



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
James A. Restucci
Sunnyside City Council
Dan Olson
Union Gap City Council
Velva Herrera
Mayor, City of Mabton
John P. Hodkinson
Regional Planning Commission



**Happy
Thanksgiving!**

311 North 4th Street, Suite 202
Yakima, WA 98901
509-574-1550
FAX 509-574-1551
Website: www.yvcog.org

Transportation Issues on the Ballot

By Drew Miller, Senior Transportation Planner

Transportation issues will be front-and-center this November on the 2007 ballot. Not since I-912 in 2005 sought to repeal the 9.5 cent statewide gas tax increase have such significant transportation financing issues appeared on a ballot.



Yakima County residents will have the opportunity to weigh in on an advisory ballot measure concerning a proposed \$20 increase in the annual vehicle license fee to fund transportation improvements. Local governments have the option of assessing up to a \$20 vehicle fee without a public vote, but to better understand the will of the community, Yakima County Commissioners placed the issue to an advisory vote. If the measure is approved, the Board of Yakima County Commissioners would form a Transportation Benefit District (TBD) through an ordinance. The ordinance must include a finding that the creation of a TBD is in the public's interest, the boundaries of the TBD, and a description of the transportation fees and improvements proposed.

In addition to the TBD advisory vote, residents of the City of Union Gap will get to vote on permanently extending bus service into their community with a two tenths of a percent (0.2%) increase in sales tax. The current expanded demonstration route, funded with a Congestion Mitigation/Air Quality (CMAQ) grant, expires December 31, 2007 if voters do not vote to tax themselves to keep the service operating.

Finally, in the central Puget Sound region, voters will have the opportunity to weigh in on the massive Proposition 1 initiative. Proposition 1 is a yes/no vote that, by direction of the state Legislature, combines two measures into one ballot title. The first measure would expand Sound Transit's light rail system and add park and ride facilities and Sounder Rail stations, at an estimated total cost of \$30.8 billion over 50 years, including inflation, bond reserves and financing. The second improves parts of several dozen highways and helps finance a replacement for the Evergreen Point Bridge at an estimated total cost of \$16.4 billion over 30 years. A map showing what projects are included in Proposition 1 is available at <http://seattlepi.nwsourc.com/dayart/pdf/prop1-2007.pdf>

UNION GAP HOUSING REHABILITATION PROGRAM ADVANCES

By Gene Weinmann, Housing Coordinator

The Union Gap City Council approved the Union Gap Housing Rehabilitation Program (UGHRP) Policy Plan on October 22, 2007. The plan represents the City's first foray in providing housing rehabilitation assistance to its citizenry.

Developed by the YVCOG and the City's CDBG Policy and Grievance Committee, the plan provides detailed policies and procedures governing the Program's implementation. The plan offers Owner-Occupied Rehabilitation, Lead-Abatement and Weatherization loans to qualified Union Gap residents. Loans are separated into two basic categories: Standard Loans (defined as Applicants ages 61 and under); and Elderly Loans (Applicants ages 62 or over). Standard loans require monthly payments ranging from \$40.00 to \$75.00, depending on Participant income, and require repayment of 60% of the portion of the project funded by CDBG funds. Elderly loans require monthly payments ranging from \$25.00 to \$60.00, depending on Participant income, and require repayment of 50% of the portion of the project funded by CDBG funds. Both loan types are zero interest.

The YVCOG housing staff's current activities include conducting prequalification interviews, conducting formal application interviews, verifying income, asset and legal information generated from Program applications, ordering title reports and addressing title-related issues, performing and evaluating lead-based paint assessments, and creating lead, rehabilitation and weatherization scopes of work and cost estimates.

The Program is targeting completing a minimum 15 to 20 housing rehabilitation projects within the City's corporate limits. The Union Gap Housing Rehabilitation Program is substantially funded by a Community Development Block Grant from the Washington State Office of Community Development, with the remaining funding provided by the City of Union Gap.

