



MEMBER JURISDICTIONS:

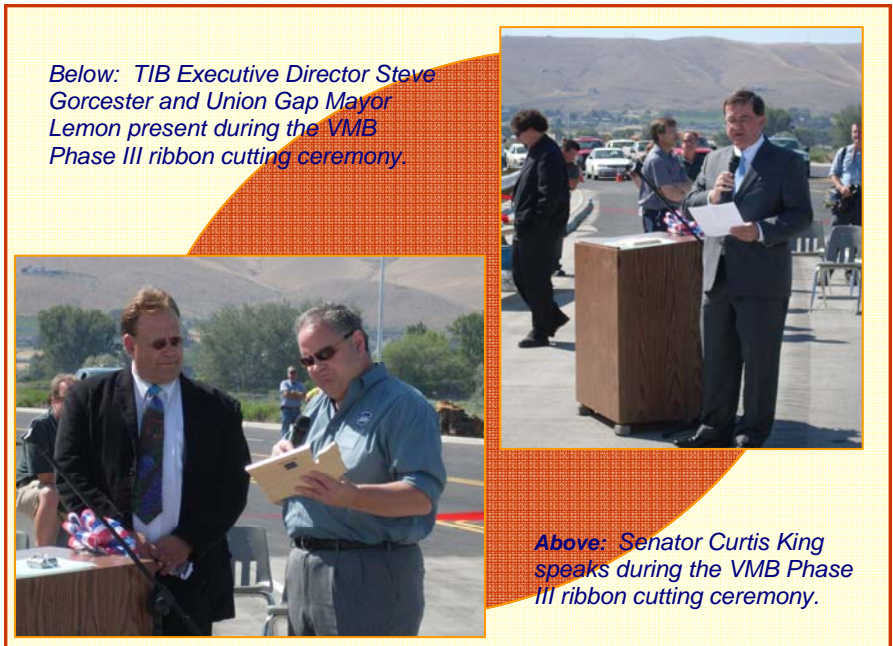
Grandview
Granger
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Moxee
Naches
Selah
Sunnyside
Tieton
Toppenish
Union Gap
Wapato
Yakima
Yakima County
Zillah

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Below: TIB Executive Director Steve Gorcester and Union Gap Mayor Lemon present during the VMB Phase III ribbon cutting ceremony.

Above: Senator Curtis King speaks during the VMB Phase III ribbon cutting ceremony.

Union Gap Celebrates Valley Mall Boulevard Phase III Opening

By Drew Miller, Senior Transportation Planner

On July 15, 2009 Union Gap officially opened the newest section of Valley Mall Boulevard (VMB). The new 1.5-mile extension connects with the first stretch of the new boulevard, completed in 2003 to South Third Avenue. The new extension extends VMB to the intersection of Sixteenth and Washington Avenue. VMB now creates a straight shot from I-82 to the Yakima Air Terminal.

The new extension is four lanes with protected left-turn lanes as well as two bridges across Wide Hollow Creek. The project also included utility upgrades. The total cost of the extension was estimated at \$15.5 million. The importance of completing VMB Phase III is underscored by the fact that there are still two more large projects scheduled for VMB. The first is a WSDOT project that will rework the VMB interchange at I-82 while the second is another City of Union Gap project to rebuild VMB from the I-82 interchange to Main Street with accompanying intersection improvements.

Right: Roadway section of the newly constructed VMB.





Short Course on Local Planning Coming to the Yakima Valley

By Drew Miller, Senior Transportation Planner

YVCOG is currently preparing to host a Regional Short Course on Local Planning. All are welcome to attend, especially Planning Commissioners and City Council members. Details are still being developed in cooperation with The Washington State Department of Commerce and the Washington Cities Insurance Authority. Three speakers are expected to discuss topics ranging from the role of the Planning Commission, Comprehensive Plan overview and implementation, and basic theories and regulations affecting land use planning at the local level.



Where: The Carl L. Stevens Senior Center
Grandview, WA
When: September 2nd from 6-9 pm.

