



**MEMBER JURISDICTIONS:**

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

**YVCOG EXECUTIVE  
COMMITTEE:**

John Hodkinson, Chair  
*Regional Planning Commission*  
James A. Restucci, Vice Chair  
*Sunnyside City Council*  
Velva Herrera  
*Mayor, Mabton*  
Mike Leita  
*Yakima County Commission*  
Norm Johnson  
*Yakima City Council*  
Dan Olson  
*Union Gap City Council*  
Loren Belton  
*Mayor, Toppenish*



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)

**Sharing Good News in Washington D.C.**

*By Page Scott, Executive Director*

On February 4 & 5, YVCOG Executive Director, Page Scott, joined other Yakima Valley representatives in Washington D.C. to meet with Senators Patty Murray and Maria Cantwell and Representative Doc Hastings. The purpose of these visits was to talk about all the good work that our local coalitions DRYVE and TRANS-Action are doing to help identify and prioritize transportation needs.

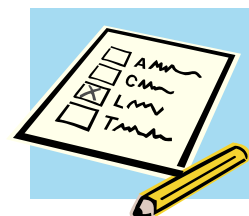


Pictured above (from left to right): Trent Marquis, TRANS-Action Chair; Rand Elliot, Yakima County Commissioner; Senator Patty Murray; Page Scott, YVCOG Executive Director; Norm Johnson, Yakima City Councilmember; Michael Morales, City of Yakima, Economic Development Manager; Aubrey Reeves, former Mayor of Union Gap.

**Have you completed the  
Public Transportation Survey?**

*By Page Scott, Executive Director*

REMINDER: At the YVCOG General Membership meeting on March 19 in Grandview, YVCOG members will be presented information about public transportation options and asked what their communities' thoughts are about the need for expanding public transportation service in the Yakima Valley.



To ensure a meaningful dialog at the March 19 YVCOG General Membership meeting, the transit sub-committees of DRYVE and TRANS-Action have asked for your input: *What questions would you like to have addressed? What are you hearing in your communities, from your friends and family members, about the need for transportation services?*

Please take a few moments to share your thoughts and complete a brief survey so that the discussion on March 19 can be focused to address the issues you are most interested in. The survey can be accessed from the YVCOG home page at [www.yvcog.org](http://www.yvcog.org) or at this web address:

[www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=HWwc\\_2bG91xoAr\\_2fE\\_2fciQfAKA\\_3d\\_3](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=HWwc_2bG91xoAr_2fE_2fciQfAKA_3d_3).

For more information about TRANS-Action, DRYVE, public transportation options, or the YVCOG General Membership meeting, please contact J. Page Scott, Executive Director by phone (509.574.1550) or email ([scottp@yvcog.org](mailto:scottp@yvcog.org))

## Reducing Engine Idling at Truck Stops

By Drew Miller, Senior Planner

About 500,000 heavy duty long-haul diesel trucks with sleeper cabs travel the United States. The drivers of these trucks are required to take safety rest periods at truck stops or rest areas everyday. Truck drivers generally leave their engines running during these rest periods



to provide power for heat, air conditioning and other systems. Diesel exhaust from engine idling contains substances that are harmful to human health. These include tiny particles known as "fine particulate matter" and are of particular concern in the Yakima Valley. These particles are so small that they can be inhaled deep into the lungs, where they can cause serious health problems. Health studies have shown that diesel exhaust contributes to chronic respiratory problems such as asthma, and may cause cancer.

Aside from reducing air pollution, cutting back on idling would reduce fuel and maintenance costs for truck owners, reduce dependence on foreign oil, and even enhance the safety and comfort of the drivers by lessening vibration and noise during rest periods. It is estimated that the idling of long-haul trucks burns nearly a billion gallons of diesel a year.

New technologies are just becoming available that allow truck drivers to turn off their main propulsion engine when parked, and still get the power they need to operate onboard systems. One such technology is Truck Electrified Parking (TEP). TEP provides grid-supplied electrical power through electrical outlets mounted on pedestals at the parking space. Trucks can plug in to these outlets at truck stops and rest areas and receive the power needed to operate heating, air conditioning and other electrical appliances such as televisions, microwaves and refrigerators. The necessary equipment needed on trucks to use TEP is minimal and truckers are able to plug in to the electric service for around \$1 an hour, as opposed to \$3 for a gallon of diesel, the amount they would typically burn while idling for an hour.

The federal EPA has awarded the Department of Ecology a grant to establish 75 electrified parking spaces at three commercial truck stops in Washington. Oregon also received a grant to install TEP at four truck stops. The Oregon and Washington projects combined will save six million gallons of fuel and \$12 million in net fuel costs over a five-year period, assuming the plug-ins are used just 50% of the time.



## YVCOG Chair and Vice Chair Elected!

The YVCOG Executive Committee elected John Hodgkinson as Chair and Jim Restucci as Vice Chair at their meeting on February 20th.

Congratulations, John and Jim!