Additional information may be obtained by contacting Gene Weinmann, YVCOG Housing Coordinator at (509) 574-1550.



ArcGIS Explorer Brings the World of GIS to Everyone's Desktop

By Rick Spada, GIS Analyst

Have you ever wanted to make your own maps? Manipulate and perform analysis with GIS spatial data? Well now people without GIS skills can with ArcGIS Explorer.



ArcGIS Explorer is beginning to gain the interest of GIS users and non-users everywhere. ArcGIS Explorer provides an easy-to-use way to view and share geographic services. Anyone can now download ArcGIS Explorer from www.esri.com/arcgisexplorer and start unlocking the power of geographic content and geographic analysis. The ArcGIS Explorer software is free, and freely distributable, making it a great way to share maps and GeoWeb (www.geoweb.org/) services with others.

Once users have downloaded ArcGIS Explorer, they can start using a variety of free maps and data layers available on ArcGIS Online (www.esri.com/software/arcgis/about/online_gis.html). These maps and layers are provided by ESRI (www.esri.com) free of charge and include imagery, topographic maps, physical features, shaded relief, street maps, and more. ArcGIS Online content can be easily combined with local data or with other Web services from different servers to create custom maps, which in turn can be easily shared with others.

ESRI just introduced a new content Resource Center. The Resource Center helps users find and utilize maps and layers; learn tips and tricks from the ArcGIS Explorer blog; participate in discussion forums; and share their maps with others.

ArcGIS Explorer is ideal for situations where GIS users share data with people who are not GIS experts. It is designed to be downloaded onto personal PCs and desktops. Anyone who has interest in using ArcGIS Explorer can go to the ArcGIS website and teach themselves how to use the software and access the data. It is that easy. If you have any questions please feel free to contact me at 509-574-1550.

Your YVCOG Staff:

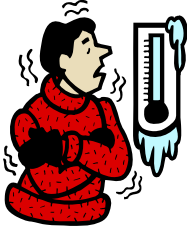
J. Page Scott, Executive Director
Brian Curtin, CTR Coordinator
Vacant, Senior Planner
Drew Miller, Senior Transportation Planner
Saadia Hassan, Planner
Richard Spada, GIS Analyst/Systems Administrator
Gene E. Weinmann, Housing Rehab Coordinator
Jim Dixon, Housing Rehab Building Inspector
Tamara Hayward,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



Just Wondering...about cold starts

by Brian Curtin, CTR Program Coordinator

It's hard to get worked up about the effects of "cold starts" when I gaze out the window at the beautiful fall foliage and enjoy the balmy 70 degree weather that this afternoon has to offer. But it won't stay this way for long; the long, cold days of winter are nearly upon us and that always gets me to thinking about the effects of cold starting my engine.



The term "Cold Start" does not necessarily have anything to do with the outside temperature but this is a great time to talk about it anyway.

These days some starts are far colder than others. What the term refers to is when a vehicle is started with a completely cool engine. This typically occurs when you start your car each morning or at the end of the day as you leave from work for home. Different levels of pollutants are emitted at different times during vehicle operation. The greatest levels of pollutants occur when the catalytic converter is cool. According to the Federal Laboratory Consortium for Technology Transfer (FLC), it takes a car at least two minutes to reach the working temperature of the catalytic converter (527 degrees F). During this two minute period, 60-80% of your engine's pollutants are emitted. In addition, a cold start creates 80% more unhealthy hydrocarbons than when the car engine is warm.

What can you do to limit your cold starts? One simple solution is to plan your schedule to combine trips. For example, on your way home from work try to run a few errands before you arrive home. Or when meeting for lunch, offer to pick up your lunch mate on the way rather than going in separate cars (or better yet, walk). The most effective solution to this problem is quite simple; don't start your engine at all! Choose an alternative to driving your car; carpool, vanpool, ride transit. For your shorter commutes use a healthy alternative like walking or the most efficient transportation of all, the bicycle. And don't forget; if you participate in an approved CTR activity such as carpooling or vanpooling, you can rely on a Guaranteed Ride Home (GRH) in the event you are stranded at work or need an emergency ride home.

