

ORDINANCE NO. O-1617-23

ITEM NO. 8a

STAFF REPORT

GENERAL INFORMATION

APPLICANT

City of Norman and Aria
Development, L.L.C.

REQUESTED ACTION

Closure of street right-of-way of
Oklahoma Avenue lying between
Classen Boulevard and Enid Street

BACKGROUND: Oklahoma Avenue has been located within the current right-of-way and was annexed into the Corporate City Limits in 1955.

DISCUSSION: A great amount of transition has taken place in this area in recent years, including the removal of several commercial structures from the site that is being considered for re-development. As a result, the City of Norman has an opportunity to improve the transportation network and traffic circulation in the area by eliminating an unnecessary intersection that will reduce the cut-through traffic that has plagued the residents of Oklahoma Avenue, between Classen Boulevard and Brooks Street. Over the years, the City has considered an improved layout of the Classen Boulevard, Oklahoma Avenue and Enid Street intersection area and sees in the current proposal an opportunity to make that a reality.

The segment of Oklahoma Avenue, between Classen Boulevard and Brooks Street, has been the subject of considerable scrutiny over the past several years. Staff has received numerous complaints regarding cut-through traffic and speeding on this segment of roadway. From the most recent traffic counts collected, the total two-way volume is 444 vehicles per day. The number of homes with frontage along Oklahoma Avenue, between Classen Boulevard and Boyd Street, is 25. Based upon Institute of Transportation Engineers nationally recognized trips rates, 25 single family residential homes should generate 294 trips on an average weekday. This means that the remaining 150 trips (444-294=150) are cut-through trips, which equates to nearly 35 percent of the traffic currently using Oklahoma Avenue. The closure of Oklahoma Avenue at Classen Boulevard will eliminate one of two closely spaced intersections along Classen Boulevard and discourage cut through traffic in the neighborhood. The traffic that needs to utilize Oklahoma Avenue will continue to have convenient access via the existing east-west streets between Classen Boulevard and Oklahoma Avenue, such as Enid Street. The cut-through traffic will likely seek more appropriate routes to reach their destinations, like Brooks Street or Boyd Street.

It should be noted that the City has a water main that runs within the property. However, the preliminary plat provides a utility easement and the relocation of the 16" water main. There have been no objections from the utility companies at this time. If there is a conflict with the proposed structure and a utility company, it will be the responsibility of the developer to relocate the utilities.

RECOMMENDATION: With the proposal of reconstructing Enid Street by the developer and eliminating the segment of Oklahoma Avenue, between Classen Boulevard and Enid Street, staff can support the request for the closure of Oklahoma Avenue between Classen Boulevard and Enid Street.