

Stimulus Package the Hot Topic During D.C. Visit

The recently approved American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, better known as the federal Stimulus Package, was all the talk in the nation's Capitol the week that ACOG Board officers and staff delivered the Board's federal legislative policies to Oklahoma's Congressional delegation.

The local team visited in late February with Senator Tom Coburn, and House members Dan Boren, Tom Cole, Mary Fallin, Frank Lucas and John Sullivan. Senator Jim Inhofe was in a committee meeting, but the group met with four members of his senior staff.

ACOG Chair Willa Johnson, Oklahoma County Commissioner; Mark Sharpton, Logan County Commissioner; and Russell Smith, Mayor of Midwest City, represented the Board in the Congressional visits. ACOG Executive Director John G. Johnson, Deputy Director Jane Sutter and Transportation Planning and Data Services Director Douglas Rex accompanied the Board officers.

The group also attended sessions of the Conference of the National Association of Regional Councils (NARC), ACOG's national organization.



From left to right: Mark Sharpton, Logan County Commissioner; Willa Johnson, Oklahoma County Commissioner; Rep. Frank Lucas; ACOG's Douglas Rex, and Midwest City Mayor Russell Smith enjoy a visit and discussion.

One of the primary topics of discussion was the benefit and impact of the new stimulus funding, and how it can best be utilized in Central Oklahoma. Another issue of concern that dominated conversation was the state's reliance on sales taxes and the shortage in state and local budgets due to the increasing

shift of retail sales being made through the Internet. Congressman Cole encouraged the group to get local merchants to make their voices heard on the Internet sales tax issue.

Copies of the ACOG federal policy document are available at www.acogok.org, under Publications.

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Transportation Comments Sought

ACOG is inviting citizens throughout the region to review and comment 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 2010-2013 in the Oklahoma City Area Regional Transportation Study (OCARTS) Area. This region includes Oklahoma and Cleveland Coun-

ties and parts of Canadian, Grady, Logan and McClain Counties.

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

The Oklahoma Department of Transportation (ODOT), the Central Oklahoma Transportation and Parking Authority (COTPA), operator of METRO Transit, ...See "Comments" on page three.

9-1-1 Service in Region Hits 20-Year Milestone

May 1 marks the 20th anniversary of enhanced 9-1-1 service in Central Oklahoma. Twenty years ago, on May 1, 1989, the city of Oklahoma City and surrounding communities in the ACOG region flipped on the switch to activate enhanced 9-1-1 service. The life-saving attributes of enhanced service meant dispatchers, for the first time, could receive automatic number and location information from someone calling 9-1-1. The data has saved seconds in emergency situations, and has helped save thousands of lives in the past two decades.

To recognize the occasion, the 9-1-1 Saves Lives Committee is sponsoring a 20th anniversary celebration on May 1, from 6:30 p.m. – 11 p.m. at the Farmers Market, 311 S. Klein, Oklahoma City.

The 9-1-1 Association has unveiled a new logo to commemorate the 20th Anniversary. The new logo, designed by Staplegun Design of Oklahoma City, will be used for the remainder of the 2009 calendar year. Beginning in January 2010, the "20th anniversary" will be removed from the logo and the remaining design will be used for 9-1-1 ACOG branding products and public education.

National Telecommunicator Week

In recognition of the over 200 dispatchers in our region and to further acknowledge the anniversary, 9-1-1 ACOG has chosen the theme "Two Decades of Dedication" for National Telecommunicator Week activities, April 13-17.

In 1991, a Congressional resolution designated the second full week in April

each year as National Telecommunicator's Week. Since this time, public safety agencies nationwide have recognized telecommunicators, dispatchers, communication operators and radio control personnel for the pivotal role they play in public safety.

Staff from 9-1-1 ACOG has several activities planned to celebrate the week, including the selection of a Regional Telecommunicator of the Year, a decorating contest, and drawings for door prizes. Dispatchers in the region

will also be presented with a commemorative item recognizing their hard work and dedication.

