

Board Members Meet with Congressional Delegation

ACOG representatives met with various members of the Oklahoma Congressional Delegation in Washington, D.C. in early March. Oklahoma City Councilmember Willa Johnson, Choctaw Councilmember Dave Howe, Logan County Commissioner Mark Sharpton, ACOG Executive Director Zach D. Taylor and Intergovernmental Services Director Jane Sutter delivered the board-adopted federal legislative policies document and discussed issues of importance.

The group had extensive conversations with Congressmen Tom Cole and Frank Lucas, met briefly with Senator Tom Coburn and held productive meetings with the staffs of Senators Coburn and Jim Inhofe, and Congressmen Ernest Istook, John Sullivan and Dan Boren.

Among the topics most frequently discussed were Internet retail sales taxes, transportation and CDBG funding, water resources, new arsenic standards, Clean Cities alternative fuels program and the importance of Tinker Air Force Base. The ACOG representatives stressed the need for a new Oklahoma "champion" on the Internet sales tax initiative since Con-



Logan County Commissioner Mark Sharpton (left to right), Oklahoma City Councilmember Willa Johnson, ACOG's Jane Sutter, Choctaw Councilmember Dave Howe and ACOG's Zach Taylor, recently met with the state's Congressional delegation, including Rep. Frank Lucas (center). The group was in Washington D.C. to present ACOG's legislative issues.

gressman Istook has been the delegation's point person on that issue, and he will be leaving in the next several months for his gubernatorial race.

Copies of ACOG's federal and state legislative policy statements are available at www.acogok.org (Newsroom/Publications, Reports and Presentations).

ITS Infrastructure Being Deployed

Motorists not "in the know" may likely be suspicious of the cameras and the towers with the solar panels that have been popping up on the regional landscape. Their fears of intrusion are needless. The sophisticated technology is not being used for enforcement. It's all part of a comprehensive system that showcases the development of the region's Intelligent Transportation System (ITS).

The Oklahoma Department of Transportation has been developing the system for several years, and with the installation of additional infrastructure over the past few months, users are now able to begin processing an immense amount of traffic and data information.

The ITS system was developed with the intent of improving safety and mobility, enhancing security and increasing the efficiency of transportation agencies. The system is used to manage traffic during times of congestion, roadway incidents, construction and inclement and severe weather. Already, the system has helped dispatchers route first responders to accident scenes faster, because they had the ability to survey the roadways through closed circuit monitors.

So far, in the Central Oklahoma region, the ITS system incorporates 11 dynamic changeable message signs, 31 closed-circuit TV cameras and 68 Web cameras. ...See "ITS Infrastructure" on page three.

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ACOG and Partners Garner ADDY Awards

ACOG and its advertising partner, Third Degree Advertising, won four ADDY awards last month, presented annually by the Oklahoma City Advertising Club. The ADDY awards are the regional advertising field's highest honor and are voted on by people within the regional advertising industry.

ACOG projects were honored with:

- A Silver Merit award in the local public service mixed/multiple media campaign category for the **clean air campaign** (TV, radio, outdoor, Internet).
- A Silver Merit award for public service television for "**Claire's Clean Air Square**" TV commercial.
- A Bronze Merit award for "**Gassy the Lawnmower**" public service radio for

the **OG&E electric lawnmower radio commercial**.

The television and radio commercials were products of the annual air quality public education campaign that is developed by ACOG's Clean Air Committee. Throughout the year, the ACOG Clean Air Committee, which includes staff from the Association of Central Oklahoma Governments (ACOG), Central Oklahoma Transportation and Parking Authority Metro Transit, Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), OGE Energy Corp. (OG&E), city of Edmond, Chesapeake Energy, Devon Energy and the Greater Oklahoma City Chamber, monitors the level of ozone and carbon monoxide in the region's air and implements the Clean Air Alert Day program in Central Oklahoma.

In 1998, the Committee began to develop strategic marketing and public education programming using paid media in order to emphasize the importance of air quality to the region. The group is hard at work on the 2006 campaign.

In addition to the awards for clean air programming, ACOG and Third Degree were honored with a Bronze Merit award in the local public service mixed/multiple media campaign category for the **wireless 911 Campaign** (TV, radio, outdoor, print, branding).

