



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
Mayor, Sunnyside
- Kevin Bouchey
Yakima County Commissioner
- Rick Ensey
Yakima City Council
Area 1 — Dan Olson
Union Gap City Council
- Area 2 — Loren Belton
Toppenish City Council
- Area 3 — Angel Reyna
Mayor, Mabton



311 North 4th Street, Suite 202
Yakima, WA 98901
509-574-1550
FAX 509-574-1551
Website: www.yvcog.org



Lincoln Ave. Underpass Breaks Ground

By Deb LaCombe, Transportation Planner

Yakima's largest-ever public works project is underway. Although the price tag is a whopping \$38 million, the sources of funding were displayed on the project board behind the speaker's podium and illustrated the complex.

Spokespersons from Senators Patty Murray and Maria Cantwell and Congressman Doc Hastings reiterated the legislators' enthusiasm for the cooperative spirit of the Yakima region. They encourage continuing of the singular voice that the Yakima Valley region presents for identifying the priority projects in the area. Specific mention was made of the two complementary transportation coalitions: D.R.Y.V.E. and TRANS-Action.

This project is designed to enhance local traffic movement and safety as well as improve regional freight transportation. The Lincoln Ave Underpass Project is expected to take more than a year to complete. Upon completion, the second underpass project at Martin Luther King Boulevard is planned to start.

The City of Yakima has made temporary traffic revisions on Lincoln Avenue and Martin Luther King Boulevard. The revisions have been successful with minimal traffic incidents reported.

New Commerce Representative

By Shawn Conrad, Planner

Growth Management Services at the Department of Commerce assigns a planning representative to regions throughout Washington. These individuals are available to provide assistance to jurisdictions with topics such as the Growth Management Act and other planning and funding subjects falling under Commerce's purview. Most recently, Yakima County's representative was Tim Gates. However, Tim has accepted a post at the Department of Ecology, and Yakima County's new Commerce representative is **Paul Johnson**. Paul can be reached at (360) 725-3048 or paul.johnson@commerce.wa.gov. Feel free to contact him if you have questions, and as always, don't hesitate to contact YVCOG with planning, grants, and transportation-related questions and concerns.



Transportation Survey

Quoted from People for People, <http://www.pfp.org/>

Are you someone who takes the bus, requests transportation from our agency [People for People] or receives help from friends and family to go to doctor appointments, work training or around town? If so, we'd like to hear from you.

A survey is being conducted for the Department of Transportation that describes the transportation needs of people in Yakima, Grant, Adams, Lincoln and Kittitas counties.

Please take a few moments to fill out [the] Transportation Survey at the links below. It is anonymous. Your response helps us share with the Department of Transportation that people like you need transportation to go to the doctor, medical appointments, to work, to school and to receive training. If they know there is a need for transportation here, then the Department of Transportation is better able to locate money to provide that service. The surveys are County specific, so just click on your County and give us your thoughts.

If you have questions about how this Transportation Survey will be used, contact Amy Neal at 509-248-6726. Thank you for completing this survey*.

For Yakima County

English: www.surveymonkey.com/s/D8GDPCG

Spanish: www.surveymonkey.com/s/8XBB73Y

**YVCOG NOTE: People for People will use anonymous survey results in the Human Services Transportation Plan (HSTP) update.*



Before you leave on that summer road trip vacation, check for road construction along your way at:

<http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/construction/>

And remember to 'Give 'em a BRAKE!'



TIB 2012 Call for Projects

By Shawn Conrad, Planner



The Transportation Improvement Board's (TIB's) 2012 call for projects is in full swing! Applications must be post-marked August 31, 2010. TIB's Small City Programs provides much-needed funds for transportation infrastructure to cities with populations of less than 5,000. Depending on the population size, the grants require little or no match. The Small City Program includes the following:

- Small City Arterial Program (SCAP), providing funds for arterial roadway construction. Anticipated total available: \$10 million.
- Small City Preservation Program (SCPP), providing funds for preservation projects (chip seal and overlay) for existing roads and sidewalks. Anticipated total available: \$1.3 million.
- Small City Sidewalk Program (SCSP), providing funds to improve safety, connectivity, and access of sidewalk systems. Anticipated total available: \$2 million.

