CITY OF WILBURTON
PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES
WILBURTON AREA WIDE TRAIL MASTER PLAN UPDATE
JANUARY 6th, 2026; 5:30 P.M.
CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS
300 W. MAIN ST. WILBURTON, OK 74578

The Wilburton City Council convened in a Public Hearing meeting held on the 6th day of January 2026 at 5:30pm with Mayor Mayes presiding. Focus of meeting will be the presentation and public discussion for the Wilburton Area Wide Trail Master Plan Update. All presentation documents and materials are currently provided for review.

City Clerk – Cindee Blankenship conducted roll call with council members responding:

LITTLEJOHN	*PRESENT*	COCKE	ABSENT	KENDALL	ABSENT
HAYNES	*PRESENT*	GOAD	ABSENT		

PRESENTATION:

Background: Original Trails Master Plan (2012)

- *In 2012, the City of Wilburton completed a Trails Master Plan with LandPlan Consultants. Focus areas included: Future trail development, Sidewalk projects, Safe Routes to School, and Incorporation of the Butterfield Trail*
  The plan emphasized connectivity and long-term trail vision for tourism growth.

National Context & Need for Addendum

- *The Butterfield Trail is now being designated as a National Park Service Historic Trail, running directly through Wilburton.*
- *National Park Service emphasized:*
  - *Connecting national historic trails to nearby state parks (within ~5 miles – RCSP)*
  - *Providing potential guidance, programming and funding for signage and marketing.*
- *Updated cost data was required due to inflation since 2012. Submitting outdated documents was no longer feasible.*

Addendum Development & Funding

- *City Council approved a partnership with the Latimer County Tourism Trust Authority to create an addendum instead of a full new plan. Entered a 60-40 cost-sharing agreement. City of Wilburton: 60% Tourism Authority: 40%*
- *Cost comparison: New plan: ~$30,000–$50,000/ Addendum: significantly reduced cost due to using previous consultant.*

Current Infrastructure & Sidewalk Projects

- *Highlighted areas on the map represent completed or ongoing sidewalk and transportation projects.*
- *Key upcoming projects: Safe pedestrian crossing and sidewalk connections between the Library and City Hall and City toward Casey's, improving traffic and pedestrian safety.*
- *Coordination underway with ODOT to address: Left-turn safety issues and Pedestrian access at high-traffic intersection, incorporation of sidewalk connections to and through Eastern Oklahoma State College into its 8-year plan, and Highway resurfacing through town to address asphalt faulting issues.*

College & In-Town Trail Loop Concept

- *Proposed trail over the hill behind Eastern Oklahoma State College:*
  - *Connection to 10th Street (former roadbed)*
  - *Would create an in-town wellness loop for recreation and health. Allows hiking and faster pedestrian access to downtown and Robbers Cave amenities.*

Grant Focus Area: Trailhead & Visitor Center

- *Focus of current grant application: Restoration of a historic rock school building near Oklahoma Forestry land*
- *Planned features: Wraparound porch, ADA-accessible ram, and Pavilion for outdoor education and meetings*
- *Additional: Relocate a historic miners' tea house to the site and Provide ADA-accessible paths connecting interpretive features*
- *Educational focus areas: Reservation history, Mining history, CCC work at Robbers Cave, Butterfield & True Grit Trails*

Trail Connection: Wilburton to Robbers Cave State Park

- *Proposed multi-user trail connecting Wilburton to Robbers Cave State Park.*
- *Route includes: 21 Mine air shaft, Reservation, Jennifer Woods Community Center, Chiefs grave, Historic cemeteries and school plots*
- *Trail design features: Hard-surface ADA-compliant sections (8–10 feet wide), Natural barriers separating user types and Primitive trail sections where appropriate*
- *Emergency access and signage incorporated into planning.*

Design Standards & Accessibility

- *Addendum includes trail design standards by user type: Hiking, Equestrian, Touring bicycles, Mountain bikes, ATVs and off-highway motorcycles*
- *Considerations include:*
  - *Trail width, Surface type, Grade and slope, Height and clearing requirements*

Phasing, Funding & Management

- *Project intended to be phaseable. Initial phase begins in town at the Trailhead/Visitor Center.*
- *Trail oversight: Managed by the Latimer County Tourism Authority*
- *Funding sources discussed: RTP grants, State and federal grants, Rails-to-Trails funding (eligibility now possible with addendum) and In-kind donations and volunteer labor*

COUNCIL COMMENTS:

- *Sidewalk Gap Identified: Need for sidewalk access to the new South Wilburton park via Ash Street (also serves bus stop).*
- *Railroad Grade: Trail follows old roadbed; future ADA opportunities along former Katy Railroad corridor.*

- *ATV Integration: Acknowledged enforcement challenges; addressed through design, signage, and inter-agency cooperation.*
- *EOSC Land currency, future sales and identification of starting phases.*

CITIZENS COMMENTS:

- *Ownership: Trail land primarily leased from Eastern Oklahoma State College; leases pending Regents Board approval. Future sales of EOSC land.*
- *Events (5Ks/Runs): Management, certification and marking costs may be pursued through Tourism Authority applications.*
- *Timeline: RTP Grant – 2 years, current 5 year phase timeline upon funding.*
- *Tribal Involvement: Tribe aware and supportive; formal involvement planned post-approval, particularly for cultural accuracy.*
- *County-Wide Geology & Education: Noted significant geological features as future educational opportunities.*
- *City Lake Connection: Oklahoma Forestry Department has done a lot of work clearing, burning, taking out all the cedar trees, bringing back the forest to a healthy state, and an accessible state to where we can start putting in trails and have recreational opportunities out there, especially for mountain biking and day camping.*
- *Discussion/Connections with National Rails to Trails for potential running or bicycling trails in areas of old railbeds.*
- *Opportunities/Qualifications of Funding*

MAYORS COMMENTS:

- *Mayor Mayes expressed appreciation to citizens for attending and engagement.*
- *Presentation of final documents/materials will also be available for public request.*

Adjourn.

MOTION BY LITTLEJOHN SECOND BY COCKE TO APPROVE TO ADJOURN AT 5:53PM.

Upon roll call, members voted as follows:

LITTLEJOHN	*YES*	**COCKE**	*ABSENT*	**KENDALL**	*ABSENT*
HAYNES	*YES*	**GOAD**	*ABSENT*		

APPROVED: THURSDAY FEBRUARY 12th, 2026.

Cindee Blankenship
CINDEE BLANKENSHIP, CITY CLERK

Loran Mayes
LORAN MAYES, MAYOR

Allen Littlejohn
ALLEN LITTLEJOHN, WARD 1

Terry Haynes
TERRY HAYNES, WARD 2

SARA JANE COCKE, WARD 3

JAYME GOAD, WARD 4

JULIA KENDALL, WARD 5