

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-03

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF NEWCASTLE DECLARING SUPPORT FOR THE OKLAHOMA TURNPIKE AUTHORITY'S ACCESS OKLAHOMA PROGRAM TO IMPROVE AND CONSTRUCT TURNPIKE FACILITIES IN THE VICINITY OF THE CITY OF NEWCASTLE AND COMMITTING TO COORDINATING AND PARTNERING WITH THE OTA AND OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO CONSTRUCT A 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 includes major improvements to the existing turnpike system by expanding capacity and constructing new turnpike routes; and

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

WHEREAS, the ACCESS Program includes the construction of a new turnpike route from the I-44 Tri-City area (Newcastle, Blanchard, Tuttle) at SH-37, crossing the South Canadian River, east to I-35, then continuing east along Indian Hills Road and then northeast to I-40, connecting to the new Kickapoo Turnpike (hereinafter referred **East-West Connector** or **EWC**); 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 our City and others near such improvements throughout the state; and

WHEREAS, the ACCESS Program includes the construction of a new turnpike route within Newcastle City limits, with a Diverging Diamond Interchange (DDI) interchange that will add new access points at NW 24th Street, SH-62, SH-37 and I-44 along with two-way service roads along both side of I-44 and within Newcastle city limits (**East West Connector** or "**EWC**" Project); and

WHEREAS, ODOT presently owns and maintains SH-62, SH-37, and I-44 where OTA's Turnpike will intersect; and

WHEREAS, the City of Newcastle presently owns and maintains NW 24th Street where OTA's Turnpike will intersect; and

WHEREAS, the City of Newcastle has an existing roadway project to reconstruct NW 24th from SH-62 to N. Country Club Rd; and

WHEREAS, the OTA has inquired with the City of Newcastle about partnering on the on the EWC Project; and

WHEREAS, portions of the City of Newcastle's existing pump house, water lines and sewer lines will need to be relocated to accommodate the construction of the East-West Connector This line replacement would create a cost split of 79.71% by OTA and 20.29% by the City of Newcastle. The City of Newcastle requests continued partnership with the OTA, such that the OTA cover 100% of the cost of design, right-of-way acquisition and construction, as well as to construct a portion of the relocation of water and sewer lines as part of the construction of the EWC; and

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

WHEREAS, the City of Newcastle 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 City to enhance access and mobility for its citizens and to promote economic development; and

WHEREAS, the City of Newcastle finds that partnering with ODOT and OTA on transportation infrastructure improvements that impact the City's interests, including the EWC Project, is mutually beneficial and will help enhance the delivery a completed project in a coordinated and timely manner; and

WHEREAS, the City of Newcastle request that the existing service road connection bridge north of the interchange be rebuilt; and

WHEREAS, the City of Newcastle requests a frontage road and access to the northeast corner of the new interchange between the EWC and I-44; and

WHEREAS, the City of Newcastle request that the OTA if possible to incorporate the City's construction project of NW 24th with OTA construction project; and

WHEREAS, in the interest of furthering the goals of coordinating efforts on transportation infrastructure improvements and economic development, the City of Newcastle has an interest in discussing and partnering with the OTA in the evaluation leading to the construction of future turnpike facilities in these areas; and

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

WHEREAS, by way of this resolution, the City of Newcastle hereby commits to the future maintenance requirements of the service roads as City streets; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: as a reflection of its commitment and in support of a partnership between the City of Newcastle, the Oklahoma Department of Transporation, and the Oklahoma Turnpike Authority, the City of Newcastle commits to maintain the re-established service roads as City streets.

ADOPTED by the Council and **SIGNED** by the Mayor of The City Of Newcastle, Oklahoma, on this _ day of _____, 2025.

DATED this 14th day of April, 2025.


Karl D. Nail, Mayor

ATTEST:


City Clerk