

ACOG's Role

The Association of Central Oklahoma Governments (ACOG) provides a forum to address transportation issues at a regional level. As the designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the Oklahoma City Region, ACOG coordinates all regional transportation planning efforts. This includes the development of a long range transportation plan, short range implementation programs, and the monitoring of demographic information and trends that impact the region's growth and travel demands.

ACOG is a voluntary association of city, town and county governments in the Central Oklahoma area. As an MPO, it partners with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), the Oklahoma Department of Transportation (ODOT), and the Central Oklahoma Transportation and Parking Authority (COTPA) and the Cleveland Area Rapid Transit (CART) bus systems. In addition, ACOG works closely with those involved with shipping and the movement of goods within the OCARTS area. All transportation policy decisions are made by local elected officials serving on the transportation policy committee. ACOG develops and coordinates strategies to efficiently manage the region's transportation assets, but is not itself, a governmental unit. It does not possess powers of legislation, enforcement or taxation.

The Long Range Plan

By analyzing current socioeconomic trends, land use and traffic data, ACOG develops a long range plan (30-year) that promotes mobility and access for people and goods, efficient system performance and preservation, and an improved quality of life for those in the region.

The Plan is developed every five years by gathering information about the region—such as land use, population, employment and travel characteristics—and projecting that data into the future. Computer forecast models help to identify future transportation needs.

Goals for the plan are based on identified needs and are representative of citizen feedback, obtained from transportation surveys and other public involvement activities.

The Transportation Improvement Program

The Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) establishes the short-term priorities for transportation projects and is based on the long range plan. It is the region's way of allocating its limited transportation resources among the various needs of the area.

The TIP is updated every year and covers a three-year period. It includes projects for all types of transportation—streets, highways, transit, bicycling, trails and access to airports. It is controlled by available funding and is not merely a "wish list" of projects for the area. The region's TIP is eventually incorporated into Oklahoma's Statewide Transportation Improvement Program.

How a Citizen Can be Involved

Citizens play an active role in the development of regional transportation programs. To become more involved:

- Talk to your local elected city council or county commissioners about transportation issues—one of them serves on ACOG's policy committee.
- Ask a transportation planner to make a presentation about the regional transportation planning process to your club or civic group.
- Complete and return citizen surveys, printed in local publications and on the ACOG Web site, to provide your views on a variety of transportation issues.
- Add your name to the mailing list of citizens and organizations that express an interest in the transportation planning process. Media releases and related materials concerning public involvement opportunities are mailed to those on the list, and featured on the ACOG Web site.
- Attend public meetings hosted by ACOG throughout the region to learn about the planning process and the multimodal facets of the proposed plan.
- Review and comment on the draft summary of the long range transportation plan when it is distributed for public comment. The draft plan is publicized in the media, provided to all metro area public libraries and made available on ACOG's Web site. Hard copies are also mailed to those who request it.

The Planning Process

Gather Information

1

Estimate Future Demand

2

Establish Goals

3

Identify Alternatives & Address System Deficiencies

4

Evaluate Alternatives

5

Develop Recommendations

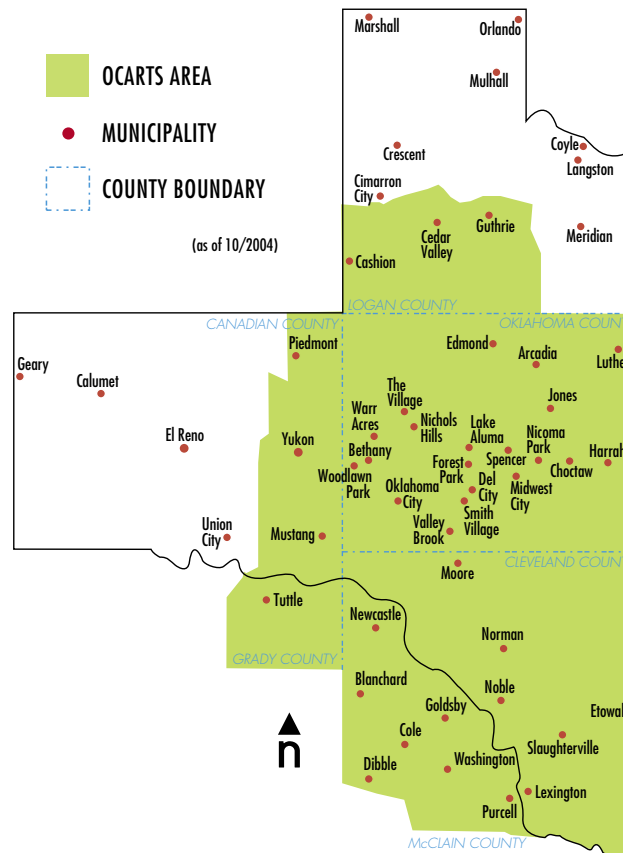
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Public Involvement

Transportation and You

If you live in the Oklahoma City Metropolitan Area, you use the regional transportation system every time you leave your home. Whether you're walking to the corner store, biking to school, taking a bus to work or driving to the airport to catch a flight, you are one of the many travelers in the Oklahoma City region each day.

Not only does the transportation system provide mobility for people, it provides a way to move goods, influences economic activity and growth, and affects the air quality for the region. Transportation planners study and recommend efficient options to move you to where you live, work, shop, etc. They also study and predict transportation needs.



Contact ACOG

Citizen input is an important element in the transportation planning process. For more information contact ACOG at:

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Citizen's Guide to Transportation Planning

