



**MEMBER JURISDICTIONS:**

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

**YVCOG EXECUTIVE  
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James A. Restucci, Vice Chair  
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Mike Leita  
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Norm Johnson  
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*Mayor, Toppenish*  
Velva Herrera  
*Mayor, Mabton*



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***YVCOG Plans Ahead to Address Climate Change***

*By Drew Miller, Senior Transportation Planner*

The YVCOG is preparing for how best to incorporate new state and anticipated federal climate change policies into long-range regional transportation and growth management planning, as well as how best to capitalize on the region's growing economy and the jobs it creates. The recently concluded 2008 Washington State Legislative session saw a flurry of activity addressing climate change with the passage of ESSB 6580 and ESSHB 2815. These bills build off actions taken in 2007 with the passage of ESSB 6001 and the Governor's Executive Order 07-02 Setting Greenhouse Emissions Goals.

Emerging planning practices to address climate change are following two tracks: adaptation, which is determining how to adapt current infrastructure to a warmer climate, and mitigation, which focuses on slowing climate change through reduced emissions.

According to 2004 data, transportation accounted for 28 percent of greenhouse gas emissions in the U.S. and 45 percent of greenhouse gas emissions in Washington State. Nationally, transportation accounts for a lower share of emissions due to the prevalence of coal-based electric power, which emits higher amounts of greenhouse gases than the hydroelectric power used in Washington.

Possible impacts of climate change in Washington and the Yakima Valley could include:

- Milder winters, warmer summers
- More rain, less snow October through March
- Decline in water supplies July through October
- Changes in growing seasons, impacts to crops
- Decreased air quality
- Declines in salmon, native plants, wetlands

*Source: Washington State Department of Ecology, UW Climate Impacts Group*

Impacts to transportation infrastructure include:

- Accelerated deterioration of roadways
- Flooding, increased stormwater issues
- Bridge damage
- Rail buckling
- Reduction in aircraft life and efficiency due to higher temperatures

*Source: USDOT, U.S. Climate Change Science Program, Pew Center on Global Climate Change*

To mitigate climate change in terms of transportation, reducing emissions involves three types of programs: vehicle efficiency, alternative fuels, and demand reduction (vehicle miles traveled). Combining these approaches offers greater opportunities and added flexibility to reduce emissions. Other mitigation efforts include re-vegetation, use of renewable resources, and sustainable development practices.

The YVCOG is working to integrate climate change policies and considerations into each of its regional planning functions: growth management, transportation and data management/forecasting. YVCOG has included working on climate change issues in the Draft 2009 Unified Planning and Work Program (UPWP) that is currently available for review on the YVCOG website.

Climate change will be a key issue for the next scheduled update to the region's long-range transportation plan. The plan will examine climate change mitigation and adaptation measures, energy consumption issues, and ways to meet the state emission reduction goals.

YVCOG will also work to ensure that the travel demand model is able to more accurately answer questions related to the impacts on climate change from various strategies such as travel demand management and land use changes for evaluating alternatives to consider in long-range plans. YVCOG is also working with FHWA and the EPA on access to the new, improved emissions model (MOVES) to analyze carbon dioxide emissions by varying speeds.

For growth management planning activities YVCOG will ensure that communities are taking advantage of new CTED requirements in the recently passed ESSB 6580 which require the Department to provide cities with a range of advisory climate change response methodologies and estimates of greenhouse gas emissions reductions resulting from local land use changes. For advisory purposes only, during RTPO certification and consistency reviews of local agency transportation elements of the comprehensive plan, YVCOG will also note if climate change is being addressed.

**Meet Sarah!!** *The new friendly voice at YVCOG.*

Sarah Hyndman started work on Monday, April 21 and will be at the front desk at YVCOG, Monday's through Thursday's from 8 a.m. to Noon.

Sarah was born and raised in the Yakima Valley. Recently, she has been working both at her family's automotive restoration facility and as a temporary office assistant for the Yakima Regional Clean Air Authority. She is a graduate of Naches Valley High School and Central Washington University with a Bachelor's Degree in Law and Justice and a minor in Paralegal Studies.

We are very lucky to have her with us. Please join us in welcoming Sarah to the YVCOG!



**EMS Trauma Care Council Seeks YVCOG Representative**

*By J. Page Scott, Executive Director*



The Yakima County Emergency Medical Service (EMS) Trauma Care Council includes a voting membership for one YVCOG representative. For the past 12

years, the YVCOG representative has been Al Hubert from Toppenish. At the April 21, 2008 YVCOG Executive Committee, Al provided a briefing on the EMS Trauma Care Council and their responsibilities.

