

ACOG Launches New Fleet Conversion Grant Program

ACOG is launching a new public vehicle fleet conversion grant program this month, designed to reduce air pollution and help public sector organizations implement the use of alternative fuels for their vehicles.

The Public Fleet Conversion Grants program will provide 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.

The program is funded through Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) improvement funds provided by the Federal Highway Administration and the Oklahoma Department of Transportation.

Only public-sector fleets are eligible to receive funds, including ACOG member entity fleets, other local government fleets operated either partially or wholly within the Oklahoma City Area Regional Transportation Study (OCARTS) area, and public school bus fleets whose district boundaries are contained partially

or wholly within the OCARTS region.

Public transit fleets and/or their contractors are eligible to receive funds, but only for non-transit vehicles and/or for alternative fuel infrastructure. Private entities that contract services such as refuse hauling or school transportation to OCARTS area-eligible entities can be considered for funding. Federal, state, and fuel provider fleets covered under ...See "Conversion" on page three.



The extended range electric Chevy Volt is an eligible vehicle in ACOG's new fleet grant program.

Wireless Compliance Testing Begins

Since Phase II Wireless 9-1-1 was implemented in Central Oklahoma nearly a year ago, emergency calls from cell phones now show a location of the caller, even plotting on an aerial photograph and map. The upgrade to the system has literally saved lives as responders have been able to find people needing help, even when the caller could not clearly describe the location of the crime, accident or injury.



While it was necessary to update Central Oklahoma's 9-1-1 system to make these things work, wireless phone companies are a significant part of the equation. In fact, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has required them to meet certain milestones in providing comprehensive 9-1-1 services to their customers. Depending on the type of technology used (triangulation or GPS chips in phones), wireless carriers are charged with ensuring that calls display a latitude and longitude (which plots on a map in our system) with a certain degree of accuracy, and within a certain percentage of the time.

The 9-1-1 ACOG staff has begun a sys-

tematic program for checking the accuracy of the location information coming in from wireless 9-1-1 calls. Based on a proven methodology used in the Ft. Worth, Texas, area, the testing is tentatively scheduled to take place four days each month, with a minimum of two public safety answering point areas being tested per day. There are 22 answering points in the Central Oklahoma 9-1-1 system.

Testing will be conducted by having one 9-1-1 staff person at the answering point, and another assigned to be a test driver, driving to various locations throughout the area and making test calls. The test driver will make several test calls from handsets of each of the wireless carriers doing business in the region. Accuracies will be documented and evaluated over time.

There is no question that the wireless enhanced 9-1-1 system has greatly improved the abilities of call-takers throughout Central Oklahoma to find people in emergencies, keeping 9-1-1 the hotline for help. The compliance testing is just one more way to ensure it is the best system possible.

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Travel Survey Will Help Determine Transportation Needs

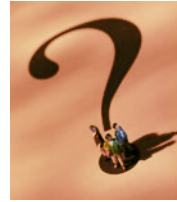
Are you seeing more cars on the road? Do you spend more time at stoplights? Answers to these questions may help map regional travel patterns and identify where future transportation improvements are needed.

A regional household travel survey, conducted by ACOG, begins this month. The survey will help plan for improvements to transportation services in Central Oklahoma. Partners in the survey include the city of Oklahoma City, Cleveland Area Rapid Transit (CART) and METRO Transit.

Over the next two months, several thousand households in the greater Oklahoma City area will be contacted by phone and asked to take part in the study. The goal is to get approximately 2,000 households to participate in order

to establish a representative sample. Of these, survey administrators intend for 300 respondents to be residents who live in downtown Oklahoma City.

Households involved in the survey will be asked to keep a travel diary for each household member for one day. They will record data such as the destination address, travel time, mode of travel (car, bus, bike), and the number of passengers in the vehicle throughout the day. Parents will be asked to



keep the travel log for younger children. The results will be confidential, and individual responses will not be released.

