

Bike to Work Day Scheduled; Web Survey Online

The Association of Central Oklahoma Governments (ACOG), METRO Transit, the City of Oklahoma City, City of Norman, City of Edmond and regional bicycling advocates are helping to coordinate the second Bike to Work Day event for Central Oklahoma on Friday, May 19, 2006.

Central Oklahoma Bike to Work Day 2006 is part of a national campaign to promote bicycling as a healthy and efficient transportation alternative. The League of American 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.

The Bike to Work event on May 19 will feature a "group ride" from the State Fairgrounds Space Tower to City Hall in downtown Oklahoma City, and similar group rides in Norman and Edmond.

In Oklahoma City, bicyclists not able to participate in the State Fair group ride may bike from other parts of the metro area, as well, including Will Rogers Park at NW 36th and Portland, Woodson Park at S. Grand Blvd. and May Avenue,

Douglass Park at NE 4th Street and Martin Luther King Blvd., and Trosper Park at SE 29th Street and Eastern. Each city park has parking facilities for motor vehicles, so participants can park and bike to work. Participants park at their own risk at any of the city parks, as well as the Fairgrounds.

Last year, over 200 riders participated in the first organized Bike to Work event coordinated by ACOG and Oklahoma City.

Biking Survey Now Online

In conjunction with Bike to Work Day, ACOG is also asking citizens to participate in a survey focused on bicycling. The survey is intended to help determine characteristics of the metro's bicycling community, and give direction to cycling components (intermodal elements) of future transportation planning.

The survey is interactive and can be taken online at ACOG's Web site, www.acogok.org, through May 19. For those without Internet access, hard copies of the survey will be distributed at area bicycle shops.

METRO Transit Installs Bike Racks

Bike racks were just installed on METRO Transit's entire fleet, including Oklahoma Spirit Trolley buses and The Eddy (Edmond) Trolley buses.

"Our hope is that cyclists will begin to think about how they can use bikes and buses together as an alternate form of transportation," said Rick Cain, COTPA Administrator. "Cyclists can ride their bikes to a bus stop, place their bikes on the rack and then hop on the bus until

they reach their destination. By combining the two modes of transportation, they have the opportunity to travel faster and further."

Each of the bike racks can accommodate two - three bikes of any size or type securely. The racks are passenger friendly with load/unload time in under 10 seconds.

Federal funds and private donations allowed for the purchase of the racks, totaling \$40,271.

Those who made it possible are leading sponsor BikeMine and its employees as well as Bicycle Store Too, Bike One, Pro Bike, Wheeler Dealer Bicycles, Oklahoma Alliance for Public Transportation (APT) and Oklahoma Earthbike Fellowship (OEF), Hal McKnight, a leading trails advocate, and anonymous donors.

METRO Transit CART in Norman installed bike racks last summer and has noticed significant use.

"We have received a positive response from passengers, many of which are riding for the first time since they are now allowed to bring their bikes along for the ride," says Kris Glen, CART Marketing Specialist. "Combining the 'bike and bus' concept helps save money on gas and allows our passengers to stay fit."

More information about Central Oklahoma Bike to Work Day 2006 can be found at ACOG's Web site at www.acogok.org. Details about the national campaign can also be found online at www.bike-month.com. For additional information on the bike racks, call 235-RIDE or visit www.gometro.org.



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ASPA Names Taylor Administrator of Year

ACOG Executive Director Zach D. Taylor recently was named 2006 Administrator of the Year by the Oklahoma Chapter of the American Society for Public Administration. The annual tribute recognizes a public administrator whose career exhibits the highest standards of excellence, dedication, and accomplishment. The award was presented at the Federal Executive Board's annual awards luncheon this month.

Nominees for Administrator of the Year Award are solicited throughout the state. They are judged based on outstanding leadership qualities, high professional and ethical standards, superior record of achievement, and strong commitment to public service. Nominees may work for organizations at any level of govern-

ment, nonprofit organization, or educational institution.

