



MEMBER JURISDICTIONS:

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

**YVCOG EXECUTIVE
COMMITTEE:**

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



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**YAKIMA COUNTY SOLID WASTE
DIVISION PROPOSED 2009 RATES**

By Sarah Hyndman, Office Specialist

At the YVCOG General Membership on Wednesday, September 17th in Sunnyside, Wendy Mifflin, Solid Waste Manager for Yakima County Public Services-Solid Waste Division, gave a presentation to our members on solid waste and the proposed new rates for 2009.

The rate study determines county-owned solid waste facilities rates for the coming year. They will be considered and adopted by the Yakima County Commissioners to become effective January 2009. In Yakima, the proposed rates will be increasing as of January 1st for garbage, yard waste, septage, tires, animals and asbestos.

The Board of County Commissioners will hold a Public Hearing on **Tuesday, October 7, 2008 at 10:30 a.m.** to take public comment on the new rates. If you have any questions or comments concerning the rate increase you may contact Ms. Mifflin at (509) 574-2455 or by email to wendy.mifflin@co.yakima.wa.us.



**ALL WEATHER ROADS
ROUNDTABLE PLANNED**

By Page Scott, Executive Director



Metropolitan Planning Organizations and Regional Transportation Planning Organizations (MPOs/RTPOs) in Washington are sponsoring a roundtable to emphasize the importance of a statewide all weather county road system.

Seasonal road closures affect a diverse group of people - growers, harvesters, shippers, distributors, and ultimately, consumers. The need for a statewide system of all weather county roads has been acknowledged in the Washington State Transportation Plan.

A discussion of all weather roads to help focus attention on the issue will take place on **Thursday, October 9th** at the Big Bend Community College Conference Center in Moses Lake. It is scheduled to last from 10:00 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. The purpose of the roundtable is to start a discussion to highlight and resolve issues associated with the maintenance and improvement of a statewide core all weather county road network.

AWR Planned...Continued on Page 2



AWR Planned...Continued from Page 1

Speakers include Barbara Ivanov, WSDOT Freight Systems Division Director and Jay Weber, Executive Director of the County Road Administration Board. A morning panel of various system users will highlight challenges involved in handling seasonal closures. An afternoon panel of agency representatives will discuss potential solutions.

If you have any questions concerning the meeting please contact Page Scott or Drew Miller at (509) 574-1550.



Call for Projects Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan for the Yakima County Region

By Page Scott, Executive Director

The Washington State Department of Transportation has released the Public Transportation Consolidated Grant Application for July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2011. You may access the grant forms and information at: http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/Transit/Grants/Consolidated_Application.htm.

In order to be eligible for this grant program, projects must be prioritized by the Regional Transportation Planning Organization (RTPO) and in the Yakima Valley region address the needs identified in the *Yakima County Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan*. If you are planning to apply for grant funds through the WSDOT Consolidated Grant Application, the projects must first be submitted to the RTPO for prioritization in the *Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan*.

Projects will be prioritized using the following criteria:

Preservation: Ensure that current transportation resources remain in place.

Coordination: Assure non-duplication and coordination of resources.

Unmet/Greatest Need: Meets the identified needs of the population.

Effectiveness/Cost Efficient: Transportation resources are available, accessible and adaptable to meet the needs. Transportation resources provide community savings.

Applicants need to submit a completed Project Form and Summary Form to the Yakima Valley Conference of Governments (YVCOG) **by 5:00 p.m. on October 20, 2008**. On October 28, 2008 at 8:30 a.m., the Yakima County Special Needs Coalition will meet at People for People to prioritize the projects submitted. Public Transportation Grant Applications are due to WSDOT on December 12, 2008.

For more information, please contact Page Scott at YVCOG, (509) 574-1550 or by email at scottp@yvcog.org.

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.



Washington Trivia Corner!!!

These are just some quirky fun facts about Washington State. We hope you learn something new!

1. What stayed aloft for eight hours, fifty-two minutes, without power?
2. Former University of Washington student Li Jun Fan became internationally known by what name?
3. Wealthy eccentric Sam Hill dedicated his home, now a prominent museum, to whom when it was completed?
4. Name the film starring Julie Christie and Warren Beatty set during Washington's Gold Rush?

See Page 4 for Answers

Déjà vu?...

by Brian Curtin,
CTR Program Coordinator

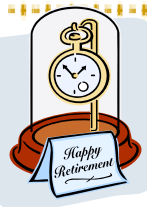


To quote the great Yogi Berra, "This is like déjà vu all over again." A mere two months ago I wrote an article concerning state governments, in this case the State of Utah, implementing a four day work week. And now I read in the Puget Sound Business Journal that our own Governor, Christine Gregoire, is doing the same in our state.

The plan will initially be a test run of a few state agencies which will include about 650 employees. An earlier article on MyNorthwest.com broke the story that the Governor was considering the move at the request from state employees. I would like to believe that it was my article that started this ball rolling, then again, maybe not.

