



CITY OF NORMAN, OK STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: 10/13/2026

REQUESTER: Taylor Johnson, AICP, Transit and Parking Program Manager

PRESENTER: Scott Sturtz, P. E., Interim Public Works Director

ITEM TITLE: CONSIDERATION OF ADOPTION, REJECTION, AMENDMENT, AND/OR POSTPONEMENT OF R-2627-28: REQUESTING ASSOCIATION OF CENTRAL OKLAHOMA GOVERNMENTS (ACOG) FISCAL YEAR 2030 SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM – URBANIZED AREA (STBG-UZA) FUNDING FOR ENHANCEMENTS TO THE CITY’S PUBLIC TRANSIT FLEET

BACKGROUND:

The Association of Central Oklahoma Governments (ACOG), which serves as the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the greater Oklahoma City Metropolitan Area, is responsible for coordinating with the Oklahoma Department of Transportation (ODOT), area local governments, and transit providers, such as the City of Norman, to implement the applicable Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP). As the MPO, ACOG is also responsible for coordinating the selection of projects for many federal grant funds that are allocated to our central Oklahoma urbanized area. ACOG has recently announced the annual Surface Transportation Block Grant Program – Urbanized Area (STBG-UZA) call for projects.

The Surface Transportation Block Grant Program (STBG) promotes flexibility in State and local transportation decisions and provides flexible funding to best address State and local transportation needs. ACOG announced an estimated \$40 million in STBG-UZA funds for the FY29 call for projects last year, and the FY30 amount is expected to be comparable. Eligible projects include road widening, road new construction, road intersections, road resurfacing, bridges, bicycle and pedestrian facilities, transit, and safety. There is a cap of 10% for bicycle and pedestrian projects, as well as a separate 10% cap on transit projects. All projects must be located on a functionally classified road and be included in, or be consistent with, the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP). Proposed projects must also be in compliance with the ACOG Complete Streets Policy.

Entities can submit a total of 10 applications requesting up to \$7.5 million per project and no one entity may receive more than 56% of the total amount of funding available. Submitted project applications will be chosen based on the Project Scoring Criteria, developed by ACOG member entities and approved by the ACOG MPO Policy Committee. The deadline for grant application is October 31, 2026, and it is anticipated that grant awards will be made in January 2027.

The City took over the public transit operations from the University in July 2019. Submitting a request for transit bus replacements to the STBG-UZA call for projects allows the City to maximize local funding for transit fleet replacement as split for STBG-UZA projects is usually 80% federal and 20% local. The City has been successful in the past, securing funds for bus replacements in FY 2021, FY 2022, and FY 2023 calls for projects.

DISCUSSION:

For this STBG-UZA call for projects cycle, staff is requesting to submit a project replacing two 35ft CNG transit buses in the Transit fleet with new CNG units. Staff have obtained a quote from Gillig in the amount of \$1,137,500 each (\$2,275,000 total for 2 units). Due to inflation and market volatility, City and Gillig staff have done their best to estimate how much these units would cost in FY 2030.

Local City match funds to be made available for the project are currently estimated at \$455,000 (\$227,500 per unit) or 20%. Funding for the City's local match could be provided through the General Fund, Public Transit and Parking Fund or Capital Fund, if the project is selected.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends approval of Resolution R-2627-29 requesting ACOG STBG-UZA funding for enhancements to the City's transit fleet.