## WSDOT Issues Safe Routes and Ped/Bike Safety Call for Projects

By Drew Miller, Senior Planner

The Washington State Department of Transportation has released a Safe Routes to School and Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety grant call for projects.



The Safe Routes to School Grants were established to increase the number of children walking and biking to and from school safely. Safe Routes to School project proposals are due to WSDOT by May 2, 2008.

A separate call for projects, due to WSDOT on May 9, 2008, is available for the Pedestrian & Bicycle Safety grant program. The Pedestrian & Bicycle Safety grants were established to address the nearly 400 statewide fatal and injury collisions involving pedestrians and bicycles each year.

For more information on both grant programs please refer to the WSDOT project webpage at: [http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/bike/Safe\\_Routes\\_Program.htm](http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/bike/Safe_Routes_Program.htm).

## CTED Short Course on Local Planning

By Saadia Hassan, Planner

The Washington State Department of Community Trade and Economic Development's Growth Management Services provides planning assistance to local communities through a Short Course on Local Planning. This three-hour workshop covers the legal basis of planning in Washington State, explains the basics of comprehensive planning and plan implementation, and discusses the role of the planning commission.

The Short Course is co-sponsored by the Planning Association of Washington and there is no charge to attend (or sponsor) a course session. Courses are scheduled at the request of local communities, and are always open to the public.

If you have questions about holding a short course in your community contact Dave Catterson, Short Course manager at 360-725-3049 or e-mail at [DaveC@cted.wa.gov](mailto:DaveC@cted.wa.gov).

Copies of the Short Course Manual are available on CD. To request a copy of the CD e-mail Crystal Harper at [CrystalH@cted.wa.gov](mailto:CrystalH@cted.wa.gov).

## Wapato 2006 Housing Program Nears Completion

By Gene Weinmann, Housing Coordinator

The City of Wapato's 2006 Housing Rehabilitation Program is nearing completion, having assisted 16 City of Wapato families with housing rehabilitation, weatherization and lead hazard interim control work.

The Program completed 16 rehabilitation projects, 9 lead hazard projects and 9 weatherization projects, investing approximately \$595,000 in improving the City's housing stock and ensuring the continued retention of healthy and safe low-income homes.



The 2006 Wapato Housing Rehabilitation Program targeted assisting 15-20 Wapato families with housing rehabilitation. The Program was partially funded by a 2006 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) from the

Washington State Office of Community, Trade and Economic Development (CTED) with the remainder of the funds provided by contributions from Program participants and City funds.

The City of Wapato and the Yakima Valley Conference of Governments (YVCOG) have enjoyed an extremely successful long-term partnership, having conducted 9 housing rehabilitation programs since 1986, remodeling a total of 257 homes and directly impacting approximately 1,043 Wapato residents.

The YVCOG has been developing and administering housing rehabilitation and weatherization programs since 1984, and offers a variety of housing rehabilitation-related assistance to interested communities, ranging from identifying funding and developing grant applications to creating and administering customized low-income housing rehabilitation programs. The programs target health and safety problems, housing overcrowding, and structural and visual dilapidation of low-income, single-family homes. Typical program benefits include preservation of low-income housing stock, improved family health, reduced heating and cooling costs, neighborhood beautification and a strengthened tax base.

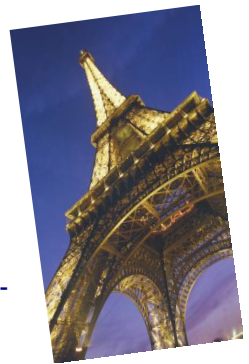
Additional information regarding YVCOG-administered housing rehabilitation programs may be obtained by contacting Gene Weinmann, YVCOG Housing Rehab Coordinator at (509) 574-1550.



## A New Commute Could Have You Saying "Bonjour, Paris"!

By Brian Curtin, CTR Coordinator

Join thousands of others across the state and choose not to drive alone to work at least twice during Wheel Options, March 9-22. Then, log your commutes at [www.WheelOptions.org](http://www.WheelOptions.org) and you could win a Trip to Paris for two! The prize includes airfare, accommodations and the insights and experiences of a Rick Steves Tour! ***C'est fantastique!***



By using a Wheel Option - instead of driving alone to work - you reduce traffic congestion and improve air quality. And, with a gallon of gas costing \$3.00, you can save yourself some money while you help to save the planet... ***tres magnifique!***

Wheel Options include: carpooling and vanpooling, riding the bus or bicycling or walking to work, working from home or simply not commuting because of your compressed work week schedule.



Of course, not everyone will win the trip to Paris, that's why there are more than 20 other statewide prizes including a special carpool/vanpool prize: a flat screen TV, DVD player and a one-year subscription to NetFlix. This prize will be awarded to a carpooler or van-

pooler who registers to find more rideshare partners at [www.RideshareOnline.com](http://www.RideshareOnline.com)

In addition to the statewide prizes, there will be over 30 prizes available to local participants of Wheel Options. You can find the complete list of local prizes elsewhere in this newsletter.