In addition, TIB anticipates \$38 million for its Urban Arterial Program. These funds are available for arterial improvements in cities with populations of 5,000 or more.

For applications, rating criteria, and additional information, please see <http://www.tib.wa.gov/grants/Applications.cfm>, or contact TIB at (360) 586-1140.



More Good News

By Shawn Conrad, Planner



Sunnyside Community Center

In April 2009, Sunnyside opened a new community center, funded by a Community Development Block Grant and City funds. However, four years later Sunnyside was forced to close the community center due to budget cuts. Now, an organization called Sunnyside's Promise has reopened the center, operating it at no cost while the City pays the utilities. Sunnyside's Promise is a coalition of concerned citizens whose shared goal is "that children in our community have ample opportunities to be healthy and productive members of society" (www.sunnysidespromise.org). Sunnyside resident, London Wilson, is the community center's director. The center already has a variety of youth activities programmed for the summer. Upcoming planned activities include movie nights, bingo nights, open gym, and after school activities. Great job!!

Yakima Receives Funding

The City of Yakima has been awarded a total of \$1 million from the state-funded Public Works Trust Fund. The award is a 50% principle forgiveness loan with a low 0.5% interest rate for repayment. The funds will be used for construction and rehabilitation of the Yakima Wastewater Treatment Facility following needs identified in the City's wastewater treatment plan for the Yakima Regional Urban Area. These improvements will help the City meet present and future growth expectations and regulatory requirements. Congratulations!

— June Meeting Highlights —

MPO/RTPO TAC Meeting — June 10

- FY 2010-2011 CMAQ funding
- FY10-11 Transportation Enhancement Call for Projects
- 2011-2014 MTIP/RTIP

MPO/RTPO Executive Committee — June 21

- FFY 2010-11 CMAQ Funding Distribution

YVCOG Executive Committee — June 21

- Potential Change in Membership
- Executive Director's Yearly Review Requested

HOLIDAY CLOSURES

The YVCOG Office will be CLOSED to observe Independence Day holiday:

Monday, July 5, 2010

We apologize for any inconvenience. Regular office hours will resume at 8 A.M. on Tuesday, July 6th.



FUNDING UPDATE:



How Is a Transportation Project Selected for Funding? What Funding Has Been Available This Year? What Projects Received Funding?

By Deb LaCombe, Transportation Planner

The Yakima Valley Metropolitan and Regional Transportation Planning Organization (MPO/RTPO) Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and the MPO/RTPO Executive Committee have been busy this year prioritizing transportation improvement projects for funding.

Regardless of the type of funding that is allocated to our region, the prioritization process generally follows the same steps:



Application & Program Review – Because the economic environment has been unpredictable over the last decade and community priorities may change from year to year, the first step is to review the previous program application materials. The TAC reviews the application, the scoring criteria, and the funding rules to determine if anything to be modified. The application is reviewed by a subcommittee and recommendations are presented to the TAC. If the changes involve changes to previous policies, the TAC will recommend them for Executive Committee approval.

Application Process and Timeline – The next step is to establish and publicize an application process and timeline. Depending on the type of funding, YVCOG staff notifies eligible applicants and/or publicizes a “call for projects.” Public notifications include newspaper notices, YVCOG newsletter articles, and postings on the YVCOG website. In some cases, the public outreach can include workshops to assist potential applicants. Application materials include instructions, eligibility requirements, anticipated funding, deadlines for submittal, and targeted dates for funding decisions and notifications.

Project Prioritization – Once the applications have all been received, a TAC subcommittee meets to review and score them.. The subcommittee will generally ask that applicants be available (in person or by phone) in case there are questions during the review. Based upon the application review and scoring, the sub-committee will prepare a list of projects in ranked order for recommendation to the TAC. The TAC recommendation for projects to be selected for funding is submitted to the Executive Committee for final review approval.



