

Regional Snow Routes Map Released to Public

City leaders from across the greater metropolitan area have worked the past few months to develop a regional map that highlights the best route choices for motorists when inclement weather strikes.

The end result is a map showcasing the roadways that individual communities consider their highest priorities during snow and ice storms. The management of roadways may include the spreading of abrasives (sanding), anti-icing applications (salt and chemicals) and snow removal and clearance (plowing).

Organized by ACOG and focusing on the Oklahoma City Area Regional Transportation Study (OCARTS) area, the snow route identification process involved the interaction of 34 municipal entities and agencies, including four counties, Oklahoma City, the Oklahoma Department of Transportation and Oklahoma Turnpike Authority. A total of 16 communities have specific snow routes defined on the map. All parties worked cooperatively to address “gaps” in coverage.

The impetus for the map and process came from a regional desire to improve public safety and accident avoidance. The map is not absolute. It does not reflect potential shortcomings in mechanization,



Plow-equipped trucks remove snow from streets during last year's harsh winter. For the coming season, regional communities have collaborated on selecting the highest prioritized streets for snow clearance and treatment.

manpower, remediation supplies or time. For example, snowfall can occur so rapidly, that roadway treatment and clearance may not be able to counter at an equitable rate. As such, the routes on the map indicate the roadways that municipalities realistically intend to first direct resources. It does not guarantee that the streets will be clear.

“Street and maintenance crews throughout Central Oklahoma have always performed admirably with snow removal

and road treatment,” said Zach Taylor, Executive Director of ACOG. “The regional snow routes are the result of a more comprehensive and enhanced process that involves the coordinated effort of multiple communities, and provides information to drivers on the most accessible corridors.”

Ultimately, city leaders encourage motorists to observe winter driving rules and to only drive on snow and ice
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Regional Legislative Issues Prioritized

Results from a regional survey of ACOG member communities have helped the Association develop a prioritized list of federal and state legislative issues and concerns in the region. The ACOG Board of Directors works together to develop mutual policy goals - for the betterment of Central Oklahoma.

Annually, the Board prepares documents describing its legislative and regulatory concerns to present to Okla-

homa State Legislators and Oklahoma’s Congressional Delegation. A legislative information-gathering workshop held a few months ago helped generate the initial list of issues. From there, a survey was developed and analyzed, with members ranking the issues.

ACOG members that were involved in the discussion and the development of the survey included: Bethany, Blanchard,
...See “2008 Issues” on page two.

Industry Data Crucial as 2007 Economic Census Nears

Starting this month, more than four million American businesses will receive 2007 Economic Census forms, underscoring the importance of their participation in the nation's most comprehensive measure of business and industry taken every five years.

"Economic census forms that businesses receive in December will tell us how we are changing as a nation," said Thomas Mesenbourg, Jr., the Census Bureau's associate director for economic programs. "Important economic indicators, such as gross domestic product, are directly related to the quality of the data we get from businesses in every industry and every locality."

The Census Bureau has launched a new Web site,

www.business.census.gov, to help businesses understand the economic census and how it benefits them. The site includes economic snapshots of selected industries and significant facts about every industry.

Economic census data provide the hard figures that businesses need when they consider expanding into new regions or markets.

Businesses can look at benchmark values from the economic census to assess where they stand in the marketplace and to research market shares, salaries, product and sales trends, and site locations.

Firms in more than 1,000 industries will receive forms in December. They will be asked to report information such as

employment, payroll and the value of goods and services sold. Forms must be returned to the U.S. Census Bureau by Feb. 12, 2008.

Businesses that receive forms are required by federal law to respond. Information about individual firms is kept confidential, and only aggregate industry data are published.

For businesses that would like to get a head start on preparing for the census, the new site provides links to sample forms, answers to frequently asked questions and a secure way to communicate directly with the Census Bureau. The site also has tips to help businesses use the data.

