



**TRANSPORTATION TECHNICAL COMMITTEE  
REGULAR MEETING  
December 5, 2023 @ 10AM  
212 SW 9<sup>TH</sup> STREET  
CITY HALL- 3<sup>RD</sup> FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM**

**AGENDA**

- 1. Call meeting to order and establish Quorum.**
- 2. Verify posting of meeting.**
- 3. Introductions.**

**BUSINESS**

- 4. Consider recommending the Transportation Policy Board approve a letter to the Oklahoma Department of Transportation stating the LMPO's choice to support the target numbers established by ODOT for the 2024 Safety Targets, and recommend authorizing the Director to sign.**
- 5. Provide a recommendation regarding the priority of possible projects for the Carbon Reduction Grant and consider recommending the Transportation Policy Board authorize Staff to pursue the grant for the prioritized projects.**
- 6. Consider recommending the Transportation Policy Board approve boundary changes to the Lawton Metropolitan Area Transportation Study Area boundary and recommend authorizing Staff to submit the revised to State and Federal agencies for approval.**
- 7. Consider recommending the Transportation Policy Board approve a resolution amending the Lawton Metropolitan Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan by modifying the Elmer Thomas Connector Route and consider recommending approval of a temporary detour of the route until construction on the amended route is completed.**
- 8. Receive information from staff regarding project cost breakdown.**

**9. Reports or Comments.**

**10. Adjournment.**

“The City of Lawton encourages participation from all of its citizens. If individuals with disabilities who require accessible alternative formats of the agenda and related meeting materials and/or auxiliary aids/services to participate in the meeting, notification to the City Clerk at (580) 581-3305 at least 48 hours prior to the scheduled meeting is encouraged to make the necessary accommodations. The City may waive the 48-hour rule if interpreters for the deaf (signing) or translation services for LEP individuals are not the necessary accommodation.”

ITEM NO. \_\_\_\_\_  
MEETING DATE December 5, 2023

**LMPO TRANSPORTATION TECHNICAL COMMITTEE AGENDA ITEM COMMENTARY**

**ITEM TITLE:** Consider recommending the Transportation Policy Board approve a letter to the Oklahoma Department of Transportation stating the LMPO's choice to support the target numbers established by ODOT for the 2024 Safety Targets, and recommend authorizing the Director to sign.

**INITIATOR:** ODOT

**STAFF INFORMATION SOURCE:** Jonathan Stone, Assistant LMPO Director

**BACKGROUND:** 23 CFR 490 addresses requirements regarding the creation, monitoring, and reporting of performance measures. The Oklahoma Department of Transportation has established safety targets for 2024. The Lawton Metropolitan Planning Organization may either support the numbers that ODOT has established, or create targets independently.

Attached are tables showing the ODOT proposed targets. Staff recommended the LMPO support the numbers established by ODOT. The response to ODOT is due by March 27, 2024

**EXHIBITS:** Letter supporting statewide targets

**KEY ISSUES:** Shall the LMPO support the State targets, or create targets of our own?

**FUNDING SOURCE:** N/A

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:** Recommend the Transportation Policy Board approve a letter to the Oklahoma Department of Transportation stating the LMPO's choice to support the target numbers established by ODOT for the 2024 Safety Targets, and recommend authorizing the Director to sign.





# Lawton Metropolitan Planning Organization

212 Southwest 9<sup>th</sup> Street

Lawton, OK 73501-4078

Phone (580) 581-3375

[www.lawtonmpo.org](http://www.lawtonmpo.org)

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December 5, 2023

Ms. Sarah McElroy  
Oklahoma Department of Transportation  
200 N.E. 21<sup>st</sup> Street  
Oklahoma City, OK 73105

Ms. McElroy:

The Lawton Metropolitan Planning Organization has chosen to support the numbers generated by the Oklahoma Department of Transportation in regards to safety target setting and performance measure analysis for 2024. These numbers are as follows:

