

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**Oklahoma Department of Transportation (ODOT) Continues the Development of the Locally Coordinated Public Transit / Human Service Transportation Plan**

Oklahoma City, Oklahoma USA – January 13, 2012

ODOT receives an annual allocation of Job Access Reverse Commute (JARC) and New Freedom funds from the Federal Transit Administration. The JARC grant program funds transportation services to transport welfare recipients and eligible low-income individuals to and from jobs and activities related to their employment. For the upcoming application cycle, ODOT has apportionments of \$269,282 for small urban projects and \$949,418 for rural projects. The New Freedom grant program provides improved public transportation services, and alternatives to public transportation, for people with disabilities, beyond those required by the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA). For the upcoming application cycle, ODOT has apportionments of \$96,031 for small urban projects and \$490,441 for rural projects. All funding amounts are based on estimates from the 2012 Program Year.

JARC and New Freedom grants are competitive. Applicants may include state or local government authorities; private non-profit organizations; and operators of public transportation services including private operators of public transportation services.

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.

The Safe Accountable Flexible Efficient transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) requires that beginning in FY 2007, projects selected for funding under the JARC and New Freedom programs must be derived from the Oklahoma Locally Coordinated Public Transit/Human Service Transportation Plan. The Plan outlines transportation gaps and issues as well as potential strategies. In addition, the Plan has recently been updated to provide the most current information to assist the development of applications for eligible transportation projects. Applications for JARC and New Freedom funds will be scored based on how the project directly addresses the issues identified in the Plan.

The Locally Coordinated Public Transit / Human Service Plan has recently been updated to provide current demographic and recently completed

ODOT is holding a call for projects for funds noted above. The deadline for applications is April 2, 2012. Applications will be made available during **mandatory** training sessions scheduled for the week of February 13, 2012 at the locations listed in the table on the next page. These training sessions will also provide a brief overview of the updated Plan. **In order to be eligible to apply, a representative from each prospective applicant must attend at least one of the training sessions.**

If you require an alternative format for any of these documents, please contact Roger Eaton at (405) 521-2584 or email your request to [reaton@odot.org](mailto:reaton@odot.org).

The training sessions will be held at the following times and locations:

<b>Training Sessions Scheduled</b>		
February 14, 2012 9:00-10:30 AM Ponca City, OK	Facility: Address: Phone:	City Hall, McFadden Room 516 East Grand Avenue, Ponca City, OK 74601 (580) 767-0336
February 14, 2012 10:00-11:30 AM Sand Springs, OK	Facility: Address: Phone:	City Hall, Council Chambers 100 East Broadway Street, Sand Springs, OK 74063 (918) 246-2500
February 14, 2012 1:30-3:00 PM Okmulgee, OK	Facility: Address: Phone:	City Hall, Council Chambers 111 East 4 <sup>th</sup> Street, Okmulgee, OK 74447 (918) 756-4060
February 14, 2012 2:00-3:30 PM Woodward, OK	Facility: Address: Phone:	Woodward Public Library 1500 Main Street, Woodward, OK 73801 (580) 254-8544
February 15, 2012 9:30-11:00 AM McAlester, OK	Facility: Address: Phone:	McAlester Public Library, Whitaker Room 401 North 2 <sup>nd</sup> Street, McAlester, OK 74501 (918) 426-0930
February 15, 2012 9:30-11:00 AM Weatherford, OK	Facility: Address: Phone:	City Hall, Wilkinson Room 522 West Rainey Street, Weatherford, OK 73096 (580) 772-7451
February 15, 2012 2:00-3:30 PM Durant, OK	Facility: Address: Phone:	Donald W. Reynolds Community Center and Library 1515 West Main Street, Durant, OK 74701 (580) 924-3486
February 15, 2012 2:30-4:00 PM Lawton, OK	Facility: Address: Phone:	Museum of the Great Plains, LDM Hall 601 NW Ferris Street, Lawton, OK 73507 (580) 581-3460
February 16, 2012 9:30-11:00 AM Norman, OK	Facility: Address: Phone:	Norman Public Library 225 North Webster Avenue, Norman, OK 73069 (405) 701-2600

**For More Information Contact:**

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