Taylor received letters of recommendation and reference from Trish Weedn, Executive Director of the Oklahoma Association of Regional Councils; Willa Johnson, Oklahoma City Councilmember; Sue Hale, Executive Editor of *The Oklahoman*; Dean Schirf, Vice President, Government Relations for the Oklahoma City Chamber; Dick Reynolds, former Mayor of Norman; and Larry Stevens, Edmond City Manager.

In the primary nomination letter signed by Eddie Reed, Mayor of Midwest City and chairman of the ACOG Board of Directors, Taylor was lauded for recent passage of legislation and subsequent elections to upgrade the region's 9-1-1 system to better accommodate calls from wireless phones. Reed wrote that "He [Taylor] and others pounded the pavement daily in spring 2005 to get HB 1751 introduced and signed by the Governor. The legislation allowed for elections to take place to establish a service fee of 50 cents per month for wireless phone users."

Reed also added that Taylor "represents the best qualities of a superlative public administrator—trustworthiness, vision, leadership, motivation, energy, and compassion."

Last year's Administrator of the Year was Mike Fogarty, Chief Executive Officer of the Oklahoma Health Care Authority. Other recent recipients and the positions held at the time of selection include: Stanley Hupfeld, President and CEO of Integris Health; George Moser, Executive Director of the Oklahoma House of Representatives' Research, Legal and Fiscal Divisions; Bob Conner, Executive Director of the Oklahoma City Air Logistics Center at Tinker Air Force Base; Jerry ...See "ASPA Award" on page four.



Zach Taylor, ACOG Executive Director

Central Oklahoma *Perspective*

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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.

Chairman:

Mayor Eddie Reed, *Midwest City*

Vice Chairman:

Commissioner Mark Sharpton, *Logan County*

Secretary-Treasurer:

Councilmember Willa Johnson, *Oklahoma City*

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REAP Funds Awarded to Communities

Several small and rural communities in the Central Oklahoma region were recently awarded funding by the ACOG Board of Directors for transportation and capital improvement projects through the state's Rural Economic Action Program (REAP).

Under REAP guidelines; the maximum dollar amount awarded is \$50,000 for grants to be used for a variety of projects in the areas of community economic development and transportation. Communities in the Central Oklahoma region with a population of fewer than 7,000 were eligible to apply. Criteria for judging is based on a point system, with a value given to each section of the REAP application.

As has been the case in recent years, there were far more applications and funding requests than the grant could satisfy. For example, 41 applications totaling over \$1,711,110 were received for consideration of approximately \$441,750 in REAP funding available in the transportation category. There were also 27 grant applications totaling over \$857,141 received for consideration of the approximate \$294,500 available in the REAP economic/community development category.

After applications were reviewed and ranked, the ACOG Board of Directors approved at its April meeting the recommended projects in both categories at ...See "REAP Funds" on page three.

“REAP Funds”

...Continued from page two.
the 100 percent level. The selection of 2006 REAP Projects approved in the **Transportation** category include:

- Town of Calumet - \$46,450 for road repair on Memorial Road.
- Town of Forest Park - \$12,000 to install flashing school zone signs.
- City of Piedmont - \$50,000 for street repair work.
- City of Spencer - \$1,737.25 for construction of sidewalks for schools.
- Oklahoma County, District 2 - \$30,827 to purchase and install roadway signage.
- Town of Coyle - \$48,420 for street repair work.
- Canadian County, District 1 - \$50,000 for road repair on Banner Road.
- Township of Cedar Valley - \$50,000 for road repair on Canyon Road.
- Logan County, District 1 - \$50,000 for road repair on Pennsylvania.
- Logan County, District 2 - \$24,247 for road repair on University.
- Town of Orlando - \$49,384 for repairs to streets.
- Canadian County, District 3 - \$50,000 for road repair on 122nd Street.