	<b>State DOT Targets</b>
<b>Fatalities</b>	755
<b>Fatality Rate (per HMVMT)</b>	1.69
<b>Serious Injuries</b>	2,011
<b>Serious Injury Rate (per HMVMT)</b>	4.79
<b>Non-Motorized Fatalities</b>	121
<b>Non-Motorized Serious Injuries</b>	176
<b>Non-Motorized Fatalities and Serious Injuries</b>	297

Sincerely,

Charlotte Brown  
LMPO Director



**ITEM NO.** \_\_\_\_\_  
**MEETING DATE** December 5, 2023

**LMPO TRANSPORTATION TECHNICAL COMMITTEE AGENDA ITEM COMMENTARY**

**ITEM TITLE:** Provide a recommendation regarding the priority of possible projects for the Carbon Reduction Grant and consider recommending the Transportation Policy Board authorize Staff to pursue the grant for the prioritized projects.

**INITIATOR:** Charlotte Brown LMPO Director

**STAFF INFORMATION SOURCE:** Jonathan Stone, Assistant LMPO Director

**BACKGROUND:** The Oklahoma Department of Transportation has informed the Lawton Metropolitan Planning Organization that there are funds in the Carbon Reduction Grant that the LMPO may apply for.

The purpose of the Carbon Reduction Program grant is to reduce transportation emissions through the development of carbon reduction strategies and to fund projects designed to reduce transportation emissions. Staff has reviewed the grant requirements and has drafted a short list of possible project ideas.

**EXHIBITS:** Possible Project Ideas

**KEY ISSUES:** What projects should we select to apply for the Carbon Reduction Grant?

**FUNDING SOURCE:** 80% Federal (Carbon Reduction Grant) 20% local

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:** Provide direction to Staff regarding the priority of possible projects for the Carbon Reduction Grant and recommend the Transportation Policy Board authorize Staff to pursue the grant for the prioritized projects.





## Possible Projects for Carbon Reduction Grant

1. Fleet Conversion to electric for City vehicles
2. Fleet Conversion to electric for LATS
3. Publicly accessible charging stations
4. Implementing project recommendations from Traffic Flow Study
5. Traffic signal timing and improvements to reduce congestion.
6. TAP (Transportation Alternatives Project) eligible project, sidewalk or bike trail connection.
7. Replacing street lights and traffic control lights with more energy efficient lighting
8. Rail improvements, (Reduce environmental and community impact of freight movement)



**ITEM NO.** \_\_\_\_\_  
**MEETING DATE** December 5, 2023

**LMPO TRANSPORTATION TECHNICAL COMMITTEE AGENDA ITEM COMMENTARY**

**ITEM TITLE:** Consider recommending the Transportation Policy Board approve boundary changes to the Lawton Metropolitan Area Transportation Study Area boundary and recommend authorizing Staff to submit the revised to State and Federal agencies for approval.

**INITIATOR:** Charlotte Brown LMPO Director

**STAFF INFORMATION SOURCE:** Jonathan Stone, Assistant LMPO Director

**BACKGROUND:** Every 10 years after the Census, the Census bureau updates the boundaries of urbanized areas. Title 23 U.S.C., Section 134, requires that MPOs and the Governor agree on updated Study Area boundaries. These boundaries are required to include the existing urbanized area and the contiguous area expected to become urbanized within 20 years.

At the November 14<sup>th</sup> Policy Board meeting the Board authorized Staff to revise the boundary and bring a final map to the Board for approval.

The boundary map must be submitted to FHWA and FTA after approval by the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) and the Governor.

