

Volume 34...Issue 4  
April 2007



## YAKIMA VALLEY CONFERENCE OF GOVERNMENTS

### MEMBER JURISDICTIONS:

Grandview  
Granger  
Harrah  
Mabton  
Moxee  
Naches  
Selah  
Sunnyside  
Tieton  
Toppenish  
Union Gap  
Wapato  
Yakima  
Yakima County  
Zillah

### YVCOG EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

Al Hubert, Chair  
*Toppenish City Council*  
Susan Whitman, Vice Chair  
*Yakima City Council*  
Mike Leita  
*Yakima County Commission*  
Jim Restucci  
*Sunnyside City Council*  
Dan Olson  
*Union Gap City Council*  
Velva Herrera  
*Mayor, City of Mabton*  
John P. Hodkinson  
*Regional Planning Commission*



311 North 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 202  
Yakima, WA 98901  
509-574-1550  
FAX 509-574-1551  
Website: [www.yvcog.org](http://www.yvcog.org)

### STP Regional Call For Projects

*By Drew Miller, Planner*

The Yakima Valley MPO/RTPO has released its FFY 2007 Surface Transportation Program (STP) Regional call for projects. Application packets were mailed to eligible jurisdictions March 12 and are also available for download on YVCOG's website at <http://www.yvcog.org/stpregionalcallforprojects.html>.

**PROJECT APPLICATIONS ARE DUE TO YVCOG ON APRIL 26, 2007**

To be eligible for federal STP funding the project must be on a road functionally classified as an urban collector or rural major collector or higher classification. Projects seeking funding for only Preliminary Engineering and/or Right-of-Way and not for Construction will not be considered.

YVCOG's process of distributing regional STP funds had to change in response to actions by the Legislature and Governor last year. They directed RTPOs that receive federal STP funding to distribute funds based on regional priorities rather than by formula. The MPO/RTPO Executive Committee approved the new STP fund distribution process at their regular meeting on February 21. The Executive Committee finalized a competitive application and money distribution process that was developed by a subcommittee of the Technical Advisory Committee over the past 9 months.

If you have any questions please contact Drew Miller at 509-574-1550 or [millerd@yvcog.org](mailto:millerd@yvcog.org)

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### YVCOG Executive Committee Retreat

*By J. Page Scott, Executive Director*

On April 11, the new, expanded seven-member YVCOG Executive Committee will meet at the Yakima Greenway Foundation's Helen Jewett meeting room at Sarg Hubbard Park from 1-5 p.m. to discuss the results of the current YVCOG membership survey and to set direction for the future of YVCOG.



If you have any suggestions or items for the Executive Committee to consider during their retreat, please contact Page Scott, Executive Director, at [scottp@yvcog.org](mailto:scottp@yvcog.org) or call (509) 574-1550.

## HAC News Provides Valuable Housing Information

By Gene Weinmann, Housing Rehab Coordinator

The Housing Assistance Council (HAC) News has provided some valuable housing-related information in recent months:

### FUNDING OFFERED FOR MANUFACTURED

**HOUSING WORK.** Corporation for Enterprise Development (CFED's) Innovations in Manufactured Homes (I'M HOME) program will make grants to support efforts to improve the ability of low- and moderate-income families to build wealth and attain greater financial security through ownership of manufactured homes. Concept papers are due April 13. Visit [www.cfed.org/go/imhome](http://www.cfed.org/go/imhome) or contact CFED, 202-408-9788, [info-dc@cfed.org](mailto:info-dc@cfed.org).

**SECTION 538 APPLICATIONS INVITED.** Lenders can apply for USDA Rural Development (RD) loan guarantees for development or acquisition with rehab of rural rental housing, or revitalization, repair, and transfer of existing Section 515 housing. The deadline is April 27; RD will review later applications so long as funds are available. See *Federal Register*, 2/26/07, pp. 8339-46. Contact an RD state office or C.B. Alonso, RD, [cb.alonso@wdc.usda.gov](mailto:cb.alonso@wdc.usda.gov), 202-720-1624.

**HUD REPORTS ON HOMELESSNESS.** Housing and Urban Development (HUD's) first *Annual Homeless Assessment Report to Congress* presents data on sheltered and unsheltered homeless people and on the national supply of emergency, temporary, and permanent housing for them. Rural and suburban data are combined in the analysis. HUD's estimate of 754,000 people homeless on a single night is similar to the recent National Alliance to End Homelessness estimate (see *HAC News*, 1/18/07). HUD's report and other resources are at <http://www.hud.gov>.

