

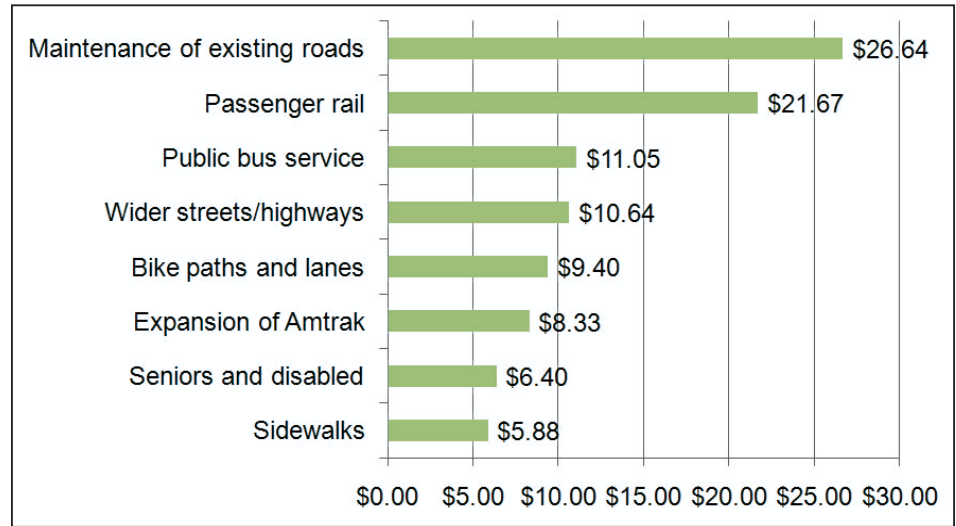
Survey Indicates Public's Desire for More Options

Motorists and commuters in Central Oklahoma want more transit options and better road maintenance for the region's transportation system future.

As part of the public engagement process to promote the region's long-range transportation plan, ACOG launched a survey in May. Input from the survey will help identify strategies to improve auto, bus, pedestrian, truck, rail and bicycle travel for the 2035 Oklahoma City Area Regional Transportation Study (OCARTS) Plan, also known as the Encompass 2035 Plan. Results from the survey helped identify some of the most acceptable means of financing transportation improvements, as well as gauge the level of interest in improving alternative transportation modes.

Some of the key findings included:

- Over 80 percent of respondents "drive alone" to work.
- Over 80 percent of respondents live within 20 miles of work. Over 50 percent of those taking the survey said that their one-way commute to work took at least 20 minutes.
- When asked what ways they would "prefer to travel" in the future, the top



In ACOG's recent transportation survey, respondents chose to focus on road maintenance when asked how they would divide \$100 among transportation modes in Central Oklahoma.

- three responses in order were rail, car and bus.
- When asked what the top three priorities for the system should be, the top response was "develop passenger rail," followed by "maintain roads and bridges," and "improve the public bus system."
- When asked what would most improve safety while traveling in the region, "better maintenance of roads and

bridges" was the top choice among respondents.

- When asked what would encourage riding the bus, respondents wanted bus routes to be closer to home and work, to run more frequently and to have more service available earlier and later than the current schedule.
- When asked what funding sources they would support to improve the ...See "Survey" on page four.

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Perspective is Going Digital

The July/August 2009 issue of *Central Oklahoma Perspective* will be the last printed and mailed version of ACOG's primary news and information tool. Starting in September, we will transition to a monthly email newsletter. The new format will dramatically cut printing and postage costs, reduce paper use, and maximize capacity to deliver regional news in a timelier manner.

The newsletter will be hosted on an

email marketing program that will allow recipients to subscribe and unsubscribe with relative ease.

Current recipients for whom ACOG has email addresses will automatically be added to the *ePerspective* distribution list.

Prior to the first edition of *Central Oklahoma ePerspective*, readers can ensure their subscription by submitting their name and email address on a portal ...See "Perspective" on page three.

Red Dirt Monopoly Teaches Planning Process

As a product of the public participation process, ACOG staff has developed a transportation planning game. The intent of the game, called **Red Dirt Monopoly**, is to educate Central Oklahomans about the transportation planning process, planning with a budget (financial constraint) and the acts of compromise and concession.