For more information, contact John Sharp, ACOG.

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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"2008 Issues"

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Calumet, Choctaw, Edmond, El Reno, Guthrie, Logan County, Midwest City, Mustang, Nichols Hills, Norman, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma County, Slaughterville, Tuttle and Yukon. The Oklahoma Municipal League and the Oklahoma Municipal Assurance Group also participated.

Following are the Top Five federal and state issues, ranked in order of importance to ACOG membership:

Federal Issues:

1. (a.) Full appropriations for transportation legislation (highway, bridge and transit) including federal assistance with I-40 Crosstown bridge. (b.) Preserve local authorities regarding rights-of-way fees and land use controls, including negotiations with telecommunications, cable, railroads and protection of eminent domain.
2. Support continued viability of Tinker Air Force Base.
3. Collection of local and state sales (use) taxes on mail-order and Internet sales (streamline sales tax).
4. Continuation of federal support for community development programs such as CDBG, local workforce development, EDA, fire protection and Enterprise Zones.

5. Prohibit unfunded federal mandates; fund efforts to meet regulations, such as drinking water, arsenic, storm water, flood control and air quality rules.

State Issues

1. (a.) Encourage state funding support for Central Oklahoma area highways, bridges and transit options. (b.) Protect state water resources for instate use.
2. Support additional appropriations to the OWRB water fund to address municipal water and wastewater infrastructure needs (expedite State Water Plan).
3. (a.) Oppose additional sales tax exemptions, including groceries. (b.) Dedicate half cent of state sales tax revenue to street and bridge improvements in cities, towns, and counties.
4. Make it a felony to shoot emergency service personnel (police, fire, EMS) with tasers or stun guns.
5. Fund municipal water and wastewater infrastructure replacements.

ACOG is currently drafting policy statements on these and other issues, and will present them to State and Federal Leaders. For more information on this on effort, contact Jane Sutter, ACOG.

DOKC Inc. Presents Family Fun in Dec.

A series of events make up a month of family activities in Downtown Oklahoma City Inc.'s sixth annual "Downtown in December" celebration. There are numerous events that are being supplemented and sponsored by regional corporate and community groups. Festivities begin the day after Thanksgiving and run through the New Year. Some of the more notable events include:

- The annual return of the Braum's outdoor Ice Rink will be at Civic Center Park. The rink has been one of the more popular attractions in the past few holiday seasons and now includes a 62 by 150 foot skating surface.
- Outdoor lights, sponsored by OG&E at the Myriad Gardens and Crystal Bridge will beckon visitors for a walking tour.
- Devon Energy is sponsoring free cruises on the Bricktown Water Taxis Thursday through Sunday evenings in December.
- Go extreme this winter by going Snow Tubing at the Brick, the nation's largest manmade snow tubing slope. Feel the wind in your face as you cruise down the hills at thrilling speeds. Presented by Chesapeake Energy, you can't beat the great family fun of Snow Tubing at the AT&T Bricktown Ballpark.
- There's also the New Year to celebrate at the Arts Council of Oklahoma City's annual Opening Night celebration on New Year's Eve. The family event has become a holiday tradition in recent years. Visit www.artscouncilokc.com for details.

For a complete list of Downtown in December events, activities and maps, visit www.downtownindecember.com.

"Snow Routes"

...Continued from page one. covered roads when necessary. The snow routes presented are the best routes to take if and when drivers are out in a severe winter weather event.

To see the map, visit www.acogok.org/snow or call Jerry Church, ACOG.



Around the Region

- The City of **Oklahoma City** has scheduled a **General Obligation Bond** election for Dec. 11. The City Council approved the \$835 million General Obligation Fund in September. The bulk of the money has been earmarked for road improvements. Other proposed allocations would be directed to public works, police, fire, parks and recreation, transit and economic development. Bond propositions were identified based on the 2006 citizen survey feedback as well as council strategic priorities, city manager priorities, departmental priorities and impact on the operating budget. Visit www.okc.gov for complete details.