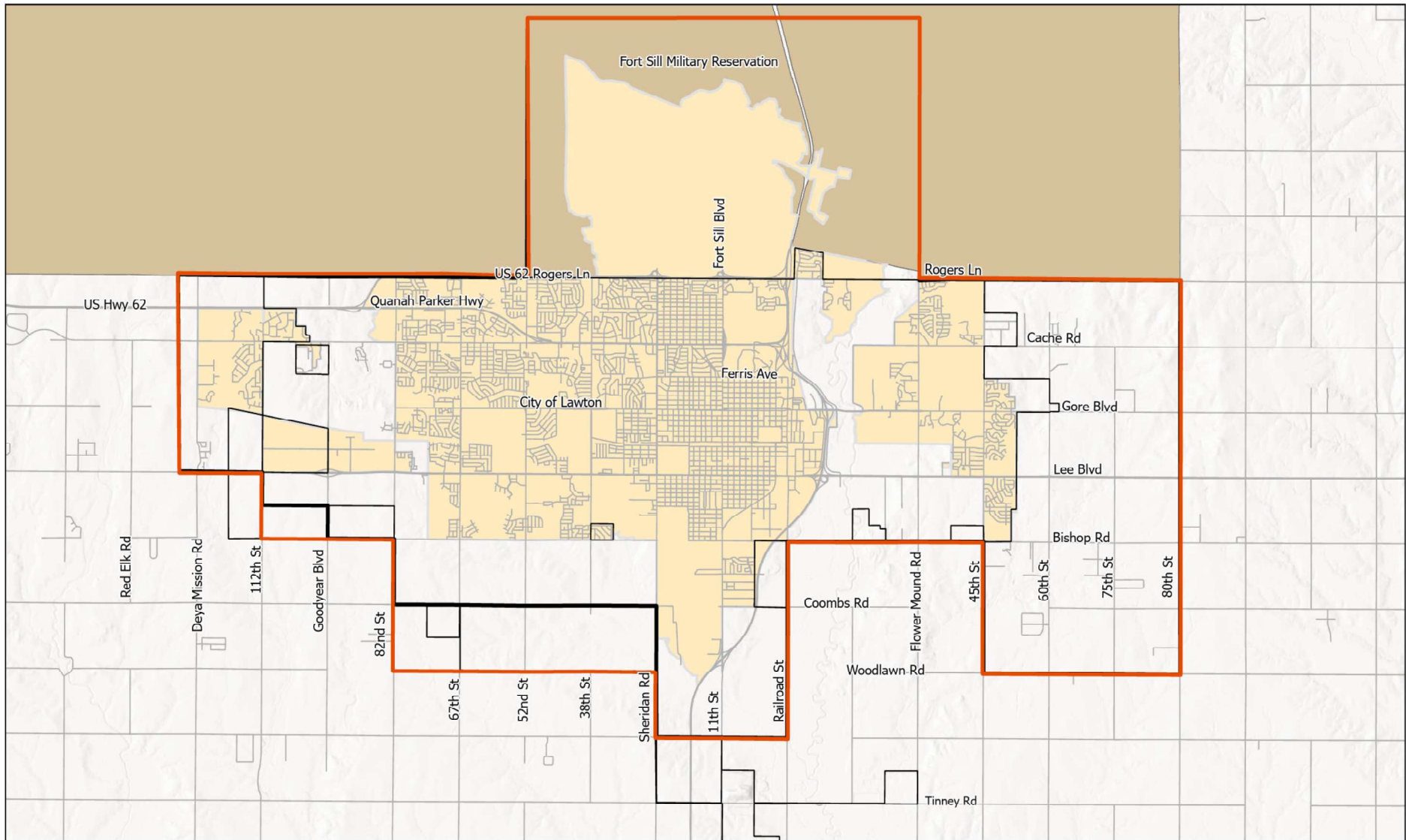
**EXHIBITS:** Revised 2023 Boundary Map

**KEY ISSUES:** What areas should be included in the new boundary?

**FUNDING SOURCE:** N/A

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:** Recommend the Transportation Policy Board approve the boundary changes to the Lawton Metropolitan Area Transportation Study Area boundary and recommend authorizing Staff to submit the revised boundary State and Federal agencies for approval..





