

ACCESS Oklahoma


City Council Study Session

March 1, 2022



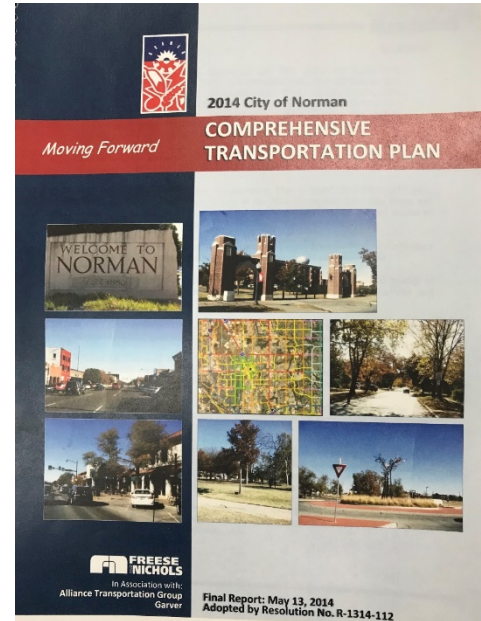


Agenda

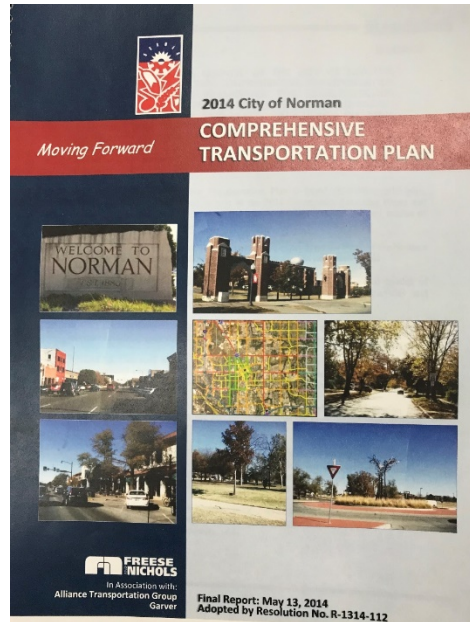
- How does the City manage transportation issues?
 - What is the OTA?
 - What are turnpikes?
 - What is ACCESS Oklahoma?
 - Impact of ACCESS Oklahoma on Norman?
 - Next Steps for the City of Norman?
 - A tour of the Access Oklahoma website
 - OTA Contact Information
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Comprehensive Transportation Plan

- The City's first CTP was adopted by Council in May 2014
- CTP should be updated every 10 years
- CTP has guiding principles established in a 2011 Community Listening Phase
- CTP is multi-modal
- Council appointed a 45-member Citizen Oversight Committee to develop CTP



Comprehensive Transportation Plan



- The CTP is a tool for City to properly classify and design streets, to coordinate complex transportation issues with other entities, to build annual Capital budget
- Access Oklahoma changes transportation system in Norman significantly
- CTP must coordinate with Norman 2040 Land Use Plan

Oklahoma Turnpike Authority



- The OTA was created by act of the 21st Oklahoma Legislature on April 30, 1947 with SB 225
- First efforts of the OTA were to connect OKC to Tulsa and then to extend beyond Tulsa to the northeast and beyond OKC to the southwest
- Eventually became important to provide loops around the two largest metropolitan areas—OKC and Tulsa
- HB 933, passed on May 7, 1953, created a new OTA providing for statewide representation on the OTA Board and establishing the basis for the state system of turnpikes

Oklahoma Turnpike Authority

- Turnpikes, in 1947, were a fairly new concept to allow construction and maintenance of roadways to be paid through road user fees, or tolls, instead of relying on less reliable sources such as gasoline taxes—tolls by authority vote can increase as necessary
- Turner Turnpike (OKC to Tulsa) opened in May, 1953
- Will Rogers Turnpike (Tulsa to MO) opened in June, 1957
- H.E. Bailey Turnpike (OKC to TX) opened in April, 1964
- These three Turnpikes formed the basis of Interstate 44 through Oklahoma from Missouri to Texas



Oklahoma Turnpike Authority



- With Interstate 44 now largely complete, the OTA turned its attention to other areas
- Muskogee, Indian Nation, Cimarron, Cherokee, Kilpatrick, Chickasaw, Creek, H.E. Bailey Spur, Broken Arrow, Gilcrease, and Kickapoo Turnpikes all opened between 1969 and 2020
- OTA merged with ODOT in 2020, SB 1775; Oklahoma Secretary of Transportation, Mr. Tim Gatz, manages both agencies

Map of Oklahoma Turnpike Authority System



What are Turnpikes?

- Merriam-Webster defines a turnpike as a road for the use of which tolls are collected
- Turnpikes, at the time of the formation of the OTA, were a fairly new concept to allow construction and maintenance of roadways to be paid through road user fees, or tolls, instead of relying on less reliable sources such as gasoline taxes—tolls can increase over time as may be necessary
- OTA converting to cashless system in 2021-2022



What is ACCESS Oklahoma?



- ACCESS Oklahoma stands for *Advancing and Connecting Communities and Economies Safely Statewide*
- Prior to the OTA announcement on February 22, 2022, ACOG and ODOT have been evaluating the ever increasing traffic volumes in the OKC Metro area with no real plan, except widening I-35 to six lanes and supporting RTA discussions as the only means to alleviate the congestion
- At the same time, nationwide truck traffic is on the rise; trucks stuck in rush hour traffic unable to maintain their delivery schedules are becoming more and more frequent

What is ACCESS Oklahoma?

- OTA's #1 priority is the safety and security of travelers. ACCESS Oklahoma projects will create safer roadways by addressing current needs and providing increased access to more Oklahoma communities
- The additional routes and improvements will provide motorists alternative travel options. Improved safety, decreased congestion, and decreased travel times all directly relate to quality of life.
- Oklahomans need to proactively address these issues to improve safety and enhance access to jobs and commerce in our state. Every mile and dollar invested in roads and bridges today pays dividends for future generations.



The Impact of Access Oklahoma in Norman?



- Secretary Gatz has compared the impact of ACCESS Oklahoma to the Interstate Transportation Act from the 1950s
- Access Oklahoma may be more impactful on Norman than was the Interstate Transportation Act
- 7 miles of Interstate 35 in Norman
- Proposed East to West Connector follows alignment of Indian Hills Road; 13 miles in Norman
- Proposed South Extension connecting the Kickapoo Turnpike to I-35 in Purcell aligned between 72nd and 84th Avenues East; 12.5 miles in Norman
- ACCESS Oklahoma in Norman is more than 3 times the length of I-35 in Norman

Next Steps for City of Norman?

- Council Study Session – Tuesday, March 29, 5:30 pm – OTA Deputy Director Joe Echelle
- Update our Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP)
- Update Norman 2025 Land Use Plan, Norman 2040?
- Assist Norman citizens and landowners with OTA information and contacts
- Protect Lake Thunderbird watershed



A Tour of the ACCESS Oklahoma Website

- <http://www.accessoklahoma.com/>





OTA Contact Information

The Oklahoma Turnpike Authority has a program information hotline for those who have concerns and questions regarding the ACCESS Oklahoma Program. All are urged to contact OTA at:

[\(1-844-56-ACCES\(S\) or \(1-844-562-2237\)](tel:1-844-56-ACCES(S))

or visit:

<https://oklahoma.gov/ota.html>

