

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-2869

RESOLUTION OF OKLAHOMA COUNTY DECLARING SUPPORT FOR THE OKLAHOMA TURNPIKE AUTHORITY'S ACCESS OKLAHOMA PROGRAM TO IMPROVE AND CONSTRUCT TURNPIKE FACILITIES IN THE VICINITY OF OKLAHOMA COUNTY AND COMMITTING TO COORDINATING AND PARTNERING WITH THE OTA TO CONSTRUCT NEW INTERCHANGE ALONG THE TURNPIKE CORRIDOR.

WHEREAS, the Oklahoma Turnpike Authority (OTA) operates a turnpike system within Oklahoma that connects seamlessly with the state highway/interstate and local road system; and

WHEREAS, improvements to Oklahoma's interconnected transportation system of turnpikes, state highways, and local roads must be coordinated to leverage resources, improve safety, and ensure a seamless operation for the benefit of all Oklahomans; and

WHEREAS, the OTA has made coordinating and partnering with state and local entities a priority throughout its history; and

WHEREAS, the OTA has announced a 15-year, long-range turnpike improvement and expansion program for projects defined in the Advancing and Connecting Communities and Economies Safely Statewide "ACCESS Program"; and

WHEREAS, the ACCESS Program represents approximately \$5 billion in improvements to Oklahoma's turnpike system; and

WHEREAS, the ACCESS Program includes major improvements to the existing turnpike system by expanding capacity and constructing new interchanges; and

WHEREAS, these transportation infrastructure improvements include widening the entirety of the Turner Turnpike/I-44 between Oklahoma City and Tulsa; and

WHEREAS, the transportation infrastructure improvements and new interchanges will improve access to communities and are expected to provide additional economic development opportunities in Oklahoma County and others near such improvements throughout the state; and

WHEREAS, these transportation infrastructure improvements and new turnpike routes will improve safety on the state highway/interstate and local system; and

WHEREAS, the transportation infrastructure improvements and new turnpike routes will improve access to communities and are expected to provide additional economic development opportunities in Oklahoma County; and others near such improvements throughout the state; and

WHEREAS, the OTA has inquired with the Oklahoma County about partnering on the Turner Turnpike Project; and

WHEREAS, current and future community interests and economic developments in Oklahoma County are dependent on the successful construction phasing of the Project; and

WHEREAS, Oklahoma County finds that the goals of the ACCESS Program, as it relates to the transportation infrastructure improvements that are being contemplated, are consistent with the goals of the County to enhance access and mobility for its citizens and to promote economic development; and

WHEREAS, Oklahoma County finds that partnering with OTA on transportation infrastructure improvements that impact the County's interests, are mutually beneficial and will help enhance the delivery of a completed project in a coordinated and timely manner; and

WHEREAS, by way of this resolution, Oklahoma County hereby supports the Oklahoma Turnpike Authority's ACCESS Program to improve turnpike facilities in the area of Oklahoma County to promote the transportation needs and the economic well-being of the County and its citizens.

WHEREAS, by way of this resolution, Oklahoma County hereby commits to participate in the development of the Turner Turnpike Projects within Oklahoma County; and

WHEREAS, by way of this resolution, Oklahoma County hereby commits to participate in the development of the Turnpike Projects; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: as a reflection of its commitment and in support of a partnership between Oklahoma County, and the Oklahoma Turnpike Authority. Oklahoma County commits to participate in the development of the Turner Turnpike Project.

ADOPTED by the Council and **SIGNED** by Commissioners of Oklahoma County of Oklahoma on this _____ day of _____, 2024.