



CITY OF NORMAN, OK STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: 3/8/2022

REQUESTER: Taylor Johnson, Transit and Parking Program Manager

PRESENTER: Shawn O'Leary, Director of Public Works

ITEM TITLE: CONSIDERATION OF ACCEPTANCE, APPROVAL, REJECTION, AMENDMENT, AND/OR POSTPONEMENT OF A CONGESTION MITIGATION AIR QUALITY (CMAQ) SMALL GRANT FROM THE ASSOCIATION OF CENTRAL OKLAHOMA GOVERNMENTS (ACOG) IN THE AMOUNT OF \$120,000 TO BE USED FOR AN ELIGIBLE TRANSIT IMPROVEMENT PROJECT CONSISTING OF NEW BUS STOPS ASSOCIATED WITH THE RECOMMENDED ROUTE NETWORK IN THE GO NORMAN TRANSIT PLAN; APPROVAL OF CONTRACT K-2122-109; AND BUDGET APPROPRIATIONS AS OUTLINED IN THE STAFF REPORT.

BACKGROUND:

Each year, the Association of Central Oklahoma Governments (ACOG) issues a Call for Projects for the Congestion Mitigation Air Quality – CMAQ Small Grant Funding cycle. The grant program is designed to fund small transportation infrastructure projects and congestion relief efforts that strive toward the improvement of regional air quality.

Transportation is a significant source of “precursors” to ozone pollution such as volatile organic compounds and nitrogen oxides, the gasses that react to form ozone. Referred to as “mobile source emissions”, these precursors are emitted through vehicle exhaust and fuel evaporation, reacting to sunlight in windless conditions to create tropospheric ozone pollution. Research continues to demonstrate the effects of ozone pollution on all populations, but children, the elderly, and anyone with respiratory illnesses such as asthma are particularly vulnerable. Any reduction in ozone-forming emissions translates to increased quality of life for everyone in Central Oklahoma.

DISCUSSION:

Every five years, ACOG, as the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), 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.

The Go Norman Transit Plan, adopted in June 2021, contains a series of recommendations and priorities for investments in the City's public transportation system. The main, near-term recommendation is to adjust the transit route network to make it easier to use for the passengers. With this route network adjustment, there is a need to establish 80 new bus stops, discontinue 49 existing stops, while leaving 63 existing stops unchanged. This would result in a total of 149 stops in the City of Norman, an increase of 37 bus stops. The proposed, preliminary estimate outlined in the Go Norman Transit Plan for each new bus stop is \$2,000. This includes a concrete landing pad and associated signage. Some stop locations may be more or less depending on site specific situations.

On November 30, 2021 City Council approved Resolution R-2122-54 (New Bus Stops Associated with the Recommended Route Network in the Go Norman Transit Plan) requesting Congestion Mitigation Air Quality-AQ Small Grant Funding for 75% of the anticipated \$160,000 construction cost.

On January 13, 2022 the ACOG MPO Technical Committee recommended a list of projects be approved for funding, including this project. Then the ACOG MPO Policy Committee reviewed the list of projects on January 27, 2022 and approved them for funding.

Of the anticipated construction costs of \$160,000, 75% (\$120,000) would be provided in the Congestion Mitigation Air Quality- CMAQ Small Grant through ACOG and the remaining 25% (\$40,000) would be provided in local match. The \$120,000 in CMAQ funding would be reimbursed to the City once the project is completed.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. Staff recommends accepting the Congestion Mitigation Air Quality - CMAQ Small Grant Funding in the amount of \$120,000 for an eligible transit improvement project consisting of new bus stops associated with the recommended route network in the Go Norman Transit Plan.
2. Staff recommends approval of contract K-2122-109.
3. Staff recommends an appropriation of \$120,000 from Special Revenue Fund Balance (22-29000) to Construction (Account 22550480-46101; Project BG0085) and of \$40,000 from Capital Fund Balance (50-29000) to Construction (Account 50593379-46101; Project BG0085) to cover project expenses until the project is complete. When reimbursement under the grant of \$120,000 is sent to the City it should be recorded into Special Grant Fund, Revenue (account 225-333364).