For more information, contact Drew Miller at (509) 574-1550 or by email at millerd@yvcog.org.

Washington Trivia & Local Event Corner!!!

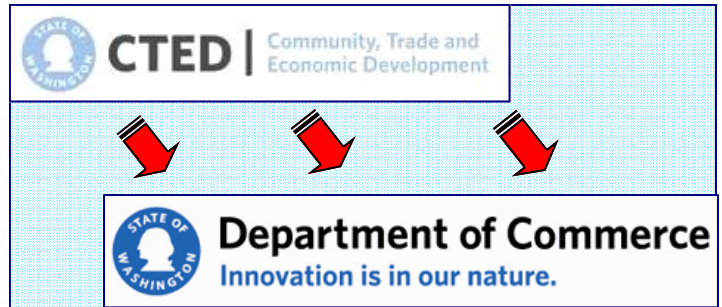
These are just some quirky fun facts and events about Washington State and the Yakima Valley. We hope you learn something new!

1. What fun online contest promotes carpooling this month and rewards winners with prize packages?
2. Name two websites with information, events, and trails to take scenic bicycle rides around the beautiful Pacific Northwest. Check them out!

See Page 4 for Answers

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.



Changes Afoot at CTED

By Shawn Conrad, Transportation/Land Use Planner

Effective July 26, 2009, the Department of Community, Trade, and Economic Development is now renamed the Washington State Department of Commerce ("Commerce"). The organization's web site also has changed from www.cted.wa.gov to www.commerce.wa.gov. The domain for all email addresses will change from cted.wa.gov to commerce.wa.gov, though the former email domain name will remain active during a grace period.

In addition, Commerce is continuing to conduct outreach activities to stakeholders as part of setting a new course for the organization. To date, Commerce has completed more than 90 dialogues with business, agencies, local governments, utilities, staff, agencies, and other groups and organizations. As it charts a new course, some of the major questions Commerce hopes to answer include:

1. What significant opportunities does the state have right now and how do those opportunities relate to retaining and creating jobs in our state?
2. What do our customers and stakeholders think about how we're doing?
3. How do we benchmark as a state against other states and other parts of the world in each area of activity?
4. What should government do to take advantage of our strengths and mitigate our weaknesses?
5. What gaps and overlaps do we need to address to ensure that our programs are delivered well, particularly as we consider federal, state, regional and local resources?
6. What activities can we stop doing to create the capacity to do new things or more of a specific activity?

As part of its outreach activities, Commerce has just launched an online survey, which can be accessed at <http://tinyurl.com/l9e3v7>. The survey questions came out of major themes emerging from Commerce's outreach activities, and were designed to help Commerce understand the state's opportunities and challenges. The survey takes less than 10 minutes to complete, and will close August 28. Commerce would like as many stakeholders as possible to take the survey, even if they have already attended meetings or other activities.

Your YVCOG Staff:

J. Page Scott, Executive Director
Brian Curtin, CTR Coordinator
Vacant, Senior Planner
Drew Miller, Senior Transportation Planner
Shawn Conrad, Land Use/Transportation Planner
Vacant, 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
Sarah Hyndman, Office Specialist



Bail out your commute and WIN a trip!



**We're all in the same boat!
Share the ride and get some relief . . .**

Register at www.RideshareOnline.com, start or join a carpool or vanpool between August 10 and September 18, 2009, share the ride at least 2 days per week and you could be eligible to win a weekend getaway for two! Three days, two nights AND a \$50 gas card for travel expenses

WIN prizes!

