

CITY COUNCIL STUDY SESSION MINUTES

February 3, 2015

The City Council of the City of Norman, Cleveland County, State of Oklahoma, met in a study session at 5:30 p.m. in the Municipal Building Conference Room on the 3rd day of February, 2015, and notice and agenda of the meeting were posted at the Municipal Building at 201 West Gray, and the Norman Public Library at 225 North Webster 48 hours prior to the beginning of the meeting.

PRESENT:

Councilmembers Allison Heiple, Castleberry, Miller, Holman, Lang, Williams, and Mayor Pro-tem Jungman

ABSENT:

Mayor Rosenthal

Item 1, being:

REVIEW OF THE ASSOCIATION OF CENTRAL OKLAHOMA (ACOG) TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PLAN (TIP) FUNDING PROGRAM INCLUDING NORMAN PROJECTS RECEIVING FUNDING IN FFY 2016 THROUGH FFY 2018.

Mr. Shawn O'Leary, Director of Public Works, said the Oklahoma City Area Regional Transportation Study area (OCARTS) is a four (4) year program requiring annual updates. He said federal law requires Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPO) such as the Association of Central Oklahoma Governments (ACOG) to have Transportation Improvement Plans (TIP). He said the Oklahoma Department of Transportation (ODOT), Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), and Federal Transit Authority (FTA) are key partners in the TIP process. He said, ultimately, the TIP is approved by the State Transportation Commission and the Governor.

Mr. O'Leary said cities compete for approximately \$19.3 million per year and ACOG sets aside 10% for cost overruns and 10% for safety projects, e.g., traffic signals, pavement markings, etc. He said 80% of funds go towards construction costs. The program is very competitive with individual projects rated and ranked by ACOG. ACOG member agencies within the region (37 cities, four counties, tribal nations, etc.) are eligible to apply. No single government can receive more than 56% of the total funding and the plan can be amended to add projects if funds become available. Any unused funds are rolled over into the next year. He said the first year of funding is guaranteed; however, subsequent years require entities to compete again.

Mr. O'Leary highlighted the ACOG TIP process timeline as follows:

- June through September – Project selection criteria reviewed and modified
- Early November – Call for projects
- Mid-December – Applications submitted to ACOG
- Late December – ACOG Staff reviews applications and develops ranking list
- Early January – Intermodal Transportation Technical Committee (ITTC) reviews project list and develops recommendations
- Mid-January – ITTC reviews list of projects and recommends approval by Intermodal Transportation Policy Committee (ITPC)
- Late February – ITPC approves TIP
- April – ACOG submits TIP to ODOT for inclusion in State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP)
- September - Oklahoma Transportation Commission approves STIP
- September – STIP submitted to FHWA for approval
- October 1 – Funds become available for projects in the first year of the TIP

Mr. O'Leary said Council endorses the TIP by resolution and when Council approves the resolution they are committing the City to doing the engineering design, right-of-way acquisition, utility relocation, and match 20% of the construction costs.

Mr. O'Leary highlighted project categories included in the TIP evaluation as widening, including railroad/highway grade separation; new construction; intersection/safety improvements; resurfacing; reconstruction; rehabilitation; restoration; bridge improvements; transit; park-and-ride; High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) lanes; independent bicycle and pedestrian facilities projects (100% funded); carpool/vanpool administration; and safety projects (100% funded).

Mr. O'Leary highlighted projects submitted for FYE 2016, and said the Main Street/Brookhaven Creek Bridge was ranked as the number one project in the region and the Lindsey Street Widening Project from Berry Road to Pickard Avenue ranked number two. He said the key is being project ready and better prepared to begin construction, which earns more points in ranking projects. Mr. Angelo Lombardo, Traffic Engineer, said a large component in ranking for safety projects is crash history.

Mr. O'Leary said fifteen (15) government agencies submitted 116 project applications totaling \$117,843,413 in funding requests. Norman submitted 23 projects including five (5) bond projects. Nineteen (19) projects from Norman were selected receiving \$25,163,142 of the \$52,110,000 available (48.29% of the funding available in the region). Projects submitted that did not rank in the TIP include 12th Avenue S.E. between Cedar Lane and State Highway 9; Rock Creek Road between 36th Avenue N.W. and Grandview Avenue; Signal at 36th Avenue N.W. and Havenbrook Street; and Rock Creek Road at 12th Avenue N.W. and Trailwoods Drive.

Mr. O'Leary said Staff is very creative in obtaining funding for pavement markings, striping, traffic signals, etc., which is a great use for the 100% funding provided for safety projects.