The game is also designed to elicit feedback on the public's wants and needs with the transportation planning process, especially for the Encompass 2035 long-range plan. This summer, the game was beta-tested on staff, and then rolled out to the Oklahoma City Youth Council and Midtown Rotary Club.

Each game is designed for three to six players, and is played with a toolkit

that includes game pieces, markers, a cost sheet, and a game board (map). Players are given play money at the beginning of the game, and then are encouraged to work together to develop a planning strategy that meets the needs of the other players.

Funding can be allocated on several mode choices, such as pedestrian and biking trails, new streets and highways, passenger rail and bus rapid transit. Park and ride lots, transit centers and enhancement projects are also part of the menu. A portion of the funding must also be spent on maintenance of the current and future system. When a player or team wants to spend money, they forward the funding to the game master, who cuts ribbons and strings, or provides game

pieces that are then attached directly to the map. The map is kept and reviewed later for planning and spending trends, ...See "Monopoly" on page three.



ACOG's new transportation planning game, Red Dirt Monopoly, teaches players about regional transportation planning, budgeting and compromise. It is available for civic groups, workshops and other public audiences.

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.

Chair:

Commissioner Willa Johnson, *Oklahoma Co.*

Vice Chair:

Councilmember Sam Bowman, *Oklahoma City*

Secretary-Treasurer:

Mayor Russell Smith, *Midwest City*

Executive Director:

John G. Johnson

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New Officers Named to ACOG Boards and Committees

Officers for fiscal year 2010 have been named and will lead the Association in the next year as it considers mobility, public safety and quality of life issues that impact Central Oklahoma.

Willa Johnson, Oklahoma County Commissioner, District 1, will continue as Chair of the ACOG Board of Directors and ITPC. Johnson, who is in her first term as Commissioner, is the first woman to lead the board since Jackie Carey in

1992. Johnson was previously an Oklahoma City councilmember. Sam Bowman, Oklahoma City Councilmember, is Vice-Chair of the board. Midwest City Mayor Russell Smith will serve as Secretary-Treasurer.

The 9-1-1 Association of Central Oklahoma Governments has also confirmed new officers. Keith Bryan, Mustang Councilmember, will serve as Chairman. Bryan ...See "Officers" on page three.



Several newly elected officials came to Bricktown for an orientation session to learn more about ACOG programs and services and regional governance. From left to right: Oklahoma City Councilmember Sam Bowman, Logan County Deputy Commissioner Wayne Murphey, Warr Acres Mayor Patrick Wooley, ACOG Deputy Director Jane Sutter, Oklahoma County Commissioner Willa Johnson, Logan County Commissioner Michael Pearson, The Village Councilmember David Bennett, Warr Acres Councilmember David Dirkschnieder and ACOG Executive Director John G. Johnson.

“Perspective”

...Continued from page one. featured on the home page of ACOG’s Web site at www.acogok.org. A follow-up reminder postcard will also be sent in the coming month.

We are excited at the opportunity to begin to bring information about ACOG’s programs and services and relevant Central Oklahoma news to you in this new format.

“Monopoly”

...Continued from page two. which will then be inventoried and taken into consideration into the “real” plan.

Multiple games can be played at the same time, depending on the size of the overall group. The object of the game is to spend (allocate) all of the money on transportation improvement and maintenance projects. It takes about an hour to play the game.

Red Dirt Monopoly is available for groups, workshops, and meetings throughout the Central Oklahoma region. Please call Jerry Church, ACOG, to schedule a game session.

“Officers”

...Continued from page two. has the unique role of serving two Central Oklahoma communities. He is also the Fire Chief for the city of Nichols Hills. Ken Bartlett, Del City Councilmember, serves as Vice-Chair. Kathy McMillan, Moore Councilmember, is now Secretary-Treasurer. The 9-1-1 Association was formed to implement and manage the emergency number system for communities in the Central Oklahoma region.

The 9-1-1 Board also named State Representative Charles Joyner to the Operation FireSAFE Foundation Board. This group supports the region’s juvenile firesetting prevention program, which is conducted by fire departments throughout the metro area and managed by ACOG.

Finally, the Garber-Wellington Policy Committee elected officers, including Chairman Jim Pumphrey, Mayor of Nicoma Park; Mark Sharpton, Logan County Commissioner as Vice-Chair; and Rachel Butler, Norman Councilmember, to Secretary-Treasurer.