So, the article is complete and I can get back to watching leaves turn colors. It won't be long before the snowflakes begin to fall and then I'll be just wondering...

"Snow day anyone?"



Changes Proposed for HUD Funded Programs Administered by CTED

By Saadia Hassan, Planner

The four major Housing and Urban Development (HUD) funded programs administered by the state Department of Community, Trade and Economic Development (CTED) are the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), HOME investment partnership (HOME) program, Emergency shelter grants (ESG) and the Housing Opportunities for Persons With AIDS (HOPWA) program. Based on an evaluation of program performance and stakeholder consultation, CTED proposed a number of changes to be implemented in the coming years in their 2008 action plan. While all four programs proposed to make minor changes, the more significant proposed changes impact the CDBG Program. The changes are as follows:

- The HOME-funded Manufactured Housing Homeownership Assistance (MHHA) program is considering targeting funding to high-need areas in the state during this first year, pilot phase of the program.
- The MHNA is also considering the option of providing rental assistance to homeowners displaced from closing mobile home parks/manufactured home communities.
- Awards of HOME General Purpose (GP) program funds will be coordinated with the state funded Housing Trust Fund (HTF) and/or Homeless Grant Assistance Program (HGAP).
- The CDBG program is proposing consolidating the Community Investment Fund and Housing Rehabilitation Grants into the General Purpose Grants to streamline application processes and respond to staffing capacity.
- The CDBG Planning-Only Grant application submittal and review process would be streamlined, eliminating the pre-application stage and changing from a year-round to a semi-annual application cycle.
- The CDBG program is proposing offering an alternative Community Income Survey methodology to allow facilities that typically provide services to low- and moderate-income persons but are open to the public, to survey clients from the previous 12 months to establish 51% LMI.

For more information about these programs or the proposed changes, please contact Kristen Nieto, CTED, at kristenn@cted.wa.gov.

YVCOG Meetings...



November...

MPO/RTPO Technical Advisory Committee

Thursday, November 8, 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

Monday, November 19, 2007 - 1:30 p.m.
311 North 4th Street, Suite 202
(The 300 Building)
Yakima, WA

December...

YVCOG General Membership Meeting

Wednesday, December 12, 2007 - 6:30 p.m.
Yakima Convention Center
Yakima, WA

MPO/RTPO Technical Advisory Committee

Thursday, December 13, 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

Monday, December 17, 2007 - 1:30 p.m.
311 North 4th Street, Suite 202
(The 300 Building)
Yakima, WA

Meeting Highlights....

MPO/RTPO Executive Committee

October 15, 2007:

- Title VI Update Report completed and forwarded to WSDOT.
- Approved 2007-2009 MTIP 2007 October Amendment-Determination of Air Quality by Resolution 2007-9.
- Approved 2007-2009 MTIP 2007 October Amendment-Findings by Resolution 2007-10.

YVCOG Executive Committee

October 15, 2007:

- Recruitment for Senior Planner position opened October 18, 2007.
- Approved preliminary September Budget Report.
- Approved October vouchers for \$80,064.59.

YVCOG General Membership

October 17, 2007:

- Approved 2008 YVCOG Budget by Resolution 2007-4.
- Approved amendment to YVCOG Bylaws, effective January 1, 2008.

TITLE VI Notice to the Public

YVCOG fully complies with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and related statutes and regulations in all programs and activities. For more information, or to obtain a Title VI Complaint Form, see <http://www.yvcog.org/title6.pdf> or call (509) 574-1550.

YOU ARE INVITED!

***What:** YVCOG General Membership Meeting*

***Where:** Yakima Convention Center*

10 North 8th Street, Rooms A & B, Yakima

***When:** Wednesday, December 12, 2007*

6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. (Dinner at 7:00 p.m.)

Reservations are due no later than Monday, December 3, 2007

*Please **RSVP** to Judy at 509-574-1550 or email to pricej@yvcog.org*