The campaign in the metro was led by the 911 Saves Lives Committee, a coalition of stakeholders chaired by

former Oklahoma City Mayor Ron Norick, former Nichols Hills Mayor Ann Taylor, and former Norman Mayor Dick Reynolds, who joined forces with regional civic and business officials to educate the public about the December 2005 wireless initiative.

Third Degree staff that work on ACOG projects include Brian Winkeler, Chris Elledge, Amanda Spencer, Tara Street, Mickie Lara and Roy Page.

Over 950 entries were submitted this year. In the past six years, ACOG public education projects in air quality, stormwater and 9-1-1 have generated 10 ADDY awards.



"Claire" from ACOG's clean air TV spot was one of the products of an award winning campaign that ACOG and its advertising partner, Third Degree Advertising, won honors for last month.

Central Oklahoma *Perspective*

Offering Regional Leaders News and Information

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Association of Central Oklahoma Governments

*"Providing Regional Leadership in
Central Oklahoma Since 1966"*

Established in 1966, the Association of Central Oklahoma Governments (ACOG) is a voluntary association of cities, towns and counties. ACOG helps member governments plan for common needs, cooperate for mutual benefit and coordinate for sound regional development.

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Red Cross Honors Local Heroes

The **American Red Cross of Central Oklahoma** recognized several regional heroes at its annual breakfast last month. The Heroes Awards were developed to honor individuals and groups in the region who have displayed hard work, dedication, and meritorious courage in an act of heroism.

Madylynn Norick, a volunteer with the Red Cross for 50 years was presented the inaugural Lifetime hero Award which is now named in her honor.

The Community Award was presented to OG&E for its efforts in helping thousands of customers attain electric energy

in times of disaster.

The Law Enforcement Hero Award went to Oklahoma City police officer Sgt. Jonathan Dragus, who was honored posthumously for heroic actions during a high-speed pursuit that spared others from grievous injuries, but fatally wounded him.

Leigh Ramos, with the Oklahoma County district attorney's office was honored for her work with truancy programs and at-risk youth.

Maria Aymat-Ghigliotti, was honored for her diligent work with the annual Hispanic Health Fair.

...See "Local Heros" on page three.

“ITS Infrastructure”

...Continued from page one.

There are also 58 solar-powered vehicle detector towers that provide speed and vehicle classification data. Engineers can monitor this data and determine individual lane speeds, what type of vehicles are using the roadways, and determine anomalies that may indicate that an accident or road trouble has occurred.

The data stream is live but the computers and cameras do not have recording capability. The data is also available to the public via the Internet. The Web site, at www.traffic.com showcases speed changes on major roadways, which may indicate congestion or a roadway incident. The color on the Web map changes when roadway speeds slow to 45 mph and at 25 mph. The Web site can help commuters evaluate traffic conditions, and can help travelers and truckers assess conditions that lie ahead.

“Local Heroes”

...Continued from page two.

La Verne Parker was honored as a Good Samaritan when she helped a woman and her two children who were being beaten. Parker called police and confronted the man as police were responding. Fletcher Vines, a 10-year-old boy, was also recognized as a Good Samaritan for fundraising efforts that he directed to help Hurricane Katrina victims.

Dr. Joy LeDoux-Johnson was presented the Medical Hero Award for her extensive work in providing free medical care to patients without insurance.

Lt. Bruce Jackson, an Oklahoma City firefighter, was named a Red Cross Hero for risking his life to rescue a victim in a commercial fire explosion.

Brig. Gen. Myles Deering of the Oklahoma National Guard was presented the Military Hero Award for serving as commander of the task force that evacuated citizens and pets in New Orleans immediately after Hurricane Katrina. The Guard helped over 12,000 people find refuge and shelter.

Nominations for the awards came from the public, and nominees must have participated in the heroic event in the past two years and must have come from the Chapter's five-county region.



Around the Region

- The **Oklahoma Transit Association** named **Theta Dempsey, University of Oklahoma** director of parking and transportation as its Professional of the Year. Dempsey oversees the **Cleveland Area Rapid Transit (CART)** system, which provides bus service throughout Norman, and provides curb-to-curb service through MetroLift. The Association presents the award annually to a transit professional that provides outstanding leadership to staff and through its transit service area.