Notification to Applicants – Once projects are selected for funding by the Executive Committee, letters are sent to successful applicants with the funding amount offered. It is then up to the successful applicants to amend their local Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and work with the funding agency (usually WSDOT) to access the funds.

The competitive process has been used three times this year already and the TAC is in the process of a fourth prioritization effort.



Continued at Right...

Your YVCOG Staff:

J. Page Scott, Executive Director
Brian Curtin, CTR Coordinator
Deb LaCombe, Senior Transportation Planner
Shawn Conrad, Senior Planner
John R. Rohrbaugh, GIS Analyst/Systems Administrator
Nancy Soules, Senior Accountant
Tamara Hayward, Office Specialist



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JOBS Prioritization List

The first process was in anticipation of potential federal “stimulus” funding proposed in Congress. MPOs around the state were directed by WSDOT to prepare a prioritized list of transportation improvement projects that could be under contract for construction within 120 days. The program was dubbed “JOBS” and was expected to be similar to the 2009 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act-like (ARRA). Approximately \$5,6 million was targeted for projects in the Yakima Valley region. The TAC prioritized 20 projects that were submitted by jurisdictions. The JOBS funding legislation has not been acted upon and we do not anticipate any Congressional action this year.



Surface Transportation Program (STP)

The second process was our STP Regional program. This program targeted approximately \$3,6 million of 2010-11 federal funding for transportation improvement projects. In May, the TAC prioritized and recommended six projects to receive the funding awards which the Executive Committee approved on May 17. Projects selected for STP Regional funding are:

- Yakima County-Fort Road Reconstruction Phase II
- City of Toppenish-East McDonald Road Improvements
- Yakima County-Cheyne Road Reconstruction Phase II
- Town of Naches-Allan Road Improvements
- City of Moxee-Postma Road Improvements
- City of Zillah-First Avenue Resurfacing & Safety Improvements

In late June, YVCOG received notice from WSDOT increasing our targeted STP funds to \$5.7 million. This month, TAC will consider how and when to distribute the remaining \$2,1 million.

Congestion Mitigation & Air Quality Program (CMAQ)

The third process was for the federal CMAQ funding program. The TAC targeted approximately \$695,000 for eligible projects within the greater Yakima PM₁₀ Maintenance Area. In late June, YVCOG received notice from WSDOT that \$631,080 was available for our region.. On June 21, the Executive Committee offered CMAQ funding to the following projects:

- City of Yakima-Sunday Services for Yakima Transit
- YVCOG-Commute Trip Reduction (CTR) Program Expansion
- City of Selah-South Rushmore Road Improvements



Transportation Enhancements Program

The fourth and current funding program process is in progress. Seven applications for federal Transportation Enhancement funding were received by the June 25 deadline. The scoring sub-committee will meet on July 7th and prepare a prioritized list for consideration by the TAC at its regularly scheduled July 8th meeting. We anticipate the TAC will forward a recommendation to the Executive Committee for approval at their July 19th meeting. Award letters will follow shortly after approval.

July Committee Meetings
MPO/RTPO Technical Advisory Committee
Thursday, July 8 at 10:00 a.m.
YVCOG Executive Committee & MPO/RTPO Executive Committee & Policy Board
Wednesday, July 19 at 1:30 p.m.
LOCATION: The 300 Building
311 North 4th St * 2nd Floor * Yakima, WA
For more info, see our website or call (509) 574-1550.

You Can't Beat the Price- It's Free!

By Brian Curtin, CTR Program Coordinator

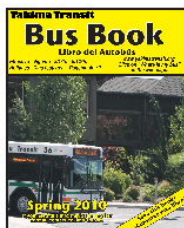


Ahh, those crazy folks over at Yakima Transit are doing it again. As my thoughts drift towards all of the excuses I've heard for why folks don't ride the bus, today I can counter all of those excuses with one simple response: "Ride it because it's free!!!" All summer long, every Saturday your bus trip (including Dial-a-Ride) will be free. What better incentive to ride the bus could you ask for?