- LMPO\_Revised\_Boundary\_11\_29\_2023
- LMAP\_New\_Boundary
- Lawton City Limits
- Street
- Ft.Sill
- 2020 Census Urban Area

Lawton Metropolitan Planning Organization  
 11/30/2023  
 2020 Census Lawton Urban Area



**LMPO TRANSPORTATION TECHNICAL COMMITTEE AGENDA ITEM COMMENTARY**

**ITEM TITLE:** Consider recommending the Transportation Policy Board approve a resolution amending the Lawton Metropolitan Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan by modifying the Elmer Thomas Connector Route and consider recommending approval of a temporary detour of the route until construction on the amended route is completed.

**INITIATOR:** Charlotte Brown LMPO Director

**STAFF INFORMATION SOURCE:** Charlotte Brown LMPO Director

**BACKGROUND:** In 2010 the Lawton Metropolitan Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan was approved with the exception of the Elmer Thomas Connector. The original plan for the Elmer Thomas Connector was an on street bicycle lane on Ferris Avenue, this included the narrowing of Ferris Avenue to three lanes, one in each direction and a center turn lane.

A committee was formed to look at the Elmer Thomas Connector route and recommended to the Policy Board the current route through the neighborhood north of Ferris Avenue continuing through Lawton Public School land and ending in Elmer Thomas Park. This change was approved on May 20<sup>th</sup> of 2010 and as a part of the construction easements were obtained through Lawton Public School land.

Both the drafting of the Lawton Metropolitan Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan, and the construction of several routes (including the Elmer Thomas Connector) were funded with the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) Grant that the LMPO receives.

Lawton Public Schools has requested to the City Council that these easements be closed so that they can construct a fence on their property. Staff has contacted ODOT and has been informed that because federal funds were used on this trail the trail cannot be closed without a replacement being constructed, however a temporary detour route can be designated for use during construction.

Staff is recommending the route be modified back to what the original Lawton Metropolitan Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan recommended (Option B), and that a temporary detour be designated during construction of the selected route modification.

In 2015 Jeff Speck, a noted City Planner and Author, gave a presentation to the LMPO and City Council titled "Moving Towards a Walkable Lawton". In that presentation he talked specifically about Ferris Ave and encouraged the City to strongly consider restriping from a four lane to a three lane with a bike trail as originally planned in the 2010 Lawton Metropolitan Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan. According to his presentation, a three-lane road has a capacity of 15,000 - 20,000 cars per day and the current volume of Ferris was 11,307, (in 2021 the traffic count on this stretch of Ferris Avenue was 6,200). Shrinking a road from four lanes to three lanes with a bicycle lane decreases the injury rate, increases bicycle ridership, and decreased speeding. All of

this while not impacting car volumes or trip times. The restriping of NW Ferris could be completed during the Mill and Overlay project.

**EXHIBITS:** Resolution No. 23 \_\_\_\_  
Proposed Route Modifications Option A  
Proposed Route Modifications Option B  
Proposed Temporary Detour  
Letter from ODOT regarding easement closing.

**KEY ISSUES:** Should the Elmer Thomas Connector Route be modified? If so, where should it be routed? And where should the temporary detour be?

**FUNDING SOURCE:** N/A

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:** Recommend the Transportation Policy Board approve a resolution amending the Lawton Metropolitan Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan by modifying the Elmer Thomas Connector Route and recommend approving a temporary detour of the route until construction on the amended route is completed.



**RESOLUTION NO. 23- \_\_**

A RESOLUTION AMENDING THE LAWTON METROPOLITAN BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN PLAN BY MODIFYING THE ELMER THOMAS CONNECTOR.

WHEREAS, the Lawton Metropolitan Planning Organization (LMPO) is the designated Metropolitan Planning Organization for the Lawton Urbanized Area; and

WHEREAS, the LMPO is responsible for a continuing, cooperative and comprehensive transportation planning process that results in plans and programs that consider all transportation modes and supports community development and social goals; and

WHEREAS, the Lawton Metropolitan Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan, which was adopted by the LMPO on May 8, 2008, and revised on May 20, 2010, will guide the development of bicycle, pedestrian and supporting multi-modal infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, the LMPO has been notified of the request by Lawton Public Schools to close the easements created for the 2010 revisions to the Elmer Thomas Connector route of the Lawton Metropolitan Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Transportation Policy Committee that:

The Elmer Thomas Connector route of the Lawton Metropolitan Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan is hereby amended as described in Exhibit A:

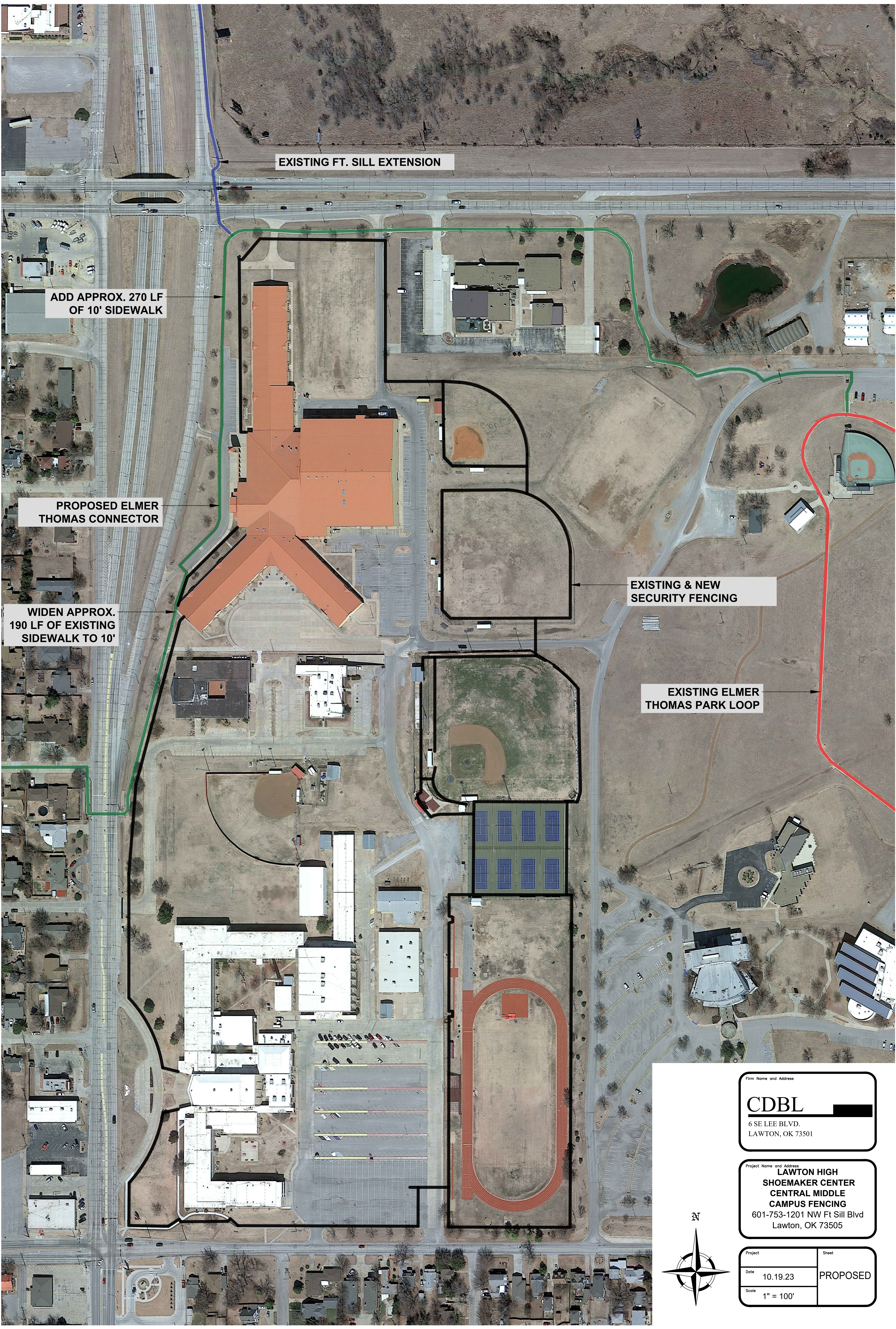
PASSED AND APPROVED by the Transportation Policy Board this 5<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2023.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Stanley Booker, Chairman

Approved as to form and legality this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2023.