The article states that the Governor hopes to save the state \$90 million through next summer utilizing a hiring freeze, the four day work week, as well as using more teleconferences, van-pooling and eliminating all state-issued cell phones (shouldn't be using them while commuting anyway). These are all CTR related strategies (well maybe not the hiring freeze and the cell phone thing) that can reduce highway congestion, improve air quality and save jurisdictions and employers money.

Now to quote our governor, "I am directing the state to take the lead in reducing consumption whenever possible through these common sense measures. Reducing energy use is good for our environment and good for our budget."



Time To Turn Over The Reins...

After 22 years at YVCOG, Judy Price has announced she will be retiring October 31st. Her position as Office Specialist was advertised and five very well-qualified candidates were interviewed on Tuesday, September 9th.

We are very pleased to announce that Sarah Hyndman has accepted the position. Most of you already know that Sarah has been working with us as an Extra Help employee since April.

Judy and Sarah are working fast and furiously to bring Sarah up to speed. **She is a welcome addition to the YVCOG family. Please join us in welcoming her!**

wheel Options

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



Local Prizes!!!

Greystone Restaurant Gift Certificate

Santiago's Restaurant Gift Certificate

Lowe's Gift Certificate

Valley Cycle and Fitness Gift Certificate

Inklings Bookstore Gift Certificates (10)

Movie Bucks (10)



ENTER ONLINE AT:

WWW.WHEELOPTIONS.ORG

Exercise your options and win a CASH PRIZE OF \$2500!

From October 12th to the 25th say goodbye to your solo commute and car-pool, 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. The prizes in the past have been great trips to Paris, London, Alaska, Mexico and other exotic places. What kind of plans could you cook up for yourself with a \$2500 Grand Prize? That's just 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 at (509) 574-1550 or by email at: curtinb@yvcog.org.



Funding to the Highway Trust Fund Restored

by Drew Miller, Senior Planner

On September 15th, President Bush signed legislation infusing \$8 billion into the highway trust fund that supports road and bridge projects around the country. The trust fund, which derives its revenue from the federal gas tax of 18.4 cents a gallon, or 24.3 cents for diesel, is being spent much faster than anticipated and the federal government would have had to begin delaying payments to states for construction work. This would have meant the loss of thousands of high-paying construction jobs.

Congress sent President Bush the bill just five days after Transportation Secretary Mary Peters announced that the trust fund, which enjoyed a \$10 billion surplus just three years ago, would run out of money in September. She urged quick action by Congress to restore solvency to the fund.

In July, after the House first passed the \$8 billion replenishment effort, the White House threatened a veto, saying taking money from the general fund was "both a gimmick and a dangerous precedent that shifts costs from users to taxpayers at large." Supporters of the transfer argued that the Treasury was merely returning \$8 billion it took from the then-prospering trust fund in 1998 for deficit reduction.

It has long been anticipated that the trust fund would move into the red next year, a result of the reluctance of Congress to raise the gasoline tax, unchanged since 1993 despite inflation and soaring construction costs. But the fund has recently had a rapid decline in fiscal fortune as drivers, responding to higher prices, have curtailed their driving and switched to more fuel-efficient vehicles.

The few opponents of the bill blamed the current crisis on the 6,300 earmarks - lawmakers' pet projects - worth some \$24 billion, included in the \$286 billion highway bill Congress passed in 2005. That bill expires next year and YVCOG will remain involved in the reauthorization process.

New Aerial Photos Update

By Rick Spada, GIS Analyst



I am happy to report that the new color aerial photos have been taken for Yakima County. I am working with the Yakima County Geographic Information System (GIS) department to process the new photos. ERDAS imaging software prepares the photos for use in a process called "image rectification." It is a transformation process which, when used in a GIS, converts images to a standard map coordinate system.

The aerial photos within the urban areas of the valley have a six inch resolution while the areas outside the urban areas have a one foot resolution. The higher resolution in the urban areas is needed to distinguish features in the more densely developed and developing areas around Yakima, Selah and Union Gap.

Transforming this valuable technical resource into a working piece of information for the public is very satisfying. Aerial photos truly are an important and popular piece of information in the worlds of Planning and GIS.

Be sure to watch the YVCOG newsletter, for future updates on these photos!



Washington Trivia Answers...

1. The sailplane Yakima Clipper.
2. Bruce Lee.
3. Queen Marie of Romania.
4. McCabe and Mrs. Miller.



It's A Girl!!!

By Sarah Hyndman, Office Specialist

Saadia Hassan, YVCOG's Planner, gave birth to a little girl, Sahar Shareen, on September 9th. Both Saadia and Sahar are home and doing very well. Congratulations to Saadia and her husband, Saiful.

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, Senior Accountant
- Judy Price, Office Specialist
- Sarah Hyndman, Office Specialist

October Meetings...

MPO/RTPO Technical Advisory Committee

Thursday, October 9, 2008 **CANCELLED**

YVCOG General Membership Meeting

Wednesday, October 15, 2008 at 6:30 p.m.
Granger's New Community Center
Granger, WA

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

Monday, October 20, 2008 at 1:30 p.m.
The 300 Building
311 North 4th Street, Suite 202
Yakima, WA