"These surveys are very detailed, but are extremely important to our transportation planning efforts," said John G. Johnson, Executive Director of ACOG. "As time intensive as it is, we hope that Central Oklahomans will take advantage of the opportunity to fill these out, with the understanding that their information is essential."

REAP Funds Awarded to Communities

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

Under ACOG REAP guidelines, the maximum dollar amount awarded is \$50,000 per category, per grant to be used for a variety of projects in the areas of economic/community development and transportation. Communities in the Central Oklahoma region with a population of fewer than 7,000 were eligible to apply. Judging is based on a point system adopted by the ACOG Board.

The 2009 grant cycle was moved up this year, with applications sent in August 2008. Four grant writing workshops were held, one in each ACOG county. As has been the case in the past, there were far more applications and funding requests than the grant monies could satisfy. For example, 22 applications totaling over \$928,338 were received for consideration of approximately \$441,750 in REAP funding available in the transportation category. There were also 26 grant applications totaling over \$942,841 received for consideration of the approximate \$294,500 available in the REAP economic/community development category. Total funding available for this round of grants was \$736,250.

After applications were reviewed and ranked, the ACOG Board of Directors approved at its December meeting the recommended projects in both catego-

ries at the 100 percent level. The selection of 2009 REAP Projects approved in the Transportation category include:

- Town of Union City - \$30,000 for a drainage project.
- Oklahoma County, Dist. 2 - \$33,670 to paint pavement markings.
- Oklahoma County, Dist. 1 - \$23,200 for roadway signage and guardrails.
- City of Lexington - \$50,000 for road repair.
- Canadian County, Dist. 3 - \$50,000 for road repair.
- Town of Jones City - \$49,000 to construct sidewalks and curbs.
- Town of Cedar Valley - \$50,000 for road repair.
- Logan County, Dist. 3 - \$50,000 for road repair.
- Town of Forest Park - \$14,225.46 to replace street signs.
- City of Harrah - \$23,902.61 to replace street signs.
- Town of Luther - \$50,000 for road repair.
- Logan County, Dist. 2 - \$17,751.93 for road repair.

The selection of 2009 REAP Projects approved by the ACOG Board in the Economic/Community Development category include:

- City of Lexington - \$44,250 to repair and repaint water towers.
- Town of Mulhall - \$50,000 to replace a sewer line.

...See "Funded REAP" on page four.

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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School Violence Seminar Scheduled

Back by popular demand, a nationally acclaimed seminar on school violence is returning to Central Oklahoma. ACOG will be hosting "School Violence, Lessons Learned" at ACOG's offices, 21 E. Main Street in Bricktown on May 7 and 8.

The one-day class provides an in-depth look at school violence and gives public safety officials the skills necessary to help prevent, prepare for and respond to a school violence event. This seminar will benefit school resource officers, school administrators, teachers, 9-1-1 dispatchers, SWAT team members, police officers and supervisors. Topics slated to be covered include, threat assessment, progressive school violence plans, pre-planning strategies, prevention methods, case studies and more.

Instructor, Kevin Willett, is a 23-year veteran of law enforcement and 9-1-1 and nationally known as a school violence expert.

The class has been taught to over 20,000 staff members of police, sheriff, emergency medical, 9-1-1, state patrol, school educators, school resource officers and over 30 other professions. Prevention strategies taught in the class have been credited with stopping a planned school bombing and a number of school shooting events.

The cost to enroll is \$95. ACOG entities are eligible for a discount. Agencies sending three or more people also qualify for a discount. Contact Wendi Marcy, ACOG, for information.

"Conversion"

...Continued from page one. the Energy Policy Act of 1992 (EPA Act 1992) are not eligible to receive funds.

Eligible projects will be funded at a ratio of up to 50 percent federal funds and 50 percent local funds for eligible project costs. A higher local match is encouraged.

Applications have been distributed and a workshop was held in January. The deadline for application submission is **February 27**, with grants to be awarded in May.

For more information, contact Yvonne Anderson, ACOG.