\_\_\_\_\_  
City Attorney





EXISTING FT. SILL EXTENSION

ADD APPROX. 270 LF OF 10' SIDEWALK

PROPOSED ELMER THOMAS CONNECTOR

WIDEN APPROX. 190 LF OF EXISTING SIDEWALK TO 10'

EXISTING & NEW SECURITY FENCING

EXISTING ELMER THOMAS PARK LOOP

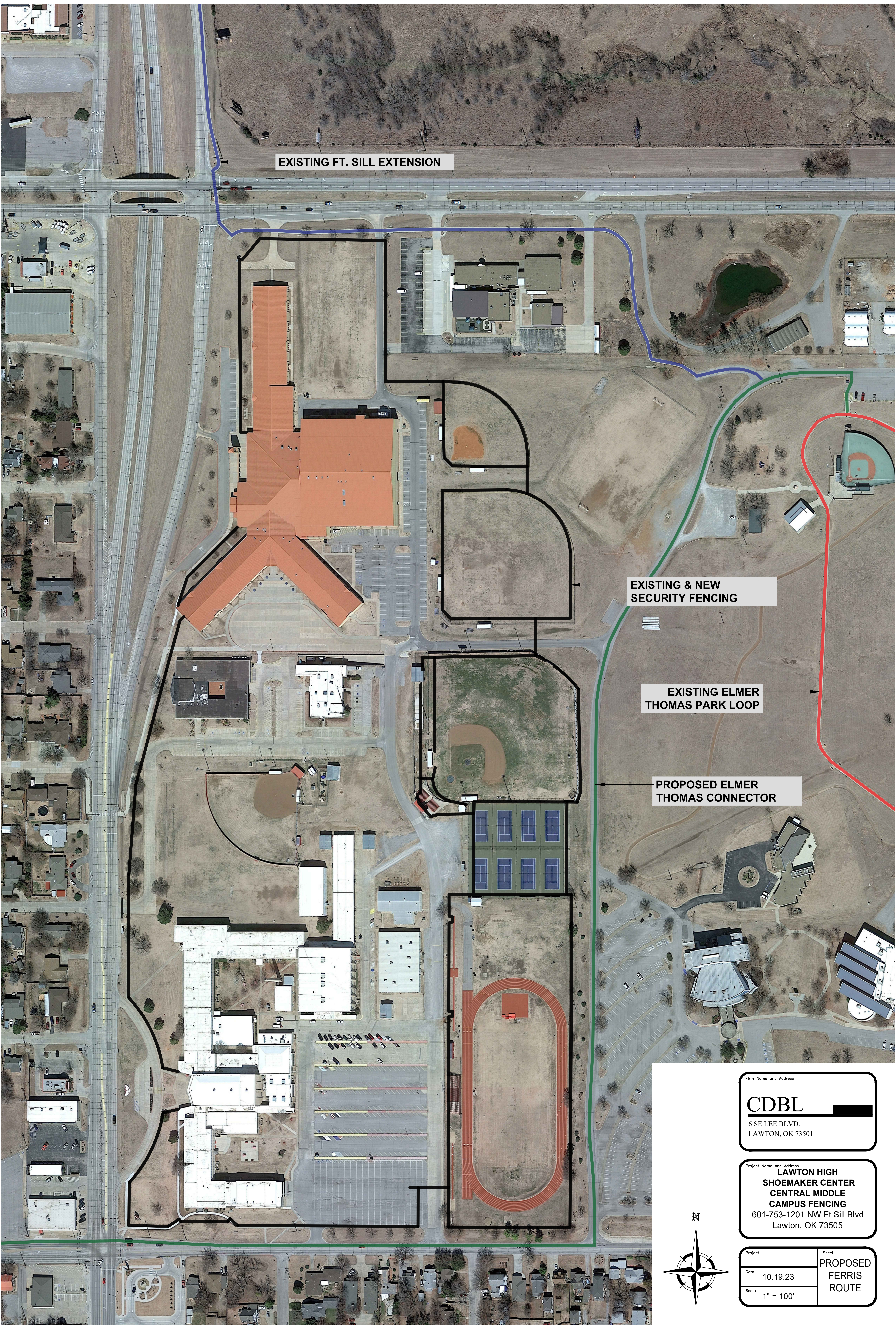
Firm Name and Address  
**CDBL**  
6 SE LEE BLVD.  
LAWTON, OK 73501

