REAP Applications Now Being Accepted at NODA

To everything there is a season and fall means REAP season here at NODA!

The REAP application cycle opened on Sept. 1 and completed applications are due by 4:30 pm on Monday, Oct. 31.

Eligible applicants are communities with less than 7,000 in population. As in the past, leverage (or matching funds) is not a requirement to apply for REAP funds, but it does help with scoring. Communities who still have an open REAP grant on Oct. 31 are not eligible to apply. This allows the funds to be expended in a timely manner, which shows legislators this program IS needed.

Eligible REAP projects, funded by Oklahoma state legislature, include:

- Rural water quality projects, including acquisition, treatment, distribution, and recovery of water for consumption by humans or animals or both;
- Rural solid waste disposal, treatment, or similar projects;
- Rural sanitary sewer construction or improvement projects;
- Rural road or street construction or improvement projects;
- Provision of health care services, including emergency medical care, in rural areas;
- Provision of rural fire protection services;
- Construction or improvement of telecommunication facilities or systems;
- Improvement of municipal energy distribution systems; and
- Expenditures designed to increase the employment level within the jurisdiction of NODA.

For more information about how to apply for a REAP grant please contact Vicki Eggers or Jennifer Firgard here at NODA.
Two County Long Range Transportation Plans Approved

On Sept. 15 Northern Oklahoma Regional Transportation Planning Organizational (NORTPO) Technical Committee recommended sending the Noble County and Grant County 2036 Long Range Transportation Plans (LRTP) to the NORTPO Policy Board for approval at their Sept. 22 meeting.

This makes a total of three of Northern Oklahoma Development Authority’s (NODA) counties to be completed, with Kay County’s LRTP being approved in 2015. Alfalfa and Major counties’ plans will be completed in 2017 with Blaine, Kingfisher and Garfield counties plans to follow.

The long range transportation plans are being funded through NODA with a grant provided by Federal Highway Administration through Oklahoma Department of Transportation.

NORTPO Staff Attend National Working Summit on Transportation in Rural America

The National Center for Rural Road Safety (Safety Center) hosted the National Working Summit on Transportation in Rural America Sept. 7-9 in Denver, CO. Cecil Michael, Payton Herron and Vicki Eggers attended the summit representing NORTPO and Oklahoma interests and concerns. Cindy Bobbitt, Grant County Commissioner, also attended as a representative of the National Association of Counties (NACo) and was a guest presenter at the opening general session. This was the first ever summit by the Safety Center and one of the planned end results is a white paper with some solutions and guidance to implement in the rural areas.

The Safety Center’s mission is to help reduce crashes, injuries and fatalities by addressing all factors that influence safety including road users, roads, vehicles, safety culture, engineering, education, EMS and enforcement. They serve local, state and tribal road agencies that operate and manage rural roads. The Safety Center’s philosophy is to empower these agencies with the most effective safety tools and strategies that are currently available, so they can improve safety, reduce injuries, and save lives.

Discussions at the summit included challenges of rural communities not encountered by urban areas, alternative transportation issues, commerce and freight, rural emergency responders concerns, effects and impacts of safety on tourism, economic development, rural livability, policy and coordination, Towards Zero Deaths (TZD), and transportation workforce development.

The National Center for Rural Road Safety is sponsored by the U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Highway Administration. It is managed by a team of transportation experts at: Western Transportation Institute at Montana State University; Center for Advanced Infrastructure and Transportation at Rutgers University; Institute for Transportation at Iowa State University; Cambridge Systematics; IDT Group; and Bubar and Hall Consulting, LLC; in cooperation with Local Technical Assistance Programs (LTAPs) of Iowa, Louisiana, Montana, and New Jersey.
OLM Conference Gathers City/Town Officials from Across State

NODA staff members Susmita Som and Jennifer Firgard were among over 350 attendees from across Oklahoma at the annual OML Conference and Expo held Sept. 13-15 in downtown Oklahoma City. Outstanding municipal training and educational opportunities were offered covering top issues affecting our cities and towns.

Cities, Counties, Towns & Rural Fire Benefit From Clerk Training

The conference room was packed on Aug. 30 as eager minds gathered to learn about the opportunities NODA offers. NODA staff presented strategies for success as attendees learned about our programs: comprehensive planning, rural fire defense program and grants, CIP grants, CDBG grants, REAP grants, GIS mapping, rural transportation and more. We want to thank everyone for attending and look forward to working with each of you on projects that can make a difference in your community.

Rural Fire Departments Working Together

Fire departments share a bond, a brotherhood. It's not just about serving others. It's also about helping those you serve with. This was evident when Medford Fire Chief Dennis Brittain's department donated extrication equipment to Chief Jeff Spencer at the Braman Fire Department. Chief Brittain said Medford was fortunate enough to purchase new equipment and was glad to help another department out.

Pictured left to right: Fire Chief Jeff Spencer and Fire Chief Dennis Brittain

NORTHERN OKLAHOMA DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
2901 N Van Buren • Enid, OK 73703
Making a Difference in Northern Oklahoma

We provide opportunities to improve the quality of life in our eight county region - Alfalfa, Blaine, Garfield, Grant, Kay, Kingfisher, Major and Noble.

For more information about NODA services, contact us at (580)237-4810 or nodanet.org.

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Oklahoma Department of Transportation (ODOT) Board of Commissioners awarded new statewide Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) projects on Aug. 1. Six project in Northern Oklahoma Development Authority (NODA) district were funded: Okarche, Perry, Ponca City, Tonkawa, and Roman Nose State Park with two awards.

The 45 statewide awards totaled $33,529,880.41 and were divided into two population categories—less than 5,000, and 5,000 to 200,000. Projects were scored based upon five criteria: improve safety, improve connectivity, community improvement, funding, and environmental concerns. Scoring assistance was conducted by Northern Oklahoma Regional Transportation Planning Organization (NORTPO) technical committee and policy board. NORTPO is a division of NODA, one of eleven sub-states serving all of Oklahoma. Funding is provided by Federal Highway Administration (FWHA) through ODOT.

TAP provides funding for programs and projects defined as transportation alternatives, including on and off-road pedestrian and bicycle facilities, infrastructure projects for improving non-driver access to public transportation and enhanced mobility, community improvement activities and environmental mitigation, recreational trail program projects, safe routes to school projects, and projects for planning, designing, or constructing boulevards and other roadways largely in the right-of-way of former Interstate system routes or other divided highways.

Eligible project sponsors include local and tribal governments, regional transportation authorities, transit agencies, natural resource or public land agencies, school districts, local education agencies, or schools, and any other local or regional governmental entity with responsibility for oversight of transportation or recreational trails (other than metropolitan planning organizations).