



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
Rick Ensey
Yakima City Council
Dan Olson
Union Gap City Council
Loren Belton
Mayor, Toppenish
Velva Herrera
Mayor, Mabton



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Yakima, WA 98901
509-574-1550
FAX 509-574-1551
Website: www.yvcog.org



New HOME Consortium Opportunities

By Page Scott, Executive Director

At January's YVCOG General Membership meeting, Marjorie Dahlstrom, Yakima County Affordable Housing Coordinator, presented information about the HOME Investment Partnership Program and answered many questions about the uses of these federal funds and the potential benefits of forming a HOME Consortium among jurisdictions within Yakima County. Representatives from several cities in attendance indicated an interest.

The annual deadline for notifying HUD of the intent to create a HOME Consortium is **March 1**. Yakima County would like to know what, if any, cities are interested in pursuing a HOME Consortium no later than: **Friday, February 13**.

I encourage all of our members to discuss this at your upcoming council meetings and determine whether or not you are interested in pursuing a HOME Consortium here in Yakima County. As Marjorie noted in her presentation, there could be approximately \$740,000 HOME funds available annually if the 13 cities that are presently not receiving HOME funds joined with Yakima County to form a consortium. City of Yakima is presently the only jurisdiction within Yakima County that receives HOME funds. Actual funding levels would be determined based on the size and number of communities participating and the federal funding appropriated. Here's a link to the website Marjorie referred to last night that can be used to estimate funding: <http://www.hud.gov/offices/cpd/affordablehousing/programs/home/consortia/builder/>

Please contact **Marjorie Dahlstrom**, at (509) 574-1524, or (Marjorie.dahlstrom@co.yakima.wa.us) or **Tim Sullivan** at (tim.sullivan@co.yakima.wa.us) or (509) 574-1522, with any questions you have about the HOME Investment Partnership Program or to indicate your city's interest in forming a HOME Consortium. Responses due to Marjorie by: **FRIDAY, February 13**.

Due to President's Day holiday, YVCOG Office will be CLOSED on February 16, 2009. We will return on Tuesday, February 17th for our regular office hours.



A Very Cold Start

by Brian Curtin, CTR Program Coordinator

"Well, it ain't Wisconsin, but it's cold enough for me!" This time of the year always turns my thoughts towards "cold starts." Fortunately, I wised up this year and built a garage. Unfortunately for my son, it only holds 2 cars so his 23 year old Toyota gets the ultimate "cold start" every morning providing mixed results. But I regress; that is not the type of cold starts that I intend to talk about.

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 engines 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 run a few errands. 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, van-pool, 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.



Washington Trivia Corner!!!

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

1. The novel, *The Reno Gang*, by Dayton author, Robert Shields, was developed into which Elvis movie?
2. What actor now living in the San Juans appeared in M.A.S.H., Alien, Top Gun, and Steel Magnolias?
3. What is written on the side of the La Conner police car?
4. Name the only US magazine devoted to coffee, published in Seattle, as of 1991?

See Below for Answers



To the Bicycle

John Gibbens

Humane chariot, most valuable,
most laughable of machines,
complete companion of the human form
and to the human bottom bosom friend,
we are more intimate than most friends.

Cousin to the umbrella
and elder brother of the sewing machine,
an example to all your family,
you testify of an heavenly engineering
which angels do not need.

Once you went unrecognised,
bore eccentrics asymmetrically about,
stopped to pose for engravings.
What you gained in simplicity and equity
you gained also in beauty and usefulness.

You are our invention's
hymn to balance;
with the horse and the steam-train
you write the perfect poem of distance
overland – its sonnet.

Poised between your wheels,
between your pedals,
I feel I know your future
is secure. You cannot be replaced
any more than I can.



Drew in Peru

YVCOG's favorite Planner, Drew Miller, will be on vacation for the entire month of February (I think that's called a sabbatical, not a vacation Drew) to travel throughout Peru and Ecuador. That means this month, Drew will not be able to answer the routine land use and transportation related questions that commonly arise. If you have an urgent planning related question, please refer to YVCOG Executive Director Page Scott, otherwise Drew will be back in the YVCOG office on Tuesday, March 3, 2009.



Washington Trivia Answers...

1. *Love Me Tender.*
2. Tom Skerrit.
3. La Conner La Police Le Car.
4. Cafe Ole.

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.

February Meetings...

MPO/RTPO Technical Advisory Committee
Thursday, February 12 at 10:00 a.m.
The 300 Building
311 North 4th Street, Suite 202
Yakima, WA

YVCOG Executive Committee & MPO/RTPO Executive Committee & Policy Board
Wednesday, February 18 @ 1:30 p.m.
The 300 Building
311 North 4th Street, Suite 202
Yakima, WA



Yakama Nation Awarded Tribal Transit Funds!!

By Page Scott, Executive Director

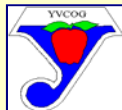
In December 2008 the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) announced the selection of projects to be funded under FFY 2008 appropriations for the Public Transportation on Indian Reservation Program; Tribal Transit Program (TTP), a program authorized by the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, and Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU). These funds are available to federally recognized Indian tribes for public transportation capital project, operating costs and planning activities.

A total of \$12 million was made available for the program in FFY 2008. A total of 89 applicants requested \$24 million for various transit related improvements. Projects were selected through a competitive process based on each applicant's response to the program evaluation criteria. The Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation was awarded the highest grant amount in the nation with \$442,373 secured to support the preservation and enhancement of Pahto Public Passage.



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
Judy Price, Office Specialist



YVCOG Releases STP Rural Call for Projects

By Page Scott, Executive Director

On January 15, 2009, the Yakima Valley MPO/RTPO issued its FFY 2008 and 2009 Surface Transportation Program (STP) Rural call for projects. Completed applications must be received by **Friday, March 6, 2009**. All local agencies in our Yakima County region eligible to receive STP Rural funding were notified when the call for projects was officially released. Application materials can be accessed online through the YVCOG website at: www.yvco.org.

The funds are part of the annual STP Regional allocation to the Yakima Valley MPO/RTPO for regional prioritization and selection. STP Rural funds provide flexible funding that may be used by local agencies for transportation projects on any road functionally classified as a rural major collector or higher classification. Generally the cities of Granger, Harrah, Mabton, Naches, Tieton, Wapato, Zillah and portions of Yakima County are eligible to receive STP Rural funding, but eligibility is determined by roadway functional classification and not city limit boundaries.

All funding estimates are preliminary. Approximately **\$496,703** in STP Rural funds is available, but this is not yet secured and cannot be guaranteed to be available. Projects awarded STP Rural funding will be responsible to provide a minimum required 13.5% local match.

The MPO/RTPO Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) will evaluate project applications and develop a prioritized list of projects and funding distribution recommendations to the MPO/RTPO Executive Committee. If you have any questions, please contact YVCOG Senior Transportation Planner Drew Miller or YVCOG Executive Director Page Scott at 509-574-1550.

Introducing: Our New Land Use & Transportation Planner!

On February 4th, Shawn Conrad will be joining us as our new Land Use and Transportation Planner. We are very lucky to have her with us all the way from Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Please join us in welcoming Shawn to the YVCOG!