Reporting on the Progress in Tulsa County District 1

By COMMISSIONER STAN SALLEE
Tulsa County District 1

The Downtown Tulsa Walkability Study commissioned by the Tulsa Downtown Coordinating Council (DCC) has been recognized by the International Downtown Association (IDA) as an example of best practices in planning, design and infrastructure.

The study was the product of a multi-year engagement with Speck and Associates, a nationally renowned planning and design firm, and mobility and transportation experts Nelson/Nygaard to survey Downtown Tulsa’s street and sidewalk networks. The team conducted a street-by-street analysis of existing conditions including lane width, sidewalk width, on-street parking, traffic speeds, pedestrian traffic, and ground floor vacancy to gauge how existing conditions impact the efficiency and economic functionality of downtown.

"The study set expectations and delineation to achieve safer streets downtown streets are designed as pedestrian-friendly and welcoming," said Tulsa Mayor G.T. Bynum. "This will help guide Downtown Tulsa on a path of continued growth and development." A jury of peer professionals reviewed, evaluated and deliberated the high quality of the study, its adoption by City Council and early implementation efforts. By a presidential proclamation, IDA states the Tulsa Downtown Coordinating Council has shown expert application of professional urban place management principles for completion of the study and immediate street safety initiatives in its recommendations. "Dynamic urban centers around the globe accommodate all users and the Downtown Tulsa Walkability Study seeks to make Downtown Tulsa more walkable, bikeable and useable for all modes of transportation," said Brian Kurtz, executive director of the DCC. "The study meets expectations and standards for the way in which our downtown streets are designed as walkable forms towards implementation to achieve safer streets for all who walk, bike and drive in Downtown Tulsa.

One year ago, I was elected to represent the citizens as your District One Commissioner. I am pleased to report on the progress we are making to fulfill the promises made this year. I encourage each resident of District One to contact me or my office with your comments and suggestions on how we can better serve you in the coming year.

I was elected to office based on three main points on which I focused: Economic Development, Transportation and Public Safety. Starting in January I was appointed chairman of the Tulsa County Public Facilities Authority. TCPFA is known as EXPO Square, the Fairgrounds. The Fairgrounds is one of the top facilities for economic impact in the state with an estimated $243,800,000 impact in 2018. The Fairgrounds encompasses 240 acres that hosts Expo Square, multiple barns and hosts the Tulsa State Fair, the 5th largest fair in the country. Expo Square is also one of the nation’s top equine facilities. Therefore, we focused on purchasing new stalls for the equine events. With the addition of the 416 new stalls, all barns have now been updated with a total of 2,200 new stalls.

Expo Square hosts many events and one of the top events is in motorsports known as the Lucas Oil Chili Bowl. The Chili Bowl has an economic impact of $28 million and attendance of 75,000. Another top event is the World of Wheels in January which passes 240 acres that is known as EXPO Square, now EXPO Midwest, that hosts the Tulsa State Fair, which has an estimated $243,810,000 impact this year.

The Downtown Tulsa Walkability Study seeks to make Downtown Tulsa more walkable, bikeable and useable for all modes of transportation.

Amy Meissner was diagnosed with MS in 1997. For someone who has always danced, MS would seem like the end. But for Amy, it means the start of a new chapter. She’ll never leave the floor, still dances from her wheelchair, and is a great cheerleader. Embracing Amy’s unyielding passion, the National MS Society teamed up with Leilonya Swan to create an entirely new and inspired dance experience through virtual reality. See their experience and find out how you can share yours at WeAreStrongerThanMS.org.

Together We Are Stronger.