



CITY OF NORMAN, OK STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: 12/9/2025

REQUESTER: Joseph Hill, Streets Program Manager

PRESENTER: Scott Sturtz, Public Works Director

ITEM TITLE: CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL, REJECTION, AMENDMENT, AND/OR POSTPONEMENT OF AMENDMENT ONE TO CONTRACT K-2324-155: BY AND BETWEEN THE CITY OF NORMAN, OKLAHOMA, AND GARVER, L.L.C., IN THE AMOUNT OF \$167,400, FOR A REVISED CONTRACT AMOUNT OF \$1,676,038, FOR THE DESIGN OF THE NORTH PORTER AVENUE BRIDGE REPLACEMENT BOND PROJECT, AND BUDGET APPROPRIATION AS OUTLINED IN THE STAFF REPORT. (Ward 6)

BACKGROUND:

On October 10, 2023, the citizens of Norman voted in favor of a \$50 million bridge replacement and rehabilitation bond issue. The projects listed in the bond are intended to be completed with bond funds. However, federal matching funds or other supplemental funding sources will be pursued at every opportunity.

On October 11, 2023, City staff advertised Request for Proposal (RFP) 2324-29 to solicit Consulting Engineering Services for the bond projects requiring design. The selection committee consisting of three (3) City staff (Joseph Hill – Streets Program Manager, Jeff Fordice – Capital Projects Engineer, and Brandon Brooks – Capital Projects Engineer) and two (2) citizens (Mike Zorba and Tyler McManaman), “shortlisted” eight (8) consultant teams for interviews held on January 18, 2024. Also present at the interviews were the acting City Engineer and the City Auditor. The five (5) consultant teams selected after interviews to complete the design on these projects are:

- Garver, L.L.C., Norman
- H.W. Lochner, Oklahoma City
- MKEC, Oklahoma City
- Aguirre & Fields, Oklahoma City
- CEC, Oklahoma City

These consultants are being assigned the various projects by City staff based on capacity, performance during the interview process, and capabilities of their firm to complete a specific project.

On April 9, 2024, City Council awarded contract K-2324-155 to Garver, L.L.C., in the amount of \$1,508,638 for the design of the Porter Avenue Bridge Replacement project over Little River (located 0.6 miles south of Franklin Road) which included a hydraulic and hydrologic study, geotechnical evaluation, right-of-way acquisition documents, and completed designs.

On February 27, 2024, City Council approved Resolution R-2324-127 supporting the Absentee Shawnee Tribe's pursuit of Tribal Transportation Program bridge funds for the Porter Avenue bridge.

On April 21, 2024, Garver, L.L.C., began work on the design of the Porter Avenue bridge. Then, on October 31, 2024, staff were notified that the Absentee Shawnee Tribe won a \$13,793,400 grant for the construction of the Porter Avenue bridge.

DISCUSSION:

A conservation easement exists along the east corridor of the Porter Avenue bridge. The conservation easement was registered with the National Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) and managed by the Norman Area Land Conservancy (NALC). On July 25, 2025, staff met with the NRCS to discuss land acquisition on NRCS-registered property. Following that meeting, staff determined that it would be in the City's best interest to pursue a design solution to avoid impacting the conservation easement with this project.

Under staff's direction, Garver, L.L.C., began studying various retaining wall types to determine the most appropriate solution to avoid the conservation easement. On October 3, 2025, Garver, L.L.C., submitted a summary report detailing the various types of retaining walls appropriate for this location and then on November 14, 2025, staff met with Garver, L.L.C., to discuss the summary report. It was determined that the best course of action would be to construct cast-in-place retaining walls on the eastern edge of both the north and south abutments.

Amendment 1, if approved, will expand the scope of the project to complete the necessary designs to incorporate the cast-in-place retaining walls for the north and south abutments.

On April 10, 2024, the City closed on the sale of a \$16,000,000 General Obligation Bond ("GOB", Series 2024A) with the proceeds being purposed for bridge repair and replacement. An appropriation of available GO Bond proceeds will be needed to pay for Amendment 1 in the amount of \$167,400.

If approved, Garver, L.L.C., will begin work immediately on the critical path items. Amendment 1 will not change the current design schedule as approved with Contract K-2324-155.

RECOMMENDATION 1:

Staff recommends approval of Amendment 1 to Contract K-2324-155 between the City of Norman and Garver, L.L.C., in the amount of \$167,400 for a revised contract amount of \$1,676,038 for the completion of the design of the Porter Avenue Bridge Replacement Bond Project.

RECOMMENDATION 2:

Staff further recommends appropriation of \$167,400 from the Capital Fund General Obligation Bond Balance (Account 50-29000) to Porter Avenue Bridge Replacement Bond Project, Design (Account 50595367-46201; Project BP0615).