Around the Region

- The **United Way of Central Oklahoma** and the **United Way of Norman** have announced dates for the annual Day of Caring. The event is a day for people to volunteer to help with sweat equity on community service projects. Projects can include planting flowers, refurbishing playgrounds, painting homes, delivering meals to even playing bingo with seniors. The Day(s) of Caring in Central Oklahoma are **October 9-10**. Norman’s Day of Caring is **September 18**. Interested businesses, volunteers and agencies should contact the United Way of Central Oklahoma at 236-8441, or 329-2025 for Norman.

- **ACOG** has awarded three grants to regional entities through its new public vehicle fleet conversion program. The City of **Norman**, the **University of Oklahoma** and the City of **Oklahoma City** all received funds. The **Public Fleet Conversion Grants** program provides local governments and school districts funds for fleet conversions to clean fuel technologies. Other eligible projects include alternative fuel vehicles, hybrid vehicles and alternative fuel vehicle refueling infrastructure. Seven applications were received for the first year of grants, funded by Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality funds.

- **Former Midwest City Mayor and ACOG founding board member Marion C. Reed** recently died at age 88. Reed was an organizer of Midwest City’s first government and served on the city’s first council. Reed was mayor for a total of 22 years and is credited with helping raise money to establish the city’s first hospital, library, swimming pools and golf courses. Reed was a World War II Army Air Corps veteran who estab-

lished Reed Tax Service in the mid-1940s where it remains in operation today.

- The **Edmond Fire Department** recently completed training on a new system that replicates winter and wet-weather driving. The “skid training” uses a wheeled-hydraulic system that raises and lowers a fire truck and helps simulate treacherous driving conditions. According to **SkidCar System**, which sold the training program to the city, Edmond was the first fire department in the nation to own its own system.

- **METRO Transit’s** bus fleet looks a little shinier and brighter these days with the addition of 15 new buses. The buses, purchased with City of Oklahoma City General Obligation Bond funds, arrived recently and replaced decade-old buses. The total cost for the buses was just over \$4.66 million. “We are still in need of replacing 24 buses in the next three years,” said Rick Cain, METRO Transit director. “Thanks to the bond monies, we were able to replace the oldest buses in our fleet.” METRO Transit currently has a fleet of 56 buses, 16 para-transit vehicles, 13 trolleys and three river ferries. All fixed-route buses feature bike racks and are wheelchair accessible. To learn more about METRO Transit’s services, visit gometro.org.



METRO Transit has 15 new buses in its fleet.

“Survey”

...Continued from page one.

transportation system, respondents strongly suggested that no new funding was required. Instead of a new source, respondents wanted the existing funds and resources to be redistributed. Other sources that ranked high on this question included a gasoline and diesel tax increase, and an increase on vehicle registration fees.

- The final question asked how respondents would spend \$100 among a variety of transportation modes. “Road maintenance” received most of the money, followed by “passenger rail” and “public bus service.”

Most of the questions were designed where respondents had the capacity to choose among a variety of options. The survey was not designed as a scientific survey. However, several qualifying questions, and Internet ID detection that limited the survey to be taken only once per computer helped with quality assurance of the results. The survey was hosted on ACOG’s website, and there were no hard copies of the survey printed or mailed. There were 1,893 unique responses. A web-based survey tool was

used that allowed respondents to take the survey online, and skip questions that they did not want to answer.

For complete survey results visit www.acogok.org, or contact Jerry Church, ACOG.

ACOG Calendar

August

- 11th COUASI Budget Committee, 1:30 p.m.
- 13th 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.

September

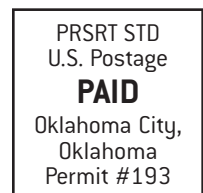
- 1st COUASI Strategic Planning, 1:30 p.m.
- 8th 9-1-1 Technical Committee, 9:30 a.m.
COUASI Budget Committee, 1:30 p.m.
- 10th Areawide Planning and Technical Advisory Committee, 9 a.m.
Intermodal Transportation Technical Committee, 10 a.m.
- 15th Operation FireSAFE, 10 a.m.
Clean Cities Stakeholders, 1:30 p.m.
- 16th Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee, 10 a.m.
- 24th 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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