Mr. O'Leary said Norman's average funding dollar amount per year is \$8,387,714 and Staff has secured an additional \$3 million for the Lindsey Street Bond Project which requires splitting the project into two phases – Phase I, 24th Avenue S.W. to Berry Road and Phase II, Berry Road to west of Pickard Avenue. Mr. O'Leary said the construction plan will be seamless and will look like one continuous construction project. Councilmember Holman asked if the project included curb, gutter, and sidewalks all the way to Pickard Avenue and Mr. O'Leary said yes, that is the goal.

Mr. O'Leary said funding has also been secured for four bond projects, 1) Lindsey Street, between 24th Avenue S.W. and east of Berry Road, 2) Main Street Bridge over Brookhaven Creek, 3) Franklin Road over Little River, and 4) 24th Avenue S.E. between Lindsey Street and Robinson Street. He said \$3,350,256 has been secured for Robinson Street improvements west of I-35.

Mr. O'Leary said right-of-way acquisition is underway for the Lindsey Street Bond Project and utility relocation should begin in November 2015, with Phase I and Phase II construction scheduled to begin in April 2017. Councilmember Castleberry asked Mr. O'Leary to explain what the stakes with colored flags mean along Lindsey Street and Mr. O'Leary said the green flags designate current or additional right-of-way or easement needed and the red flags designate acquired right-of-way or easement. Councilmember Castleberry asked when the Lindsey Street Bridge would come down and Mr. O'Leary said April 2016; however, ODOT must complete construction on Highway 9 prior to anything happening on Lindsey Street.

Mr. O'Leary said no funds are definite and FFY 2017 and FFY 2018 elements of the TIP will be revised in December 2015. Projects that failed to make the cut for inclusion in the TIP will be added to the new ACOG Eight-Year Construction Program, which allows the pre-construction process to be accelerated, e.g. additional readiness point at the time of re-application.

Mr. O'Leary said the Rock Creek Road Project from 36th Avenue N.W. to Grandview Avenue is one of the City's most interesting design projects to date. He said the proposed design concept will include off-street bike lanes, sidewalks, landscaping, three lanes instead of four, a decorative median, and a roundabout at the intersection to help with issues such as safety, traffic calming, reduced emissions, and will exceed traffic needs. Councilmember Lang said he is not a fan of roundabouts especially for bicyclists. Councilmember Castleberry would like to host a Joint Ward Three and Ward Eight public meeting to discuss the Rock Creek Road Project to obtain public input.

Mr. O'Leary highlighted next steps as follows:

- ACOG, ITTC, and ITPC to formally adopt the recommended TIP in February 2015;
- ODOT to include ACOG's TIP in the State's TIP in May 2015;
- City of Norman must complete project design, land acquisition, and utility relocations for all FFY 2016 projects;
- FFY 2016 funding becomes available on October 1, 2015; and
- City Staff develops strategies and secures readiness points for key projects not included in the current TIP (e.g. 12th Avenue S.E. and West Rock Creek Road).

Councilmember Holman said he is concerned about 12th Avenue between Highway 9 and Cedar Lane not making this year's funding and asked how much money is needed to do that project today and Mr. O'Leary said \$4 to \$5 million. Councilmember Holman asked when federal funds would be available and Mr. O'Leary said October 2016 would be the first time the City could bid the project. Mr. O'Leary said the project would be under construction during the winter/spring of 2017. Mr. Lombardo said Staff needs the time to acquire the right-of way, finish the design, and relocate utilities, which will give the City more readiness points when applying for the project funding and also provide a better chance of securing funding. Mr. Steve Lewis, City Manager, asked what the City can do to advance the project to get more readiness points and Mr. Lombardo said the design process will have several key milestones and the City did not quite have the right milestones in for this round of funding. Mr. Sturtz said Staff is working on getting the maximum readiness points to ensure the project is ranked properly.

Councilmember Lang would like to see the urbanized map of the TIP region as defined by ACOG.

Councilmember Heiple asked whether any of the project funding would be jeopardized if the Floodplain Ordinance was amended regarding fill issues and Mr. O'Leary said the projects would require a floodplain permit, but Staff expects City projects to comply with the current ordinance; however, it is possible federal funding could be jeopardized and could definitely propose a challenge for some projects. Councilmember Miller said the ordinance allows fill to raise public roads and Mr. Scott Sturtz, City Engineer, said proposed ordinance language could be challenging, but understands the language has not been discussed by Council yet.

Items submitted for the record

1. PowerPoint presentation entitled, "ACOG Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) Update," City Council Conference, February 3, 2015

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The meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

ATTEST:

City Clerk

Mayor