In addition, over 20 dispatchers from the metro will be honored for at least 20 years of service. For more information, contact Wendi Marcy, ACOG.



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.

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Central Oklahoma Perspective, printed in house, is authorized by the ACOG Board of Directors. Financing is partly provided by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the Oklahoma Department of Commerce, the U.S. Department of Transportation and local dues. 1,850 copies were prepared and distributed at a cost of \$944. Copies have been deposited with the Publications Clearinghouse of the Oklahoma Department of Libraries.

Fifth Annual Bike to Work Day May 1

Rising gasoline prices, a greater emphasis on health, and growing awareness of alternate transportation modes may point to another successful Bike to Work Day. This year's official day will be celebrated throughout the Central Oklahoma region May 1. The date was moved up to encourage more college students to participate.

ACOG and the cities of Oklahoma City, Guthrie, Moore, Norman, Yukon and Edmond are helping to coordinate the fifth annual event. At time of publication, ACOG staff has been visiting with other communities in the region to see if they are joining this year's campaign.

Bike to Work Day 2009 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 primary event of Bike to Work Day includes group rides that start at 8 a.m. in all six communities. Just five years ago, the event started in the metro with just one group ride from the State Fairgrounds to downtown. Now, with more and more cities joining the festivities, each participating community will feature a group ride and requisite ceremonies.

Bike to Work Day 2009 also affords ACOG the opportunity to explore social media marketing opportunities. ACOG has a Facebook fan page and is Twittering on the event.

Complete details including an online survey about Central Oklahoma Bike to Work Day 2009 can be found at www.BikeDayOK.com, or call John Sharp or Ryan Billings at ACOG for more information.



Transportation Projects Funding Report Released

ACOG recently released a report reflecting federally funded transportation projects approved in the Oklahoma City metropolitan area during federal fiscal year 2008. Highway and transit projects were implemented through funds made available to the state and metropolitan area through the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU).

A suballocation of funds, known as Surface Transportation Program Urbanized Area (STP-UZA) funds, helped provide for a number of street and intersection improvements, including adjacent sidewalks, which have been or will soon be constructed in communities within the ACOG region.

Along with the STP-UZA funds, the Oklahoma Department of Transportation provided federal Congestion Mitigation/Air Quality (CMAQ) funds to promote and enhance air quality, helping the region maintain its air quality attainment status with the Environmental Protection Agency. ACOG will be using these funds to continue its public education program to inform citizens how they can help minimize summer ozone pollution, and initiate a Regional Rideshare Program and a Public Fleet Conversion Program. The Rideshare Program will be kicked off in April and will assist interested Central Oklahomans find others online who are interested in sharing a ride. The Public ...See "Funding Report" on page four.

"Comments"

...Continued from page one.

Cleveland Area Rapid Transit (CART) and other local governments 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. Those interested in requesting a paper copy may contact Holly Massie, ACOG, at 234-2264. Written comments on the TIP will be accepted through April 28.