Around the Region

- **Oklahoma City's** Wi-Fi network was named to **IDG InfoWorld's Top 100 IT Solutions** list. InfoWorld honors projects that exemplify intelligent, creative uses of technology to meet business and technical objectives. Oklahoma City's system is the world's largest city owned and operated municipal Wi-Fi mesh network. The network gives police better access to criminal information in real time and allows them to download photos, file reports and even do paperwork in the field through laptops installed in patrol cars.
- **Gov. Brad Henry** appointed **Robert Wegener** as the new **State Energy Secretary** in December. Wegener, an attorney, had previously served as the state's deputy secretary. He replaces **David Fleischaker**, who resigned to return to the private sector. Wegener has served as the deputy secretary of energy since 2005.
- Voters in **Cleveland County** passed a quarter-cent sales tax proposition in December 2008. The tax increase will establish revenue intended for a new county detention center. The measure passes with 64 percent of the vote. In January, revenue bonds were issued to start the process to begin construction of the 542-bed facility that is expected to cost over \$40 million. The tax will stay in place until the bond debt is paid off.
- Several applications in **Central Oklahoma** were approved through the Oklahoma Department of Transportation's **Safe Routes for Schools** grant program. Projects in **Edmond, Newcastle, Noble, Norman, Oklahoma City** and **Piedmont** were awarded funding for engineering and educational projects designed to en-

courage kids to walk or bike to school. Sidewalks, pedestrian and traffic signals, and signalization technology are some of the projects that will be constructed. The next grant cycle is scheduled early this year.

- The **Yukon Police Department**, which houses the city's **Emergency Communications Center** and dispatch staff, moved into a new building in December. The new police station is comprised of 26,000 square feet and an eight-cell municipal jail. Construction of the new building began in September 2007. The old police station, built in 1978, will be leveled to make way for a parking lot. Voters in December 2006 approved a quarter-cent, 15-year sales tax to finance the \$4.2 million station.
- **John W. Lewis** began working part time for ACOG's E9-1-1 and Public Safety Programs Division in December. Lewis is a retired public servant of the **Logan County Emergency Management Office** and **Guthrie Police Department**. He will work for ACOG as a 9-1-1 Wireless Drive Tester helping, conduct accuracy tests for the region's 9-1-1 wireless system.



John W. Lewis, new 9-1-1 Wireless Test Driver.

“Funded REAP”

...Continued from page three.

- Logan County, Dist. 3 - \$6,228.90 to install road signs.
- City of Geary - \$50,000 to purchase a well pump and generator.
- Town of Calumet - \$27,587.88 to purchase a police vehicle.
- Town of Union City - \$15,660 to purchase police radar equipment.
- Town of Orlando - \$15,655 to purchase and install an emergency siren.
- Town of Slaughterville - \$40,217 to install address markers.
- City of Spencer - \$44,901.22 to purchase and install emergency sirens.

In related news, ACOG’s Diane McCullough and Stephen Willoughby recently became certified Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Administrators. They join ACOG’s Ken Brown with this distinction.

The CDBG program enables rural Oklahoma communities to finance a variety of public infrastructure and economic improvements and helps promote job growth.

ACOG Calendar

February

- 10th UASI Budget Committee, 1:30 p.m.
- 12th Intermodal Transportation Technical Committee, 10 a.m.
- 16th ACOG Offices Closed for Presidents Day
- 26th 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.

March

- 10th 9-1-1 Technical Committee, 9:30 a.m.
UASI Budget Committee, 1:30 a.m.
- 12th Areawide Planning and Technical Advisory Committee, 9 a.m.
Intermodal Transportation Technical Committee, 10 a.m.
- 17th Operation FireSAFE, 10 a.m.
- 18th Bicycle-Pedestrian Advisory Committee, 10 a.m.
- 26th 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.

CDBG funds are provided by the federal government and managed by the Oklahoma Department of Commerce. If

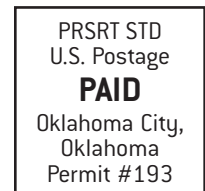
you would like ACOG’s assistance with administering a CDBG grant, please contact Diane McCullough, ACOG.

Central Oklahoma *Perspective*

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