



SOUTHERN OKLAHOMA DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION Board of Directors Meeting October 25, 2019

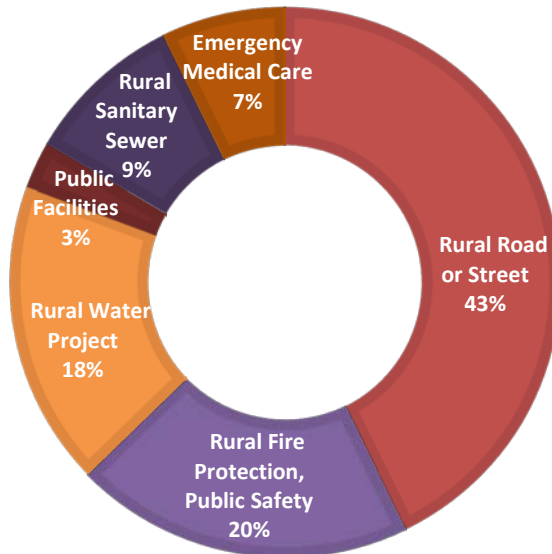
MEETING BRIEFING

The SODA Board of Directors met for its regular October meeting at Murray State College in Tishomingo, Oklahoma.

REAP Awards for 2020

The Board of Directors approved 35 REAP awards in the amount of \$1,115,276 and one CDBG-REAP award in the amount of \$136,436 for total REAP awards in the amount of \$1,251,712

REAP Project Type by Category



awarded to projects across the ten-county SODA service area. The maximum REAP grant award for 2020 was \$52,000. 74% of completed applications submitted was funded.

An emergency REAP grant in the amount of \$15,000 was awarded to Atoka County to help abate asbestos in one of the Courthouse courtrooms.

2020-2024 CEDS Plan

The Board of Directors approved the 2020-2024 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). CEDS is a regional economic development plan for the SODA service area.

Over the last several months the CEDS Committee comprised of 'Don "Salty" Melton, Ian O'Neal, James Eldridge, James Frizell, Jay Perry, John Redman, Johnnie Crutchfield, Scott Chaney, Stephanie Martin-Stevenson, Stephen Mills, Steve Kelly, Tom Graham, and Linda Hyman and with assistance from several economic develop professionals in the SODA service area conducted a planning effort to develop goals and strategies for the CEDS 2020-2024 plan.

A copy of the plan will be sent to all SODA members.

EDA Planning Grant

The Board of Directors approved submittal of a planning grant to the U.S. Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration. The grant request is for \$210,000 in federal funding that will be leveraged by \$90,000 in cash matching funds from SODA over the 3-year term of the grant. The proceeds of the grant will be used to help fund staff positions for SODA economic development planners.

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Regional Transportation Planning Organization

The Board of Directors discussed the possible formation of a Regional Transportation Planning Organization (RTPO) for the SODA service area. At this time eight of the eleven COG regions are covered by Regional or Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organizations (Lawton, Oklahoma City and Tulsa are Metropolitan Planning Organizations). The three COGs in southeastern Oklahoma, SODA, KEDDO and EODD, are currently not covered by an RTPO.

An RTPO is a formal organization with membership comprised of counties, cities, and towns within a region. The RTPO may be an existing regional organization or may be established as a new transportation planning organization. The RTPO is responsible for conducting a transportation planning process including the development of policy and procedures to outline the transportation planning process for the RTPO's respective region.

If established, the RTPO could apply for funding through the State Planning & Research Program (SPR) provided to ODOT by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), which would be supplemented by local funding.

The Board of Directors will continue to discuss the RTPO formation at subsequent meetings and determine by its February meeting whether to submit a formal request to ODOT.

Announcements and Reports

The December 6th meeting has been changed to December 13 at 10:00 am at Murray State College in Tishomingo.

To view demographic data about your county or community, go to the SODA website at <http://www.soda-ok.org> and click on Dashboard.:

The image shows two side-by-side screenshots of the SODA website. The left screenshot displays the main dashboard with a navigation menu where 'Dashboard' is circled in red. Below the menu are sections for 'AREA AGENCY ON AGING', 'ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT', 'RURAL FIRE DEFENSE', and 'RURAL ECONOMIC ACTION PLAN (REAP)'. The right screenshot shows the 'Dashboard' page with a sidebar menu on the left containing 'Overview', 'Population', 'Housing', 'Economy', 'Transportation', and 'County Profiles'. The main content area features 'Overview Highlights' and a map of Oklahoma counties with a legend for population ranges.