BIG CITY ADVENTURE – Water view room at Inn at the Market, nestled in the heart of downtown Seattle in the historic Pike Place Market. Includes daily breakfast at Bacco's. www.innatthemarket.com

GOURMET DINING – Experience the Willows Lodge Resort in the heart of Woodinville's wine country. Includes wine tasting at Fireside Cellars and dining at the renowned Barking Frog Restaurant with a \$200 credit. www.willowslodge.com

WORLD FAMOUS RESORT – Premier lake view room at the Coeur d'Alene Golf and Spa Resort. Includes \$150 dining credit. www.cdaresort.com

LUXURIOUS MOUNTAIN LODGE – Enjoy golfing, hiking or skiing at the Sun Mountain Lodge in Winthrop, WA. Includes a fireplace room and daily breakfast. www.sunmountainlodge.com

PLUS! Become eligible to WIN \$50 just for registering at RideshareOnline.com.

Register today and WIN!
www.RideshareOnline.com or call
888-814-1300 to get started in a
carpool or vanpool.



Start Planning Now For Upcoming Grant Opportunities

By Shawn Conrad, Land Use/Transportation Planner

In these times of scarce revenues, cities and towns need more than ever to stay aware of all potential funding sources. Below is a partial list of some of the most frequently used grant sources available to Washington cities and towns for facilities and infrastructure. Start researching and planning ahead to take advantage of these funds!

- The **Heritage Capital Projects Fund (HCPF)** funds capital needs and facilities of organizations, governments, and agencies that “interpret and preserve Washington’s history and heritage.” *Next call for projects: Late fall 2009.*
<http://www.washingtonhistory.org/HeritageServices/grants.aspx>
- The **Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety** program provides funds for pedestrian and bicycle safety improvements that are provided through engineering, enforcement, or education. Projects could include sidewalks, pedestrian and bicycle paths, transit, and safe routes to school. *Next call for projects: Early 2010.*
<http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/bike/Funding.htm>
- The **Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)**, from the Washington Recreation and Conservation Office, provides funds for preserving and developing facilities and resources for outdoor recreation, such as parks, trails, and wildlife lands. *Next call for projects: Early 2010.*
<http://www.rco.wa.gov/rcfb/grants/lwcf.htm>
- The **Transportation Enhancement Program** provides funds to projects related to transportation, that offer transportation “enhancements” such as pedestrian and bicycle facilities, landscaping and beautification, historic preservation, and preservation and conversion of abandoned railway corridors to pathways. *Next call for projects: Spring 2010.*
<http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/localprograms/ProgramMgmt/TransEnhancement.htm>



- The **Safe Routes to School** program funds improvements that increase safety for children walking and bi-

Grant Opportunities Continued Above

Washington Trivia Answers...

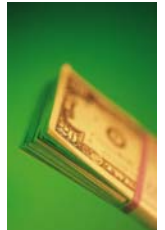
1. The Rideshare Online Contest. See Flyer on Page 3 or www.RideshareOnline.com for more information.
2. Go to www.bicyclealliance.org and www.bicyclepaper.com/ for exciting cycling events around the Pacific Northwest all year 'round.

Grant Opportunities Continued....

cycling to school, as well as reduce congestion around schools. The projects may fall in engineering, education, or enforcement. *Next call for projects: May 2010.*

<http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/LocalPrograms/SafeRoutes/>

- **State of Washington Transportation Improvement Board (TIB) grants for small cities.** The TIB provides funds to cities and towns with a population of less than 5,000, for maintenance and reconstruction of transportation infrastructure. *Next call for projects: June 2010.*
<http://www.tib.wa.gov/grants/smallcity/SmallCityOverview.cfm>
- **Small City Arterial Program (SCAP)** funds are for arterial roadway reconstruction.
- **Small City Preservation Program (SCPP)** funds are for preservation projects (chip seal and overlay) for existing roads and sidewalks.
- **Small City Sidewalk Program (SCSP)** provides funds to improve the safety, connectivity, and access of sidewalk systems.



August Meetings

MPO/RTPO Technical Advisory Committee

Thursday, August 13

10:00 a.m.

The 300 Building

311 North 4th St, Ste 202

Yakima, WA

Next General Membership Meeting: Sept. 16th

YVCOG Executive Committee & MPO/RTPO

Executive Committee &

Policy Board

Monday, August 17

1:30 p.m.

The 300 Building

311 North 4th St, Ste 202

Yakima, WA