For people traveling in the greater Yakima, Selah and Union Gap area, your first step towards Transit System Comprehension is acquisition of a Yakima Transit Bus Book which is available on all Yakima Transit busses, at the Transit Center on 4th Street between Walnut and Yakima Ave, or by calling Yakima Transit at 575-6175 for a copy. Union Gap bus schedules are available at Union Gap City Hall. Within those pages, you will find every bit of information required to make your transition to public transportation. You'll find that there are over 500 bus stops throughout the Cities of Selah, Yakima and Union Gap, located about every two blocks along each bus route. One way bus service only costs 75 cents, 50 cents if you're 6-17 years old. If you are a member of the 'Greatest Generation' (age 62 or older), a person with disabilities, or a Medicare card holder, the fare is only 35 cents. Little ones (under six) ride for free (be sure to bring an adult!) and transfers are also free. Monthly passes are even more economical: \$17 for adult, \$12 for youths and \$5 for reduced fare. And if you are using the Union Gap transit system, you always ride for free! You certainly can't fill your tank once for the price of a monthly pass! Visit the Yakima Transit website www.yakimatransit.org for additional information about all of Yakima Transit's service routes.

And for those travelers in the Lower Valley communities, check out the commuting opportunities offered by Community Connector (People for People) and Pahto Public Passage (Yakama Tribal transit system). Both of these systems work cooperatively to provide much-needed transportation services to lower valley communities, they interconnect, and they are free! For up to date information and schedules regarding these services visit: <http://www.pfp.org>.

All of the routes are served by ADA-accessible buses to accommodate passengers using mobility devices, such as wheelchairs. And if you want to ride your bike to the bus stop, all of the buses are equipped with bike racks. Both Yakima Transit and Union Gap Transit provide door-to-door transportation to pre-qualified riders. This program is called Dial-A-Ride (all rides in this program are also free on Saturdays throughout the summer), and applications for the program can be acquired by calling 575-6054.



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.



YVCOG Word Search



Let's see how many transportation, CTR, and summer-time terms you can find! Enjoy!

T R A N S P O R T A T I O N
E R V P N O I T C U D E R L
M N A I R T S E D E P M O E
L H N N S R E B O T C O G U
E E P K S A F E T Y P P R F
H A O S L I I S R R R T E E
N R O L L A T L A A I I E S
R T L E E H W C I G D O N U
M O T O R C Y C L E E N W O
S H C S U B A Y H T S S A H
E P A K N O I A S U H I Y N
A E R P N L N K G M A G B E
S D B I I D E I E M R N S E
O A O O N R I M A O E A D R
N L N S G G T A R C H L E G

- | | | | |
|-----------------|-------------|------------|----------|
| -Transportation | -Wheel | -October | -Toss |
| -Season | -Options | -Yakima | -Hand |
| -Greenhouse | -Walk | -Pedal | -Running |
| -Helmet | -Roll | -Transit | -Rock |
| -Fuel | -Signal | -Carbon | -Arms |
| -Commute | -Pedestrian | -Bike | -Nap |
| -Spring | -Trip | -Soda | -Bay |
| -Gas | -Motorcycle | -Reduction | -Hot |
| -Carpool | -Trail | -Ape | -Fit |
| -Heart | -Safety | -Dare | -Bold |
| -Oil | -Pink | -Rim | -Leg |
| -Gear | -Pore | -Greenway | -Lion |
| -RideShare | -Vanpool | -Sail | -Tar |

THE NEXT MEETING....

WHAT: YVCOG General Membership Meeting
WHERE: Mt. Adams Country Club
LOCATION: 1250 Rocky Ford Road
Toppenish, WA 98948
WHEN: September 15, 2010
6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.
(Dinner at 7:00 p.m.)



Reservations and cancellations are due no later than Friday, Sept. 10, 2010. Please RSVP to Sarah or Tami at (509) 574-1550 or email to haywardt@yvcog.org.