All participants are eligible for a two-for-one Victoria San Juan Island Cruise, from Bellingham to beautiful Victoria, B.C. Now that's a ***Bon Voyage!***

Your Employee Transportation Coordinator (ETC) can help you find the commute that's right for you. They can answer questions about bus schedules, or assist you in mapping out a walking or biking route.

Wheel Options is proudly sponsored by the Washington State Rideshare Organization and the Yakima Valley Conference of Governments. For additional information regarding Wheel Options visit [www.wheeloptions.org](http://www.wheeloptions.org) or call Brian Curtin, CTR Program Coordinator at 509-574-1550.

# wheel Options

your trip, your way.  
It's wheel rewarding!

## **Local Prizes!!!**

**Greystone Restaurant Gift Certificate**

**Santiago's Restaurant Gift Certificate**

**Big 5 Sporting Goods Gift Certificate**

**Inklings Bookstore Gift Certificates (10)**

**Yakima Bears Baseball Tickets (10 pr.)**

**Movie Bucks (10)**



**ENTER ONLINE AT:**

**WWW.WHEELOPTIONS.ORG**

**Exercise your options and win a trip for two to Paris, France!**

From March 9th to the 22nd say *Aurivoir!* to your solo commute and *Bon Jour!* to carpool, vanpool, ride the bus, bike or walk to work during **Wheel Options!** You may even be able to compress your work schedule or work from home. Pick the choice that's best for you and discover a more relaxed commute. And what's more relaxing than a **visit to the Louvre or the Eiffel Tower?** That's one of the great prizes you can win for participating just twice during the two week event. For more information contact your Employee Transportation Coordinator or contact Brian Curtin, YVCOG CTR program coordinator-Phone 574-1550 or email at: [curtinb@yvco.org](mailto:curtinb@yvco.org).

## The Best Places to Buy PCs, etc.

By Rick Spada GIS Analyst/Systems Administrator

In my humble opinion, the best place to buy desktop and laptop PCs is still Dell. The competition might be pecking away at Dell's market share, but it's still your system maker of choice. The company decided to use AMD processors in its desktops and notebooks for the first time. That is a good thing in my estimation. Couple that move with the expansion of its XPS line of high-performance systems, and Dell now offers as broad a range of configurations as any PC maker out there.

The runners up for best places to buy PC's are: Newegg.com, Best Buy, Tiger Direct, CompUSA and Fry's Electronics.

Again, in my opinion, the best place to buy computer core components, peripherals and software is Newegg.com; the go-to site for buying PC add-ons—anything from power supplies to color laser printers. Not only does the online store house more products than any retail store, but it also features thousands upon thousands of user ratings and reviews that can help shoppers with their purchase decisions.

The runners up are: Best Buy, CompUSA, Fry's Electronics and TigerDirect.

### YVCOG Newsletter Available by: Mail—Email—YVCOG Web Page

By Judy Price, Office Specialist

In August 2007, the YVCOG's monthly newsletter became available in several different formats: Mail, Email, and in pdf. This change has proven to be a very cost-efficient method of relaying up-to-date information on YVCOG programs and activities of interest to our members and others.



If you know of someone who would like to receive the YVCOG newsletter, please ask them to contact me at [pricej@yvcog.org](mailto:pricej@yvcog.org), or at 509.574.1550.

**Happy Reading!!**

### Correction Notice...

By Saadia Hassan, Planner

In the February 2008 newsletter the article titled "NPDES Phase II: Municipal Storm Water Permits Issued" reported that Yakima County is tasked to perform permit compliance tasks under this initiative for the cities of Yakima, Sunnyside, Union Gap, and Selah. However, it has come to our attention that the City of Selah is not among them. While they are designated as a permit compliance area by the Department of Ecology, the City is currently implementing the NPDES Phase II individually.

## MARCH MEETINGS...



**MPO/RTPO Technical Advisory Committee**  
Thursday, March 13, 2008  
311 North 4th Street, Suite 202  
Yakima, WA

**YVCOG Executive Committee &  
MPO/RTPO Executive Committee & Policy Board**

Monday, March 17, 2008 at 1:30 p.m.  
311 North 4th Street, Suite 202  
(The 300 Building)  
Yakima, WA



**YVCOG General Membership Meeting**  
Wednesday, March 19, 2008 at 6:30 p.m.  
The Vineyard  
150 Division Street  
Grandview, WA



**Program: How Does Your Community Feel  
About Public Transportation?**

To RSVP, please call Judy at 509-574-1550  
or email at [pricej@yvcog.org](mailto:pricej@yvcog.org) by March 12th.  
Cancellation deadline is March 14th. Thank you!

YVCOG General Membership reservation policy: YVCOG is obligated to honor the head count given to caterers and restaurants, therefore, if you do not cancel your reservation by the published deadline, you will receive an invoice for the cost of the meal. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated. Thank you.

### 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



### 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.