Are you interested in serving on this council and representing YVCOG membership agencies? If so, please contact Judy Price ([pricej@yvcog.org](mailto:pricej@yvcog.org)) or Page Scott ([scottp@yvcog.org](mailto:scottp@yvcog.org)) and we can add your name to the list of nominees.

**Selection of a YVCOG representative will be made at the May 21, 2008 YVCOG General Membership meeting at Mt. Adams Country Club in Toppenish.**



**75<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of AWC**

*By Saadia Hassan, Planner*

Association of Washington Cities' (AWC) annual conference is being held in Yakima this year from June 18 to 20 with preconference activities and workshops on June 17.

This annual conference offers practical learning for everyone and the basics for newly elected officials. Strategy setting roundtables are offered for sharing ideas and swapping experiences. Focused sessions and case studies that highlight best practices from the peers facilitate learning from the experts.

The very first AWC conference was held in Yakima and this year, to mark its 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary the organization is planning lots of extra special touches and aiming to make it the best conference ever. These include the new addition of the 'Parade of Flags' event. It is a great opportunity to unite all cities by showing off their colors and celebrate everything that makes Washington's cities so great.

For detailed information and registration please visit the annual conference homepage at the AWC website at <http://www.awcnet.org/awccconf08/index.htm> .

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## Local Prize Winners!!!

**Greystone Restaurant Gift Certificate-**  
**Byron Roberts, WSDOT**

**Santiago's Restaurant Gift Certificate-**  
**William Yarbrough, WSDOT**

**Big 5 Sporting Goods Gift Certificate-**  
**Richard Pewtress, WSDOT**

**Inklings Bookstore Gift Certificates (10)-**  
**Billy Gardner, WSDOT ■ Nancy McCombs,**  
**YVFWC ■ Patricia Crane, WSDOT ■ An-**  
**drea Hinojosa, Yakima County ■ Heidi**  
**Riojas, City of Toppenish ■ Vicki Adams,**  
**Yakima County ■ Rick Roeder, Ecology ■**  
**Janice Richards, Yakima Regional Hospi-**  
**tal ■ Julie Heilman-Suarez, WSDOT**

**Yakima Bears Baseball Tickets (10 pr.)-**  
**Bill Katzenberg, WSDOT ■ Robert Hicks,**  
**WSDOT ■ Ryan Kukes, WSDOT ■ Earlene**  
**Knudson, WSDOT ■ Dee Kilgore, YVFWC**  
**■ Greg Fields, Alexandria Moulding ■**  
**Modesto Rosales, Alexandria Moulding**  
**■ Ron Warner, WSDOT ■ Greg Barstad,**  
**Irwin Research ■ Jeff Sommerville,**  
**WSDOT**

**Movie Bucks (10)-Tom Rushton, WSDOT**  
**■ Jessie DeLeon, Alexandria Moulding ■**  
**Teresa Mitchell, Ecology ■ Jason Smith,**  
**WSDOT ■ Lawrence Watters, City of**  
**Yakima ■ Eric Hartwig, Ecology ■ Mary**  
**Hipolito, YVFWC ■ Wayne Davis, WSDOT**  
**■ Larry Buchanan, WSDOT ■ Carrol**  
**Gobel, YVFWC**



**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

**WWW.WHEELOPTIONS.ORG**



## Toppenish Housing Program Progresses

By Gene Weinmann, Housing Coordinator

The City of Toppenish's 2007 Housing Rehabilitation Program has been extremely successful, having approved and awarded 17 projects (6 rehabilitation, 5 weatherization and 6 lead hazard) to contractors and having completed 11 of the projects (4 rehabilitation, 3 weatherization and 4 lead hazard) to date.

The 2007 Program offers Owner-Occupied Rehabilitation, Lead Hazard and Weatherization loans to qualified Toppenish residents. Loans are separated into two basic categories, Standard and Elderly. Standard loans require monthly payments ranging from \$40.00 to \$75.00 and require repayment of only 60% of the portion of the project funded by CDBG funds. Elderly loans require monthly payments ranging from \$25.00 to \$60.00 and require repayment of only 50% of the portion of the project funded by CDBG funds. Both loan types are 0% interest.

The 2007 Program represents the second housing partnership between the City of Toppenish and the Yakima Valley Conference of Governments (YVCOG). The YVCOG's role is that of a project administration manager, directing all project administration and construction management elements of the Program. Funding is provided by a 2007 Community Development Block Grant from the Washington State Department of Community, Trade and Economic Development (CTED) and by City of Toppenish funds.