Project Name and Address  
**LAWTON HIGH  
SHOEMAKER CENTER  
CENTRAL MIDDLE  
CAMPUS FENCING**  
601-753-1201 NW Ft Sill Blvd  
Lawton, OK 73505



Project	Sheet
Date 10.19.23	PROPOSED
Scale 1" = 100'	





EXISTING FT. SILL EXTENSION

EXISTING & NEW SECURITY FENCING

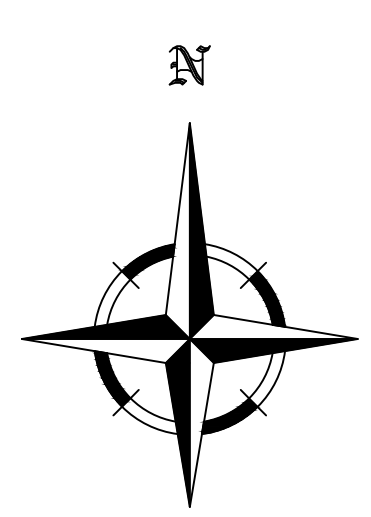
EXISTING ELMER THOMAS PARK LOOP

PROPOSED ELMER THOMAS CONNECTOR

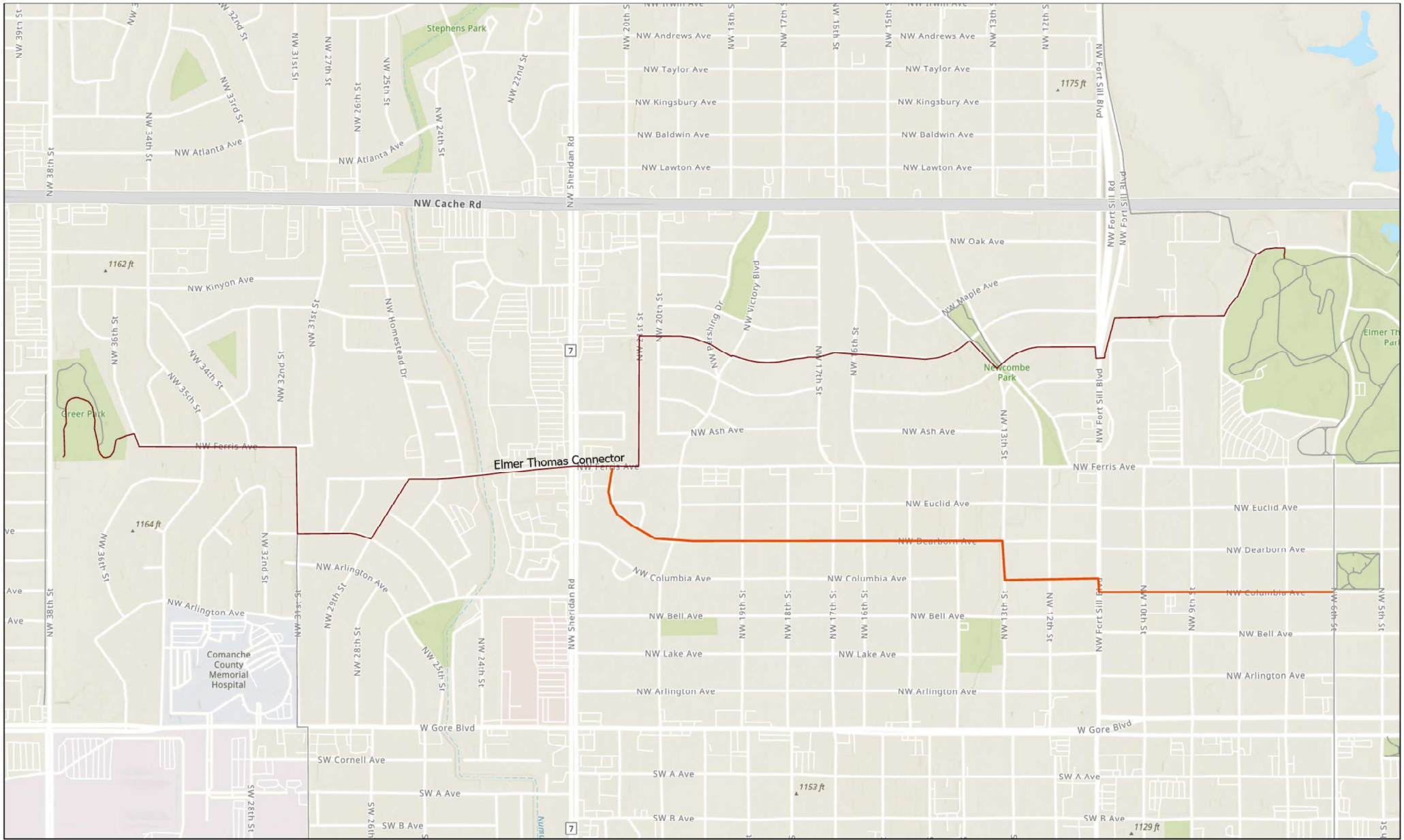
Firm Name and Address  
**CDBL**  
6 SE LEE BLVD.  
LAWTON, OK 73501

