



## CITY OF NORMAN, OK STAFF REPORT

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**MEETING DATE:** 03/08/2022

**REQUESTER:** Katherine Coffin

**PRESENTER:** David Riesland, Transportation Engineer

**ITEM TITLE:** CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL, ACCEPTANCE, REJECTION, AMENDMENT, AND/OR POSTPONEMENT OF AN ASSOCIATION OF CENTRAL OKLAHOMA GOVERNMENTS AIR QUALITY SMALL GRANT PROGRAM FUNDING IN THE AMOUNT OF \$11,402 TO PROVIDE BICYCLE LANES ALONG WEBSTER AVENUE BETWEEN DAWS STREET AND DUFFY STREET AND UNIVERSITY BOULEVARD BETWEEN APACHE STREET AND BOYD STREET, CONTRACT K-2122-94, AND BUDGET APPROPRIATION AS OUTLINED IN THE STAFF REPORT.

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### **BACKGROUND:**

The Association of Central Oklahoma Governments (ACOG) Air Quality Small Grant Program funds small transportation infrastructure projects and congestion relief efforts that strive towards the improvement of regional air quality. A minimum of \$400,000 in total grant awards have been made available to eligible applicants through a competitive bidding process. Applicants were required to provide a minimum of 20 percent in matching local funds, and grant awards are to be conferred as reimbursement. All projects will have two years upon execution of a grant award contract to be completed in full. A variety of projects were eligible, but all must serve to address long-term reduction in transportation-related emissions that contribute to the formation of ground-level ozone.

The promotion of alternative modes of transportation was deemed as a key strategy of the ACOG Air Quality Small Grant Program. In keeping with this strategy, Traffic Division Staff submitted three projects for consideration. These included a sidewalk gap project on Rock Creek Road west of Porter Avenue, a sidewalk gap project on Robinson Street east of Peters Avenue, and bike lane projects on University Boulevard and Webster Avenue. All three projects fulfill the spirit of the promotions of alternative modes of transportation strategy and all three address Action Items in the City's Comprehensive Transportation Plan. The \$400,000 in funds available, when looking at all eligible applications, allowed only the bike lane projects on University Boulevard and Webster Avenue to be funded in this grant cycle.

### **DISCUSSION:**

Every five years, ACOG, as the Metropolitan Planning Organization, completes a long-range, Metropolitan Transportation Plan that projects Central Oklahoma's growth over a three-decade period and identifies necessary changes to the region's transportation network.

The most recent plan, Encompass 2040 adopted in 2016, included a series of goals and strategies to guide transportation planning efforts into the future. Of those strategies, ACOG's Air Quality Small Grant Program has been developed to address (1) the promotion of alternate modes of transportation, (2) investment in projects that enhance the efficiency of the existing transportation system, (3) provision of efficient connections within and between modes and facilities, and (4) encourage procedures that preserve traffic operations.

It is a proven tip for reducing air pollution to carpool, use public transportation, bike, or walk whenever possible. Bicycle lanes are missing along Webster Avenue (Daws Street to Duffy Street) as well as along University Boulevard (Apache Street to Boyd Street). These two portions of missing bicycle lanes are located along two of the primary routes between Downtown Norman and the University of Oklahoma Campus/Campus Corner area. The completion of these two projects will strengthen the multimodal connections between Downtown Norman and the University of Oklahoma Campus/Campus Corner area thereby reducing dependence on private automobile travel, parking demands, etc.

The City of Norman's Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP), adopted in May 2014, contains a series of Guiding Principles. The second guiding principle involves Actions to Enhance Mobility for all User Groups. Within this guiding principle, Action M6a is: Restripe Identified Existing Streets to Install Bike Lanes. Within M6a, five locations are specifically identified. One of these is to restripe University Boulevard between Apache Street and Boyd Street from 15-foot lanes to 10-foot lanes with a 5-foot bicycle lane in each direction and another is to restripe Webster Avenue between Daws Street and Duffy Street from 15-foot lanes to 10-foot lanes with a 5-foot bicycle lane in each direction. Completing these projects will address a portion of Action M6a in the CTP.

The Call for Projects (a copy of which is attached) for the 2021 ACOG Air Quality Small Grant Program opened on October 1, 2021. The bike projects are on University Boulevard between Apache and Boyd Streets (University Boulevard Location Map attached) and on Webster Avenue between Daws and Duffy Streets (Webster Avenue Location Map attached). The Grant Application (Project Application is attached) was submitted to ACOG on November 23, 2021. A cost estimate (Cost Estimate is attached) was developed for the project and submitted with the Grant Application. The Notice of Award was received on January 27, 2022, and the contract (ACOG-Norman-AQ Contract FY2022 is attached) was received on January 31, 2022. Contract K-2122-94, is in the amount of \$11,402 of the \$16,907.50 on the cost estimate for a local share of \$5,505.50 or 32.5 percent of the total anticipated construction cost.

Once Contract K-2122-94 has been fully executed, ACOG will issue a Notice to Proceed. Once the Notice to Proceed has been received and the City completes its effort to fulfill the annual striping contract for calendar year 2022, an assignment will be issued for the striping of the bike lanes on both University Boulevard and Webster Avenue within the project limits. Staff will then come behind the striping contractor and install the bicycle lane signage to accompany the new lanes. The staff efforts to install the signage represents the local share of the Grant Project. The efforts to install all of the signage for the bicycle lanes will represent the city's responsibilities

toward the \$5,505.50 local share (available in Maintenance Supplies – Traffic & Street Signs, 10550223-43213).

**RECOMMENDATION NO 1:**

Staff recommends approval of Contract K-2122-94 by and between the Association of Central Oklahoma Governments and the City of Norman in the amount of \$11,402.

**RECOMMENDATION NO 2:**

Staff recommends appropriation of \$11,402 from Special Grants Fund Balance (account number 22-29000) to Maintenance and Repair Services – Pavement Marking (account number 22550223-44235). At the appropriate time, Staff will issue the assignment to stripe the bike lanes and submit to ACOG for reimbursement upon satisfactory completion of the assignment. Reimbursement will be deposited into revenue account Other Revenue – ACOG Miscellaneous Grant (225-333364).