

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**Oklahoma DOT Continues the Development of Locally Coordinated Public Transit-Human Service Transportation Plan**

Oklahoma City, Oklahoma USA – September 21, 2007

ODOT receives an annual allocation of Job Access Reverse Commute (JARC) and New Freedom funds from the Federal Transit Administration. The JARC program provides funding for commuter services and transportation services for low-income individuals that related to their employment. ODOT has combined the 2006 and 2007 fiscal years apportionments to finance this initial program year. The total amount of funds available for JARC projects in Norman and Lawton is \$356,450 and for projects in the small urban and rural areas of the state is \$1,524,240. The New Freedom program provides funding for projects that improved public transportation services, and alternatives to public transportation, for people with disabilities. Project must go beyond the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA). ODOT has combined the 2006 and 2007 fiscal years apportionments to finance this initial program year. The total amount available for projects in the Norman and Lawton is \$148,037 and for projects in the small urban and rural areas it is \$756,175.

The Safe Accountable Flexible Efficient transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) requires that beginning in FFY 2007, projects selected for funding under the JARC and New Freedom programs must be derived from the Locally Developed Coordinated Public Transit-Human Service Transportation Plan (Coordinated Plan). The Coordinated Plan includes a recommended list of top tier priorities. Applications for JARC and New Freedom funds will be scored based on how the application directly addresses the priorities identified in the Coordinated Plan.

JARC and New Freedom grants are competitive. Eligible applicants include state, local and tribal governments, private non-profit organizations, and operators of public transportation services, including private operators of public transportation services. Interested organizations are encouraged to attend one of the mandatory training sessions listed below. Only those organizations who attend one of the training sessions will be eligible to submit an application.

JARC and New Freedom program funds are intended to fund innovative and flexible programs that address the transportation needs of individuals with disabilities, older adults, and individuals with limited incomes. Funds may be used for planning, capital or operating costs of providing access to jobs, or for services and facilities that improve mobility for persons with disabilities but not limited to persons who are ADA-certified.

ODOT is requesting proposals which address transportation issues that have been identified in the Coordinated Plan. The deadline for submitting an application is 4:00 PM,

April 1, 2008. Applications will be made available during the **mandatory** training sessions to be conducted in February and March, 2008. The locations for these mandatory training sessions are listed in the table below. Applications will not be accepted from project proponents who did not attend a training workshop. Please respond by contacting Jennifer Mason at (405) 521-2584 or [jmason@odot.org](mailto:jmason@odot.org) and provide the name of your organization, contact person's name, phone number and email address as well as the workshop location you will attend.

If you require an alternative format for any of these documents please contact Danelle Covey at (918)582-2552 or email your request to [odot\\_plan@urscorp.com](mailto:odot_plan@urscorp.com).

<p><b>February 26<sup>th</sup></b>  <b>9 AM – 1 PM-Tulsa</b>          Boulder Towers, Granite Room          (918) 582-2552          1437 S. Boulder Ave          Tulsa, OK 74119</p>	<p><b>February 26<sup>th</sup></b>  <b>2:30-6:30PM-Woodward</b>          Woodward Public Library          (580) 254-8544          1500 Main          Woodward, OK 73801</p>
<p><b>February 27<sup>th</sup></b>  <b>9 AM – 1 PM-Lawton</b>          Museum of the Great Plains, LDM Hall          (580) 581-3460          601 NW Ferris          Lawton, OK 73507</p>	<p><b>February 27<sup>th</sup></b>  <b>9 AM – 1 PM-McAlester</b>          Southeast Expo Center, Room 101          (918) 420-3976          4500 W. Highway 270          McAlester, OK 74501</p>
<p><b>March 10<sup>th</sup> 9AM-1PM-Norman</b>          Lowery Room          Norman City Library (405)701-2600          225 North Webster          Norman, OK 73069</p>	<p><b>NOTE THE DATE ON THE          NORMAN MEETING</b></p>

**For More Information Contact:**

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