Around the Region

- In March, several communities held elections for municipal seats. In **Moore**, the Ward 3 council position will go to a runoff between **Louie Williams** and **Jason Blair**. In **Norman**, **Rachel Butler** retained her seat as Ward 5 councilperson. **William Weller** won the Ward 4 seat in **Bethany**, while **Bill Giles** won the Ward 2 position in **Del City**. **Larry McAtee** was reelected to the **Oklahoma City** council. **Gary Marrs**, **Pete White** and **Skip Kelly** ran unopposed. The Mayorship of **Warr Acres** will go to a runoff between **Mike Grossman** and **Patrick Woolley**. Voters elected **Catherine Maxey**, **Christian Portwood** and **David Dirkschneider** to serve on the **Warr Acres** council.
- **Central Oklahoma Clean Cities** and a host of state agency partners have teamed up to sponsor a workshop, "The Compelling Case for Natural Gas Vehicles" on April 1 at the **Reed Conference Center** in **Midwest City**. The workshop will provide details on CNG vehicles and how they can be incorporated into fleet plans and energy programs. Visit www.cleanvehicle.org/workshop/DKC.html.
- The **Federal Highway Administration**, Oklahoma Division, has moved into new offices. The new mailing address for the agency is 5801 N. Broadway Extension, suite 300, Oklahoma City, OK, 73118. The physical address for the offices is 5801 N. Robinson Ave., Suite 300. The phone number is 254-3300.
- **OG&E** has announced that the City of **Norman** will become the company's first **Positive Energy Community** and will be among the first cities in the country to be equipped with new high-tech electric meters and hundreds of in-home "energy portals" under a proposed plan.
- **State Farm Insurance** recently donated \$2,000 in grant funding to an ACOG-managed regional program that helps youth at risk. The grants will assist **Operation FireSAFE**, the region's juvenile firesetting prevention program, with public education and programming costs.
- The inaugural **Zach D. Taylor, Jr. Memorial Lecture** will be presented on "Public Health Ethics: The Demands of Leadership" as part of Oklahoma Wellness Week **April 10**. Lunch will be provided at 11:30 a.m. with the lecture at noon at the College of Health Building, 801 NE 13th, Oklahoma City. [No RSVP required.] The lecture series is provided by a Memorial Fund in Taylor's name established at the OU College of Public Health.
- **Barbara Hurdman** has joined the **ACOG** staff as a Department Secretary. She will assist with Rural Economic Action Plan (REAP) grants, Urban Area Security Initiative programming and 9-1-1 databases. Hurdman and her husband Michael moved from Monroe, La., last year so Michael could complete his theology studies.



Barbara Hurdman, ACOG Department Secretary.

“Funding Report”

...Continued from page three.

Fleet Conversion Program is a competitive grant program open to state and local government agencies and public school districts for conversion of fleet vehicles to cleaner alternative fuels and the infrastructure to support those vehicles.

The Oklahoma City urbanized area obligated all of its suballocated federal funds, which totaled over \$17.5 million. Major street improvements that will be implemented using federal funds include a widening project in Moore on Santa Fe from SW 19th Street to SW 34th Street, bridge reconstruction projects in Del City on Vickie Drive and in Moore on SE 34th Street, an intersection improvement project in Spencer at NE 36th and Douglas, arterial pavement markings at several locations in Logan County, and several safety improvements related to traffic signal upgrades, school zone improvements and roadway lighting in Oklahoma City and Norman.

In addition to these developments, other transportation projects in the region were supported with other federal and state funds, and matched with either state or local dollars. An additional \$139 million in funding obligated in the past fiscal year allowed for numerous projects to be completed or initiated.

Some of these state-sponsored projects include five jobs to implement the I-40 Crosstown relocation, widening of a portion of Tecumseh Road in Norman,

ACOG Calendar	
April	
14th	COUASI Budget Committee, 1:30 p.m.
16th	Intermodal Transportation Technical Committee, 10 a.m.
28th	COUASI Working Group, 1:30 p.m.
30th	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	
1st	Bike to Work Day in Central Oklahoma 9-1-1 Anniversary Celebration
12th	COUASI Budget Committee, 1:30 a.m.
14th	Areawide Planning and Technical Advisory Committee, 9 a.m. Intermodal Transportation Technical Committee, 10 a.m.
19th	Operation FireSAFE, 10 a.m.
25th	ACOG Offices Closed for Memorial Day
28th	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.

improvement of the Broadway Extension and Memorial Road interchange, widening of SH-4 from I-40 to SH-66 in Yukon, and numerous resurfacing and bridge repair projects throughout the region.

Finally, Federal Transit Administration funds assisted with the purchase of various transit capital items, property

and bus maintenance, provision of METRO Link services and other programs to assist with federal workforce investment objectives, and provision of special transit services for elderly and disabled citizens.

The full report is available at www.acogok.org.

Central Oklahoma *Perspective*

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