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

## MAY Meetings...

**Cancelled**—MPO/RTPO Technical Advisory Committee  
Thursday, May 8, 2008  
311 North 4th Street, Suite 202  
Yakima, WA

YVCOG Executive Committee &  
MPO/RTPO Executive Committee & Policy Board  
Monday, May 19, 2008 at 1:30 p.m.  
The 300 Building  
311 North 4th Street, Suite 202  
Yakima, WA

YVCOG General Membership Meeting  
Wednesday, May 21, 2008 at 6:30 p.m.  
Mt. Adams Country Club  
1250 Rocky Ford Road  
Toppenish, WA  
(South of Toppenish on Hwy 97)

To RSVP, please call Judy at 509-574-1550 or email her at [pricej@yvcog.org](mailto:pricej@yvcog.org) by May 13th. Cancellation deadline is March 16th. 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  
Sarah Hyndman, Office Technician

## 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.

## “Bike Your Way to a Bigger and Better Brain!!”

Brian Curtin, CTR Coordinator

There's nothing like a sensational headline to get your attention. Now that I have it (your attention that is), it's time to talk about National Bike Month! As it has for the last 49 years, the League of American Bicyclists ([www.bikeleague.org](http://www.bikeleague.org)) has declared May as National Bike Month and specifically, May 16<sup>th</sup> as National Bike To Work Day. H.G. Wells said it best when he stated, “When I see an adult on a bicycle, I do not despair for the future of the human race.” I'm not sure Mr. Wells had Commute Trip Reduction on his mind when he uttered those profound words, but what the heck, with a little poetic license we can certainly make it fit with the concepts of CTR. When I see a car with more than one commuter in it; when I see a transit bus filled with patrons; when I see someone walking (rather than driving) to a local deli at lunch time; when I see a vanpool on I-82 headed towards Hanford; you get the idea, I do not despair for the future of the human race.



Of all the commute mode options, bicycling is by far the most efficient. For example, pound for pound biking uses less energy per mile than any animal or machine; the second most efficient, the salmon, uses twice as much. A car consumes 8000 calories of petroleum energy to go 6 miles while a bicyclist only consumes 210 calories. And where is that energy directed? Ninety-five percent of the energy goes towards pushing the car—not the cargo/passengers; about 80% of the energy goes towards moving the cargo/passenger on the bike. Besides being the most ecologically sound choice for commuting, it is also the top choice for your physical as well as fiscal health. Sure, you can outfit yourself like Greg Lamond and cruise on a bike that cost more than my first house. But for commuting to work, you might be more comfortable riding a Pee Wee Herman bike. Just like we said last month during Wheel Options weeks, it's all about choices. For those of you who are thinking (or shouting at me through the page of this newsletter), “riding a bicycle to work just isn't practical for me.” Again, you have options: Bike to a bus stop and take the bus the rest of the way to work; drive to a park-and-ride and cycle to work from there; bike to a co-worker's and carpool from there. Your choices are unlimited.



OK, I can hear you saying, “Let's get back to the reason I started reading this article in the first place, what about those bigger and better brains?” Well, here goes: A University of Illinois study published in the February 2003 issue of the Journal of Gerontology: Medical Sciences, found an inverse relationship between physical fitness and brain density/shrinkage in the three key areas of the brain adversely affected by aging. In other words, the better shape you are in, the denser, bigger, and more efficient your brain. So make a promise to yourself, for that bigger and better brain, make the choice to leave the car at home and give bicycling a try. For more information about the benefits of bicycling as well as the rules of the road and safety tips visit these websites: [www.bikemonth.com](http://www.bikemonth.com) , and [www.wsdot.wa.gov/bike/bike\\_to\\_work.htm](http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/bike/bike_to_work.htm).



## 2008 STP Regional Funding Awarded

J. Page Scott, Executive Director

In 2007, the Yakima Valley MPO/RTPO Executive Committee implemented a new process for distributing Surface Transportation Program (STP) funds within our region. This new process prioritized a list of regional transportation improvement projects based on criteria and rules developed by Yakima Valley MPO/RTPO Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and approved by the Yakima Valley MPO/RTPO Executive Committee.

On April 19, 2008, the Executive Committee approved the four regional projects selected last year to move forward with Regional STP funds as soon as they are able. As always, the YVCOG is pleased to assist our member jurisdictions in securing the necessary funding to meet their program goals. Additional information regarding these projects may be obtained by contacting Drew Miller, YVCOG Senior Planner at (509) 574-1550.