



CITY OF NORMAN, OK STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: 01/28/2025
REQUESTER: Steve Guizzo, Engineering Assistant
PRESENTER: Scott Sturtz, City Engineer

ITEM TITLE: CONSIDERATION OF ADOPTION, REJECTION, AMENDMENT, AND/OR POSTPONEMENT OF RESOLUTION R-2425-80: A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORMAN, OKLAHOMA, APPROPRIATING \$44,890.36 FROM THE REIMBURSEMENTS-CITIZEN SIDEWALK ACCOUNT TO REPLENISH THE CITYWIDE SIDEWALK AND CURB RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT ("50/50 PROGRAM.")

BACKGROUND:

The City's Sidewalk Improvement Capital Project provides funding to: assist property owners in repairing existing sidewalks and construct new sidewalks adjacent to their property; create ADA accessible routes in needed areas; construct new sidewalk for pedestrian routes to schools; perform sidewalk, ramp, and curb repair work in specified locations in the downtown area; and perform sidewalk, ramp, and curb repair work in specified locations primarily along arterial road routes.

Pursuant to State Law (Title 11, Section 36-104), although developers and abutting property owners are responsible for constructing and maintaining sidewalks, the City has the responsibility of ensuring safe sidewalks. The City Council established a sidewalk program in 1997 to reduce this burden to property owners. Accordingly, City Council has allocated funds for five separate capital project accounts within the Capital Improvement Program Budget. Because the projects are similar in nature, the City has historically achieved economy of scale and received more competitive bids when these projects are bundled and bid together. These five projects are described in more detail below:

The **Citywide Sidewalk Reconstruction Program** is intended to assist property owners in repairing sidewalks and constructing new sidewalks to close gaps in existing sidewalk. Property owners who wish to participate in the Citywide Sidewalk Reconstruction Project will pay fifty percent (50%) of the estimated cost, with the City paying the remaining fifty- percent (50%) from funds allocated to this project. Citizen contributions are subsequently recouped with City Council approval to replenish this program funding. This is a very popular and cost-saving program for residents and the demand typically outpaces the allocated resources.

The **Sidewalk Accessibility Program** provides sidewalk ramps where none exist and rebuilds existing ramps that do not comply with the current Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) standards. This project reconstructed six locations this year. Locations are determined at the request of citizens and along arterial and collector streets that do not currently have ramps or ramps are in need of repair or upgrades at street-sidewalk intersections. The locations repaired this year were at W. Main Street and N. Creekdale Drive and Willow Branch Road and Northwich Drive.

The **Sidewalk Program for Schools and Arterials and Sidewalks and Trails Program** is used to construct new sidewalks adjacent to elementary schools that have no sidewalks and along walking routes to the schools. This year's project consisted of Phase two of a two-phase project. It encompassed new sidewalk construction along the south side of Mimosa Drive from N. Peters Avenue to Stubbeman Avenue, servicing Norman North High School.

The **Downtown Area Sidewalks and Curbs Program** has repaired hazardous or deteriorated sidewalks, ramps and curbs in the downtown area. This year's project locations were concentrated along Webster Avenue at W. Comanche Street, W. Tonhawa Street and along N. Crawford Avenue at E. Daws Street. These projects consisted of removing and replacing as well as installing new sidewalks and ramps.

At the July 23, 2024, City Council Meeting, Contract K-2425-1 was awarded to Arroyo's Concrete, LLC for these above-mentioned FY2025 programs in the amount of \$532,590.62. Change Order Number 1 was also approved decreasing the Citywide Sidewalk Reconstruction Program by \$72,590.62 for a total contract amount of \$460,000.00.

To encourage a proactive community approach to maintaining our sidewalks, the City Council allocates \$100,000 annually to this cost-sharing program. In residential areas, property owners often leverage the City's contractor by contributing half (50%) of the City's repair estimate. The project is then coordinated by the Public Works Engineering Division. Upon completion of the work, the City pays the contractor in full and deposits the property owner contributions into the Capital Fund, Reimbursements-Citizen Sidewalk account (509-364253).

DISCUSSION:

Since the approval of contract K-2425-1, Arroyo's has completed 55 sidewalk repairs in the Citywide Sidewalk Reconstruction Program. This has significantly depleted the budgeted amount of \$100,000 for the program and the program will run out of funds before the end of the fiscal year. Significant funds have been collected from the property owners for their 50% cost share of the repairs. The collected funds are deposited into revenue account Reimbursements-Citizen Sidewalk. The intent of the program is to use the citizen contributions in the program to continue the efforts to assist property owners with the repairs of sidewalks.

RECOMMENDATION:

City staff recommend approval of Resolution R-2425-80 for the appropriation of \$44,890.36 from revenue account Reimbursements-Citizen Sidewalk (account 509-364253) to be allocated to the FYE 2025 Citywide Sidewalk Program, Construction (account 50590052-46101; Project TC0273). These funds will be used to continue support to our residents with cost-saving hazard remediation, while also mitigating liability for property owners and the City of Norman.

