



CITY OF NORMAN, OK CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL SESSION

Municipal Building, Executive Conference Room, 201 West Gray, Norman,
OK 73069

Tuesday, September 23, 2025 at 5:00 PM

MINUTES

The City Council of the City of Norman, Cleveland County, State of Oklahoma, met in Special Session in the Executive Conference Room of the Norman Municipal Building on the 23rd day of September, 2025, at 5:00 p.m., and notice and agenda of the meeting were posted at the Municipal Building at 201 West Gray Street 48 hours prior to the beginning of the meeting.

CALL TO ORDER

PRESENT

Mayor Stephen Holman
Councilmember Ward 1 David Gandesbery
Councilmember Ward 3 Bree Montoya
Councilmember Ward 4 Helen Grant
Councilmember Ward 5 Michael Nash
Councilmember Ward 6 Joshua Hinkle
Councilmember Ward 8 Scott Dixon

ABSENT

Councilmember Ward 2 Matthew Peacock
Councilmember Ward 7 Kimberly Blodgett

AGENDA ITEMS

1. DISCUSSION REGARDING THE CENTRAL OKLAHOMA LONG RANGE TRANSIT PLAN

Taylor Johnson, Transit and Parking Program Manager, Public Works Department, introduced the item. He noted this was the Council's third update on the development of the Central Oklahoma Long Range Transit Plan and introduced Chip Nolen, Planning Manager, for Embark and John Sharp, Deputy Director, for the Association of Central Oklahoma Governments (ACOG), to present the update.

Mr. Nolen provided a project overview

- The Central Oklahoma Long Range Transit Plan marks the region's first major update in approximately 20 years.
- Project leads include Embark, MAPS, and ACOG, each contributing to the plan's funding and coordination.
- The plan builds upon prior efforts such as Go Norman Transit Plan, Embark Shift, Edmond Shift, and OKC Moves.
- Aims to accommodate projected growth of 434,000 residents and 320,000 jobs by 2045, resulting in approximately 1.1 million daily trips.
- Focus areas include strategic investment, increased service connectivity, and economic development support.

Item 1, continued

Project Vision and Goals

- Develop an intentional, cohesive regional network of transit services to promote economic mobility and enhance quality of life.
- Provide meaningful access, competitive service options, and reliable rider experiences.
- Effectively utilize limited funding for maximum community benefit.

Plan Phasing

- Short-Term - local service improvements; no Regional Transit Authority (RTA) projects included.
- Mid-Term - incorporation of RTA projects.
- Long-Term - expansion of Bus Rapid Transit (BRT), streetcar routes, and additional on-demand zones.

Public Engagement

- 29 public meetings, 2 virtual town halls, and 84 formal comments received.
- Key public priorities identified:
 - Increased frequency and longer service hours.
 - Improved transfer connections and interjurisdictional service.
 - Enhanced reliability and expanded geographic reach.
- Proposed system includes 16 high-frequency routes, 13 on-demand zones, and 430 miles of service corridors.

Economic Impact

- Anticipated 5:1 return on investment.
- Projected outcomes:
 - 151,000 additional jobs accessible by transit.
 - 300 sustained jobs created through transit operations.
 - \$100 million in annual economic growth.
 - 1.1 million hours of congestion reduction annually, translating to \$28 million in savings.

Projected Costs

- Capital Costs: \$500–\$725 million.
- Annual Operations and Maintenance: \$125–\$175 million.
- In context, the ACOG 2045 Regional Plan allocates approximately \$10 billion for total transportation over 30 years, with roughly half dedicated to maintenance.
- Comparatively, a single Oklahoma Department of Transportation (ODOT) project, the South Extension Turnpike, exceeds \$1 billion, suggesting this transit plan offers high value relative to scope and benefit.

Implementation and Delivery

Key actions identified to deliver the plan include:

- Enhancing Rider Experience: Unified branding, integrated fare systems, and transit-oriented development.
- Establishing Strategic Partnerships: Coordination between municipalities, regional agencies, and private sector partners.
- Diversifying Services: Expanding fixed-route, demand-response, and paratransit options.
- Securing Reliable Funding: Identifying sustainable regional and local funding sources.

The presenters emphasized the importance of routine plan updates every five years to track progress and maintain alignment with ACOG's regional planning cycles.

Item 1, continued

Councilmember Grant inquired whether community engagement addressed Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and accessibility considerations, noting concerns from a resident in Moore who is blind and relies on public transit.

Mr. Nolen explained that the planning process incorporated census data identifying populations more likely to depend on transit—such as elderly, youth, and individuals with disabilities or lower incomes.

Mayor Holman noted that public transit updates are regularly discussed by the Community Planning and Transportation Committee (CPTC), where Staff can report ongoing developments.

Council expressed interest in maintaining periodic updates, ideally every five years, on RTA and regional transit progress.

The Communications Division offered to distribute the project's QR code and link via the City's weekly community newsletter (12,000–14,000 subscribers) to expand public awareness and feedback opportunities.

2. CONSIDERATION OF ADJOURNING INTO AN EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS THE PURCHASE OF REAL PROPERTY AS AUTHORIZED BY OKLAHOMA STATUTES, UNDER TITLE 25 § 307(B)(4) TO DISCUSS PENDING LITIGATION ASSOCIATED WITH WATTIE WOLFE, INC., VS G.E. JOHNSON, ET AL., CASE CJ-2025-1366 TB.

Motion made by Councilmember Ward 4 Grant, Seconded by Councilmember Ward 6 Hinkle.

Voting Yea: Mayor Holman, Councilmember Ward 1 Gandesbery, Councilmember Ward 3 Montoya, Councilmember Ward 4 Grant, Councilmember Ward 5 Nash, Councilmember Ward 6 Hinkle, Councilmember Ward 8 Dixon

The City Council adjourned into Executive Session at 5:20 p.m. Mr. Rick Knighton, City Attorney; Ms. Beth Muckala, Assistant City Attorney; Mr. Darrel Pyle, City Manager; Ms. Shannon Stevenson, Assistant City Manager; Mr. Jason Olsen, Director of Parks and Recreation; Mr. Anthony Francisco, Director of Finance, and Ms. Shaakira Calnick, Internal Auditor, were in attendance at the Executive Session.

Motion made by Councilmember Ward 4 Grant, Seconded by Councilmember Ward 6 Hinkle.

Voting Yea: Mayor Holman, Councilmember Ward 1 Gandesbery, Councilmember Ward 3 Montoya, Councilmember Ward 4 Grant, Councilmember Ward 5 Nash, Councilmember Ward 6 Hinkle, Councilmember Ward 8 Dixon

The Executive Session was adjourned out of and the Special Session was reconvened at 5:44 p.m.

Item 2, continued

Pending litigation associated with Wattie Wolfe, Inc., vs G.E. Johnson, et al., Case CJ-2025-1366 TB was discussed in Executive Session. No action was taken and no votes were cast.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

ATTEST:



City Clerk



Mayor

