



CITY OF NORMAN, OK STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: 05/24/2022

REQUESTER: Paul D'Andrea, Capital Projects Engineer

PRESENTER: Shawn O'Leary, Public Works Director

ITEM TITLE: CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL, GRANTING, ACCEPTANCE, REJECTION, AMENDMENT, AND/OR POSTPONEMENT OF EASEMENT E-2122-65: A PERMANENT PUBLIC ROADWAY, SIDEWALK AND UTILITY EASEMENT TO THE CITY OF NORMAN AND THE NORMAN UTILITIES AUTHORITY FOR THE NORMAN FORWARD JAMES GARNER PHASE II PROJECT FROM ACRES STREET TO FLOOD AVENUE.

BACKGROUND:

On November 8, 2016, the Norman City Council approved programming Resolution R-1617-49 requesting federal funds to widen James Garner Avenue from Acres Street to Flood Avenue. This Resolution states the City's commitment to adhere to the terms and conditions of a federally funded project. Through the Association of Central Oklahoma Governments (ACOG), the Oklahoma Department of Transportation (ODOT) agrees to provide 80% of the cost of construction with a 20% matching share from the City of Norman. In order to receive the federal funding, the City of Norman is required to enter in an agreement with ODOT to complete the design, acquire all rights-of-way and relocate existing utilities/encroachments at City's cost.

This Norman Forward Street Improvement Project will create a new entry into downtown and will help alleviate traffic on both Flood Avenue and Porter Avenue.

In March of 2017, City Council approved the design contract (K-1617-105) with Cabbiness Engineering in the amount of \$427,000 for the James Garner Avenue Project from Acres Street to Flood Avenue and Cabbiness began preliminary design for the project.

On August 27, 2019, City Council approved Contract Amendment No. One for contract K-1617-105 with Cabbiness Engineering, in the amount of \$2,275 for the design of the James Garner Avenue Project from Acres Street to Flood Avenue.

On March 23, 2021 City Council approved Contract Amendment No. Two for contract K-1617-105 with Garver, LLC, in the amount of \$5,675 for the design of the James Garner Avenue Project from Acres Street to Flood Avenue.

On January 26, 2022 the City of Norman purchased property north of Robinson Street from the Judith E. Drabek Foundation Trust in the amount of \$81,936 for the construction of the NORMAN FORWARD James Garner Avenue Phase II Project from Acres Street to Flood Avenue.

On February 28, 2022, the City of Norman obtained property North of Robinson Avenue from the University of Oklahoma for the construction of the NORMAN FORWARD James Garner Avenue Project II from Acres Street to Flood Avenue Norman Forward Project.

On April 12, 2022, City Council approved Contract Amendment No. Three for Contract K-1617-105 with Garver, LLC, in the amount of \$34,400 for the design of the James Garner Avenue Project from Acres Street to Flood Avenue.

DISCUSSION:

The James Garner Avenue Project will create a new entry into downtown and will help alleviate traffic on both Flood Avenue and Porter Avenue. The project is part of the NORMAN FORWARD sales tax approved by voters in 2015. The approved project scope consisted of an extension of James Garner Avenue providing continuous travel from Acres Street north to Flood Avenue.

Although all the property for the James Garner Avenue Phase II project has been acquired, the lands were acquired from various entities, or already owned by the City of Norman, in fee title, rather than as easements dedicated for specific public uses. To accommodate the roadway and associated utility relocations, the city now grants a public roadway, sidewalk and utility easement covering these parcels to clarify their intended public uses. Specifically in this case, acceptance of easement E-2122-65 will expedite and further the utility relocation process for the project.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends the above described Easement E-2122-65 be granted and that City staff be directed to file the same of record.