



**ASSOCIATION OF CENTRAL OKLAHOMA GOVERNMENTS**

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## **NEWS RELEASE**

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# **ACOG AWARDS HOLMES and ASSOCIATES \$420,000 CONTRACT for REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY WORK**

The Association of Central Oklahoma Governments (ACOG) announces the selection of Holmes and Associates to provide technical assistance and planning support for the development of a Regional Transit Authority (RTA) for Central Oklahoma.

A committee comprised of ACOG staff and elected officials who serve on the organization's board of directors awarded the \$420,000 contract to Holmes. According to ACOG Executive Director John G. Johnson, the consulting firm is well-known throughout the transit industry for their work on the Utah Transit Authority and contributions they made to Salt Lake City's transit Cinderella story.

"Kathryn Holmes and her team specialize in strategic counseling on the full array of issues and concerns facing clients in the public transportation sector," Johnson said. "ACOG is very excited to work with them on this next major step for Regional Transit in Central Oklahoma."

The primary work at hand includes:

- **Establishing the geo-political structure of the RTA**
- **Determining the necessary next steps to fund and staff the organization**

"ACOG first discussed forming a Regional Transit Authority in 2005," Johnson said. "For the last 12 years, we've coordinated the effort in strong collaboration with numerous stakeholders from the public and private sector as well as ACOG member communities.

**(MORE)**

According to Johnson, those initial discussions in 2005, resulted in the 2010 Regional Transit Dialogue (RTD). Five years later, in 2015, ACOG formed the Regional Transit Authority Task Force, which is comprised of Del City, Edmond, Midwest City, Moore, Norman and Oklahoma City. All six communities voted to invest funds to develop an operating budget for an eventual Regional Transit Authority. Later, mayors from all six cities signed a Memorandum of Understanding underscoring and solidifying their commitment.

“This is one of the most rewarding project I’ve worked on in the nearly 30 years I’ve worked for ACOG,” said Johnson. “The citizens of Central Oklahoma want better connections between their communities, jobs and schools. They want better ways to get from where they are to where they want to be.

“They want the path forward to be convenient, safe and reliable. I’m grateful that ACOG is a part of it.”

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John G. Johnson rings a bell in Santa Fe Station in 2015 to mark signing of a historic agreement to create a task force that would develop a Regional Transit Authority.