- **Bethany** and **Moore** were among nine cities in the state to be awarded funding from the **Community Development Block Grants (CDBG)** program. Both communities will use the funding to improve water and wastewater systems. The Small Cities funding allocates funding up to \$84,000 to eligible communities. CDBG funding is provided by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

- **Chesapeake Energy Corp.** announced that they have joined the **Environmental Protection Agency's Natural Gas STAR** Program. **Andrew McCalmont** will oversee the program, a voluntary initiative to encourage oil and gas companies to work with government and each other to reduce methane emissions. Chesapeake officials also said that they have already adopted many of the practices and technologies the program promotes.

- Six mental health professionals from **Red-Rock Behavioral Health Services** in **Yukon** and **Youth and Family Services** in **El Reno** recently joined eight firefighters from **Calumet, El Reno, Oklahoma City, Shawnee**

and **Yukon** for training on the **Operation FireSAFE** juvenile fire prevention program. **Lois Pokorny** of Oklahoma County Child Guidance and **Chief Tim Adams**, Oklahoma City Fire Department, conducted the interview training. Operation FireSAFE is a region-wide program to prevent children playing with or starting fires. The program has resulted in a downward trend of child-set fires since its inception in 1992.

- **Burns Hargis** called it the "weirdest street dedication in Oklahoma City history," and indeed it was, when **Oklahoma City Mayor Mick Cornett** officially dedicated an alley in **Bricktown** after local rock band **Flaming Lips**. The internationally renowned, Grammy award winning trio, led by native son **Wayne Coyne**, was present at the dedication. As the ribbon was cut for the alley that adjoins the left field wall at the Bricktown Ballpark, a legion of fans dressed as aliens, animals and Santa Clauses joined the proceedings.



Oklahoma City Mayor Mick Cornett (left) stands with Wayne Coyne (right) at the dedication of the band's alley in Bricktown.

Tourism Seeks Applications for Trail Grants

Hardy Watkins, Executive Director of the Oklahoma Department of Tourism and Recreation, announced that the agency is now taking applications for the Recreational Trail Program's 2008 budget year.

"The Recreational Trails Program is a wonderful tool in improving the quality of life in Oklahoma," said Watkins. "It is our privilege to be able to offer these programs to the eligible agencies. The real winners are the people of Oklahoma, who will greatly benefit from increased outdoor recreational opportunities that these grants will bring."

The Recreational Trails Program is a reimbursement-type grant program. The program provides for an 80 percent federal share and 20 percent non-federal share for each project. Additional federal funds may be used to provide up to 95 percent of the total project amount. Throughout the span of the trails program, the agency has distributed over \$7 million in grant funding. The application for deadline is January 31, 2008.

Applications for trail projects will be accepted from local and county governments; state agencies; federal land managers (U.S. Forest Service, Corps of

December 2007	
11th	9-1-1 Technical Committee, 9:30 a.m.
13th	Intermodal Transportation Technical Committee, 10 a.m.
14th	JLUS Technical and Policy Committee, 10 a.m.
20th	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.
25th	ACOG Offices Closed for Christmas Holiday
January 2008	
1st	ACOG Offices Closed for New Years Day
10th	Areawide Planning Technical Advisory Committee, 9 a.m. Intermodal Transportation Technical Committee, 10 a.m. Special Intermodal Transportation Technical Committee, 1:15 p.m.
15th	Operation FireSAFE, 10 a.m.
21st	ACOG Offices Closed for Martin Luther King Jr. Day
31st	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.

Engineers); and other 501(c)(3) organizations. Eligible projects include trail maintenance and restoration, land acquisition, construction of new trails – motorized and non-motorized, trail access

for persons with disabilities and development of trailhead and trailside facilities, such as rest areas, parking, and signage.

Grant applications may be found online at www.oklatourism.gov.

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