**NEW DATA CONFIRM AFFORDABLE HOUSING SHORTAGE.** A National Low Income Housing Coalition (NLIHC) analysis of data from the Census Bureau's new American Community Survey found that those with the lowest incomes face the greatest shortage of affordable units, nationwide and in every state. No state has a shortage for households earning above 80% of the state median income. NLIHC Research Note #07-01, *American Community Survey Estimate Shows Larger National, State Affordable Rental Housing Shortages*, is at <http://www.nlihc.org/doc/RN07-01.pdf>.

The Housing Assistance Council is a nonprofit corporation headquartered in Washington, D.C., and has been helping local organizations build affordable homes in rural America since 1971. The HAC empha-

sizes local solutions, empowerment of the poor, reduced dependence and self-help strategies. The Housing Assistance Council may be contacted at (202) 842-8600 or on the web at [www.ruralhome.org](http://www.ruralhome.org).

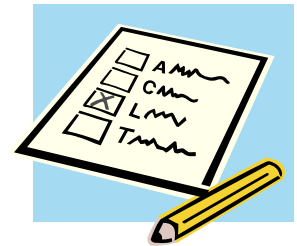
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### ***Time flies..., So let's survey!***

by Brian Curtin, CTR Program Coordinator

"Time flies when you're having fun," or so the saying goes. It's hard to believe, but we are quickly approaching our biennial Employer Survey of Commute Trip Reduction (CTR) affected employers. **This year's survey is scheduled to be conducted the week of April 30<sup>th</sup> through May 4<sup>th</sup>.** This survey will be of particular importance, in that it will establish our "baseline survey" upon which our new CTR goals and targets are to be determined.

The recently passed "2006 CTR Efficiency Act" establishes a target of 10% reduction in the Single Occupancy Vehicle (SOV) rate over the next four years within a CTR affected jurisdiction. A significant change in the CTR



law narrows the scope and affected area of the CTR program here in Yakima. Prior to the law change, all large employers (100+ employees) of Yakima County were CTR affected. With the change, only large employers within the boundaries of the urban growth areas of Yakima, Selah and Union Gap are affected. This change will take place in early 2008, so all employers who are currently CTR affected are still required to survey. After the implementation of the new CTR regional and local plans (in early 2008), employers outside of the aforementioned affected areas have the opportunity to stay in the program as a voluntary site or to opt out of the program. One advantage of continuing to participate in the new program, as a voluntary site, will be the opportunity for employers to continue to receive support from YVCOG on their CTR programs.

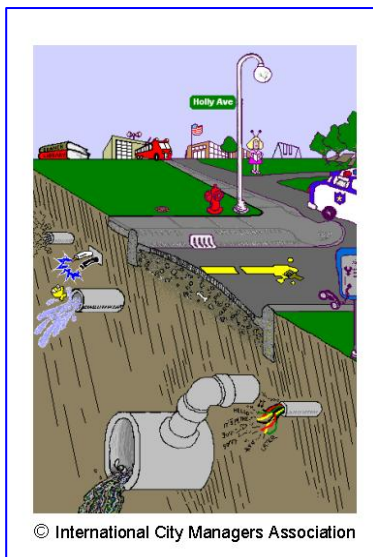
**To better prepare employers for the upcoming survey, there will be a mandatory training session for all CTR-affected employer Employee Transportation Coordinators (ETC) at 1:00 p.m. on April 17, 2007.** The training will be held at the Yakima Valley Conference of Governments (YVCOG) offices, located at 311 North 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 202 Yakima, WA 98901. For additional information regarding the CTR Survey process or any questions regarding the CTR Program, please contact Brian Curtin at 509-574-1550 or [curtinb@yvco.org](mailto:curtinb@yvco.org).