Project Name and Address  
**LAWTON HIGH  
SHOEMAKER CENTER  
CENTRAL MIDDLE  
CAMPUS FENCING**  
601-753-1201 NW Ft Sill Blvd  
Lawton, OK 73505

Project	Sheet
Date 10.19.23	<b>PROPOSED FERRIS ROUTE</b>
Scale 1" = 100'	







— Elmerthomas\_Connector  
 — Alt\_Elmer







November 22, 2023

The Honorable Stan Booker  
Mayor of the City of Lawton  
212 SW 9th St  
Lawton, OK73501

RE: Public Access Easement for the Elmer Thomas Connector Bike Route

Dear Mayor Booker,

The Oklahoma Department of Transportation (ODOT) was contacted on November 7, 2023, by the Lawton Metropolitan Planning Organization (LMPO) for guidance on closing a public access easement for the section of the Elmer Thomas Connector bike route that is on property owned by the Lawton Public Schools.

It is ODOT's understanding that the Elmer Thomas Connector was funded through the LMPO using Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) federal funds. Under 23 U.S.C. 109(m), FHWA must not approve any project or take any regulatory action under title 23, U.S.C., that will result in the severance of an existing major route or have significant adverse impact on the safety for nonmotorized transportation traffic and light motorcycles, unless such project or regulatory action provides for a reasonable alternate route, or such route exists.

According to federal guidance, the FHWA interprets 23 U.S.C. 109(m) as requiring recipients to provide appropriate replacement detour accommodations in the event of permanent or temporary closures, using adequate warning, delineation, channelization, and other traffic control devices that are compliant with the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD)."

Therefore, if the City of Lawton wants to sever a section of the Elmer Thomas Connector bike route, it must first provide one or more alternative routes. This includes providing a detour route while the alternative route(s) is under construction.

If you have further questions or concerns regarding this matter, I can be reached at [Laura.Chaney@odot.ok.gov](mailto:Laura.Chaney@odot.ok.gov) or (405) 819-3719.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Laura Chaney".

Laura Chaney  
Government Affairs – Planning Branch Manager

cc: Charlotte Brown, LMPO  
Jonathan Stone, LMPO  
Dawn Sullivan, ODOT



