

M E M O



TO:	Mayor and Council	CC:	Steve Commons	Andy Conyers
FROM:	Larry Stevens, City Manager		Jim Smith	Cinda Covell
DATE:			Steve Murdock	Warren Porter
			Natalie Evans	
			Casey Moore	
SUBJECT:	Monthly Progress Report –October, 2018			

1. Railroad Quiet Zones

Last week City staff met with our consultant (Tim Oster with CTC) to review some questions that the BNSF had asked about a few crossings. This was encouraging feedback from the BNSF to our request for information that we asked for last November. This information has been shared with the BNSF, and our consultant is hopeful that we will have a cost estimate in the next 3-4 weeks. After staff reviews the information we put an item on a regular agenda for your formal consideration of quiet zones for Edmond.

Another positive note is that we now believe the construction of the quiet zones, if approved, should only take 6-9 months, considerably less time than we had heard initially.

2. Downtown Drainage Project

The contractor (Crossland Construction) continues to make progress, but is now also behind schedule due all the recent rain. The work now involves lowering a water line at Broadway and Hurd, and then the storm sewer work will start on Hurd. Streetscape is being installed on Campbell east of Broadway. In addition to the major drainage improvements, please also remember that this project will add 55 parking spaces in the downtown area.

The estimated completion date is now the end of November, but that does not include the additional work at 2nd & Broadway for the Sunnyside Diner, which could add a few weeks to the project. Of course we continue to communicate regularly with the downtown merchants about this project through Casey's office.

The original contract for this project was \$2.17M, from the 2000 sales tax, which does not include the additional work described above.

3. Thomas Drive Closing and Realignment

The closure of this section of Thomas from Danforth to just south of John Ross Elementary School was requested by the Edmond Public Schools. The contractor (SAC

Services) continues to make progress in the last couple of weeks even with the weather. The asphalt subgrade is in place and most of the curb and gutter is installed for the south section of the realigned road. When the remaining asphalt is installed in this section the plan is to open that section of the new road for access to only the school parking lot.

This project was initially completed by mid-November, but the rains have moved delayed this estimated date substantially, and now the tentative schedule for completion is toward the end of January.

4. *“Luminance” Holiday Lighting event at Mitch Park*

This will be the second year for this event, and the grand opening/Mayor’s Tree Lighting Ceremony will be on Saturday, December 1. Several activities either are or will be occurring in the coming weeks, including:

- Heartland Fence Co. is currently constructing a fenced-in area just to the east of the Mitch substation for storage of displays
- lighted bollards will be placed along the trail to supply power to the displays
- the displays for this season will be arriving soon
- Forrester Lighting will be placing lights on trees and pavilions, the same vendor who provides the lights in downtown Edmond
- crews will be setting up the displays in November

There will be twenty displays featured in this year’s event, with many more anticipated in future years.

Luminance will run from December 1-January 5, with the lights being on from 5-10 pm each night. The Advisory Committee is finalizing some special event nights for December 1, 8 and 15. For more information please call Jessica Lyle, the Community Relations Coordinator with Edmond Electric at 216-7729.

5. *Sales and Use Taxes*

Sales tax revenue was 7.14% above last year’s October receipts, a high-water mark for the past four years. Through the first four months of FY ’19 sales tax is up 5.48%. And our month over previous year month increase continues for the 17th consecutive month. As a note of caution however, we may have a credit on future sales tax because of an individual business having a major increase that may eventually be credited to Oklahoma City.

After two consecutive slower months, use tax is up almost 92% from last year. We really won’t know why for about 45 days when Warren can access the individual and category reports.

Our combined sales/use tax for the fiscal year is up 8.15% over last year, significantly above our 4.67% at the end of last month. This compares very well to our budget projections of a 2% increase for sales tax and a zero increase for use tax.