The selection of 2006 REAP Projects approved by the ACOG Board in the **Economic/Community Development** category include:

- Town of Lake Aluma - \$50,000 to install water hydrants.
- City of Geary - \$13,818 to purchase and install storm sirens.
- Town of Okarche - \$50,000 for well-head protection and water treatment.
- Town of Cashion - \$31,009 to purchase and install storm sirens.
- Town of Union City - \$49,999 to initiate building new fire station.
- Logan County, District 1 - \$11,510 to purchase and install street signs.
- City of Nicoma Park - \$30,000 to extend city sewer system.
- City of Harrah - \$22,000 to upgrade emergency communication system.
- City of Spencer - \$50,000 for water main installation.

REAP projects are subject to budget decisions and action by the state legislature. For more information, contact Diane McCullough, ACOG.



Around the Region

- The **Eighth Safe Kids Oklahoma Summit** is scheduled for May 12 at the **National Center for Employee Development in Norman**. The event, sponsored by **Safe Kids Oklahoma** is the only child safety leadership conference in Oklahoma, and typically draws around 200 participants. The purpose of the summit is to focus on the prevention of unintentional injuries to children. It will provide “how-to” information for child advocates in the prevention of accidents and help inspire action. For more information, contact Safe Kids Oklahoma at 271-5695, or visit www.oksafekids.org.

- **Sandra Gragg-Naifeh**, mayor of **Edmond** and executive director of the **Oklahoma Association of Optometric Physicians** was honored with a Vision Service Award last month. The Annual Heart of America Contact Lens Society Congress presented the honor to individuals that exhibit extraordinary dedication and service to the profession of optometry.

- Air resources agencies from Central Oklahoma, including **ACOG**, attended a consortium in Kansas City, Kan. this spring for the **Blue Skyways Collaborative**. The group is a public and private collaborative of interests from nine states seeking voluntary solutions, incentives and shared approaches to reducing diesel and other fuel-related emissions.

- The **Oklahoma Airport Operators Association** recently named the **Guthrie-Edmond Regional Airport** Airport of the Year. The award is presented annually to airports that provide a service to the community, as well as increase the economic vitality of an area. The airport houses numerous aerospace companies that have been increasing their workforce

at the airport over the years. The airpark currently employs over 100 people in various jobs.

- The City of **Norman** is trying out two new ion exchange technologies to test if it can remove naturally occurring arsenic from the city’s well water. The project is being monitored by the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality. The testing comes on the heels of the implementation of EPA arsenic standards that went into effect in January. The strict ruling has hampered many communities in the region, and took 15 of Norman’s wells off-line.

- **Wendi Marcy** joined the **ACOG** staff in March in a newly established position for 9-1-1. Marcy comes to us from the 9-1-1 Call Center in **Edmond**, where she received numerous awards and accolades for her dedication, commitment and creativity. She will be working on multiple 9-1-1 tasks, with special emphasis on implementing the computerized version of the Emergency Medical Dispatch (EMD) protocol established in several of our PSAPs, and managing the ongoing training conducted by ACOG’s Training Institute.



Wendi Marcy, 9-1-1 Special Programs Officer

“ASPA Award”

...Continued from page two.

Regier, Oklahoma Cabinet Secretary of Health and Human Services; and Leonard Martin, city manager of Edmond, Oklahoma. Other distinguished public servants who have received the honor include Dr. Hans Brisch, Steven Gentling, Connie Irby, Oscar Jackson and Dr. Edward Johnson.

The American Society for Public Administration is a nationwide, nonprofit educational and professional organization. With chapters in every state and a membership of more than 10,000 government and nonprofit administrators, scholars, teachers and students, ASPA is the largest and most prominent professional association in public administration. It is the only organization of its kind in the United States aiming broadly to improve the administration and image of public service. The national organization was founded in 1939. The Oklahoma chapter was established in 1964.

ACOG Calendar

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

June

- 8th Intermodal Transportation Technical Committee, 10 a.m.
- 13th 9-1-1 Technical Committee, 9:30 a.m.
- 29th 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.

Central Oklahoma

Perspective

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