## Another Look at Funding Infrastructure

By Michael Buchanan, Senior Planner

Impact fees are charges assessed by local governments against new development projects that attempt to recover the cost incurred by government in providing the public facilities required to serve the new development. Impact fees are only used to fund facilities, such as roads, schools, and parks, that are directly associated with the new development. They may be used to pay the proportionate share of the cost of public facilities that benefit the new development. However, impact fees cannot be used to correct existing deficiencies in public facilities. In Washington, impact fees are authorized for those jurisdictions planning under the Growth Management Act (RCW 82.02.050 - .100), as part of "voluntary agreements" under RCW 82.02.020, and as mitigation for impacts under the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA – RCW 43.21C). GMA impact fees are only authorized for: public streets and roads; publicly owned parks, open space, and recreation facilities; school facilities; and fire protection facilities in jurisdictions that are not part of a fire district. Setting fee schedules for impact fees is a complex process typically involving rate studies. Generally, impact fees do not recover the full cost of a new facility since these fees must be directly and proportionately related to impacts associated with new development. For more information check <http://www.mrsc.org/Subjects/Planning/impactpg.aspx>.

**C**ity planning is the process of coordinating the various public aspects of the development of a community. This includes schools, libraries, parks, streets, utilities, and public safety for police and fire. Good city planning will create a better living environment for its citizens because the efficient use of the land will reduce the costs of public services.



## Outside

By Richard Spada, GIS Analyst

I live outside in the spring, summer and fall and the Yakima Valley is a perfect headquarters site. It is centrally located and has easy access to the Cascades, eastern Oregon and eastern Washington. This time of year brings back many outdoor memories.

I was basically raised outside. My legs were being utilized since my first hike with my parents up to High Point. The name says it all about how difficult the route up was, especially for a 5 year old boy! Well, part boy, part wild animal it seems coming from farmer and mountain men stock.

I vividly remember my first 20 mile day hike. I was 7. The place: Glacier National Park. The time: summer 1977. It was a 20 mile peak to peak trail that climbed up through the northern Rockies. It was grizzly and black bear country and the warning signs proved that. I was with my parents, sister and cousin. It was a wonderful hot sunny day. By mile 17, I was starting to break down and complain. My dad kept after me about how I needed to tough it out and "be a man". He finally saw I was seriously tired and thirsty so he put me on his shoulders piggy back for the next two miles. The funny part was that he made me hike the last mile out. I think back now and he must have wanted me to have that feeling of accomplishment and he was probably tired of having me on his shoulders for two miles as well! On the way out, we saw a black bear on the road; funny that we did not see one in the wilderness. Hmmmm.

Well, I figured I would share that experience with you seeing that spring is just around the bend and I am preparing for the outdoor season, as most animals do. This year, I am planning (with my outdoor buddies) to climb numerous mountains: with names such as Jefferson, Hood, Baker, Little Tahoma and Adams; adding some more as the summer progresses, if that is not enough! I also enjoy canyoneering. The Northwest has some great hidden canyons. There is something exciting about finding these remote canyons, hiking up to where they begin and coming back down in the canyon. Much of the time humans have never stepped foot inside these canyons. There is something about finding a place that has not been trampled on; a sense of exploration I suppose. So maybe I will write about some of my adventures this year- all headquartered out of Yakima. That might be interesting and fun for the reader and me as well!

Its time to get outside and get those feet moving because it is starting to feel like springtime! The Yakima Valley and the greater region has so much to offer. If you call, I may be outside. Leave a message!

## **APRIL MEETINGS...**

MPO/RTPO Technical Advisory Committee  
Thursday, April 12, 2007 - 10:00 a.m.  
311 North 4th Street, Suite 202  
(The 300 Building)  
Yakima, WA

YVCOG Executive Committee &  
MPO/RTPO Executive Committee & Policy Board  
Wednesday, April 16, 2007 at 1:30 p.m.  
311 North 4th Street, Suite 202  
(The 300 Building)  
Yakima, WA

## **Your YVCOG Staff:**

*J. Page Scott, Executive Director*  
*Brian Curtin, CTR Coordinator*  
*Michael Buchanan, Senior Planner*  
*Vacant, Senior Transportation Planner*  
*Drew Miller, Planner*  
*Richard Spada, GIS Analyst/Systems Administrator*  
*Gene E. Weinmann, Housing Rehab Coordinator*  
*Jim Dixon, Housing Rehab Building Inspector*  
*Tamara Hayward, Housing Rehab Office Specialist*  
*Nancy Soules, Administrative Finance Officer*  
*Judy Price, Office Specialist*



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