust.

Seventy-five percent of each annual payment is deposited in the trust. Only the earnings are used each year, preserving the fund to provide grants and programs that improve health for generations to come. Each evidence-based initiative is designed to fight Oklahoma's two leading causes of preventable death - cancer and cardiovascular disease - by promoting healthy eating, physical activity and tobacco free lifestyles.

TSET Built Environment Grants (BEG) program supports infrastructure projects that promote physical activity and nutrition, including planning and development of park/trail systems, enhancements to downtown spaces, and construction or renovation of sidewalks, playgrounds, and farmers markets. Grants support evidence-based strategies that help communities increase access to physical activity, improve healthy food options and prevent youth tobacco

use. BEG grants are specifically aimed at supporting community-based group programs that encourage movement across all ages including fitness classes and recreation programs.

DISCUSSION:

Staff, with concurrence from the Norman City Council, have pursued the extension of the multi-modal path along the north side of State Highway 9 beginning at 24th Avenue SE, eventually reaching Clear Bay at Lake Thunderbird State Park near 132nd Avenue East. To date, the multi-modal path is completed to 48th Avenue SE. The next two miles of multi-modal path are scheduled to be let for construction by the Oklahoma Department of Transportation in November 2025. This would extend the multi-modal path to 72nd Avenue SE. Staff currently have the mile of multi-modal path between 72nd Avenue SE and 84th Avenue SE under design with a potential letting in late summer or early fall of 2026.

The expected cost to design the one mile of multi-modal path along the north side of State Highway 9 between 84th Avenue SE and 96th Avenue SE is expected to be \$150,000 which equates to the maximum allowed for the BEG. As such, Staff is seeking this maximum amount and are not recommending any local matching funds at this time.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends approval of Resolution No. R-2526-74 requesting TSET grant funding for the design of one mile of multi-modal path along the north side of State Highway 9 between 84th Avenue SE and 96th Avenue SE in Norman.