



## CITY OF NORMAN, OK STAFF REPORT

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**MEETING DATE:** 01/09/2024

**REQUESTER:** Steve Guizzo, Engineering Assistant

**PRESENTER:** Scott Sturtz, City Engineer

**ITEM TITLE:** CONSIDERATION OF ADOPTION, REJECTION, AMENDMENT, AND/OR POSTPONEMENT OF RESOLUTION R-2324-100: A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORMAN, OKLAHOMA, APPROPRIATING \$26,614.66 FROM THE REIMBURSEMENTS-CITIZEN SIDEWALK ACCOUNT TO REPLENISH THE CITYWIDE SIDEWALK AND CURB RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT ("50/50 PROGRAM").

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### **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.

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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 will construct approximately eight curb ramps per 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 in this year's program will include seven ramps along Boyd Street.

The **Sidewalk Program for Schools and Arterials 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 consists of Phase I of a two-phase project. It encompasses new sidewalk construction, where sidewalk is discontinuous, as well as repairs to existing sidewalk on the south side of West Boyd Street from South Berry Road to Broad Lane, servicing Jackson Elementary School, McKinley Elementary School and Oklahoma University . It also includes the construction of one sidewalk ramp. A second-phase of this project is forecasted for FYE 2025 and includes repairs eastward along Boyd Street to South Flood Avenue on the south side.

The **Downtown Area Sidewalks and Curbs Program** will repair hazardous or deteriorated sidewalks, ramps and curbs in the downtown area. This year's project location will be concentrated along North Webster Avenue, from West Gray Street to the parking lot entrance on the east side. This project will consist of removing and replacing sidewalks along the east side of the roadway along 225 North Webster Avenue. The second location to be addressed is North Crawford Avenue from Gray Street to the first alley to the south on the east side of the road.

The **Sidewalks and Trails Program** constructs new sidewalk and trails throughout the city, in conformance with adopted plans; including the Greenbelt Master Plan, Bikeway & Transportation Master Plan and Parks Master Plan. This year's project consists of significant sidewalk additions to fill in and connect existing sidewalks along 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE from Rock Creek Road to just north of Northern Hills Road. This project will also include the addition of 2 sidewalk ramps.

At the July 11, 2023 City Council Meeting Contract K-2324-2 for these programs was awarded to Arroyo's Concrete LLC for a contract amount of \$330,885.50. Change Order Number 1 was also approved increasing the Citywide Sidewalk Reconstruction Program by \$7,802 for a total contract amount of \$ 338,687.50.

At the November 14, 2023 City Council Meeting Change Order Number 2 to Contract was K-2334-2 was approved to provide for the installation of 54 bus stops for the City's transit system and the proposed route changes. The cost of the Change Order Number 2 was \$196,357 for a revised total contract of \$535,044.50. \$160,000 was available for this project in the FYE 2024 Capital Budget. The project received \$120,000 in federal funds through ACOG and that funding was available in the Special Grants Fund, Construction (account 22550480-46101; project BG0085). The City match for the ACOG grant was \$40,000, allocated by Council from the Capital Fund (account 50593379-46101; project BG0085). The remaining \$36,357.00 was appropriated by Council from the City's Capital Fund Balance.

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To encourage a proactive community approach to maintaining our sidewalks, the City Council has allocated \$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-2334-2, Arroyo's have completed over 60 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:**

Staff recommends the approval of Resolution R-2324-100 for the appropriation of \$26,614.66 from revenue account Reimbursements-Citizen Sidewalk (account 509-364253) to be allocated to the FYE 2024 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.

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