- **J. Guy Henson** was named City Manager of the City of **Midwest City** in February. He fills the position vacated by **Charles Johnson**, who died in December 2005. Henson is a long-time employee of the city, and recently served as Assistant City Manager.

- Grants from the **U.S. Homeland Security Department** have provided six state communities, including **Oklahoma City, Norman** and **Moore** with a state-of-the-art hazardous materials response vehicle. The vehicles are self-powered and house a complex satellite system that makes each unit a self-powered command and communications center. Additional equipment that will be added on makes the vehicles poised to respond to natural disasters, hazardous materials spills and terrorist attacks. They are located along the I-44 corridor to make them prime to respond to any incident.

- The **National Ethanol Vehicle Coalition** recently awarded eight grants totaling \$50,000 to the Department of Energy Clean Cities Coalitions and the Transportation Energy Partnership. Curtis Donaldson, NEVC chairman, announced the awards at the Clean Cities Project Review held

in Washington D.C. in March. Funds were allocated to Clean Cities coalitions that have acted on a local level to support the NEVC's mission to increase education and availability of E85. **ACOG's Clean Cities** program received a \$5,000 award because of its success in establishing the state's first two public-access E85 refueling sites. A third site, scheduled for completion this summer, is under construction in Seminole, Okla. Additionally, the city of **Edmond** is fueling its flex-fuel vehicles with E85 at the newly completed Cross Timbers Municipal Complex.

- **Bike to Work Day 2006** is scheduled for **May 19**. This is the second year of an organized effort to promote bicycling as a healthy, non-polluting and efficient transportation alternative. This year, group rides are planned in **Norman, Edmond** and **Oklahoma City**. The American League of Bicyclists has recognized the month of May as National Bike-to-Work Month since 1956, and National Bike-to-Work Day annually offers metropolitan areas the opportunity to call attention to the benefits of bicycling and to increase safety awareness among bicyclists and motorists. To take a survey, and find out more about this year's event, visit www.acogok.org.



Bikers will convene in the region on Bike to Work Day 2006 on May 19.

2007-2010 TIP Comments Sought

ACOG is inviting citizens throughout Central Oklahoma to review and comment this month on a preliminary version of the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

The TIP identifies all federally funded surface transportation projects (transit, bicycle, highway, airport, etc.) expected to be carried out by city, county, state and local transportation agencies during federal fiscal years 2007-2010 in the Oklahoma City Area Regional Transportation Study (OCARTS) Area. This region includes Oklahoma and Cleveland Counties and parts of Canadian, Grady, Logan and McClain counties.

Federal law recognizes ACOG as the metropolitan planning organization responsible for long and short-range transportation planning for Central Oklahoma. As such, ACOG maintains a four-year TIP for the region, which will implement the long-range plan.

The Oklahoma Department of Transportation, the Central Oklahoma Transportation and Parking Authority (operator of MetroTransit Oklahoma City), Cleveland Area Rapid Transit (operator of MetroTransit Norman) and other local gov-

ACOG Calendar	
April	
7th	Garber-Wellington Technical Committee, 10 a.m.
13th	Intermodal Transportation Technical Committee, 10 a.m.
27th	9-1-1 Board of Directors, 1 p.m. Intermodal Transportation Policy Committee, 1:20 p.m. ACOG Board of Directors, 1:45 p.m. Garber-Wellington Policy Committee, 2:30 p.m.
May	
11th	Areawide Planning Technical Advisory Committee, 9 a.m. Intermodal Transportation Technical Committee, 10 a.m.
16th	Operation FireSAFE, 10 a.m. Central Oklahoma Clean Cities Stakeholders, 1:30 p.m.
25th	9-1-1 Board of Directors, 1 p.m. Intermodal Transportation Policy Committee, 1:20 p.m. ACOG Board of Directors, 1:45 p.m. Garber-Wellington Policy Committee, 2:30 p.m.
29th	ACOG Offices Closed for Memorial Day

ernments and transportation agencies developed the preliminary TIP and will implement activities outlined in the program.

Copies of the preliminary TIP are available for citizens' review at metropolitan

area libraries and on the ACOG Web site at www.acogok.org. Those interested in requesting a copy may contact Holly Massie, ACOG, at 234-2264. Written comments on the TIP will be accepted through April 25.

Central Oklahoma
Perspective

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