

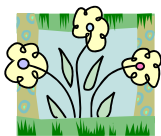


MEMBER JURISDICTIONS:

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

**YVCOG EXECUTIVE
COMMITTEE:**

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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



**YVCOG Issues A Call for
Transportation
Enhancement Projects**

By Deb LaCombe, Senior Planner

The Yakima Valley Conference of Governments (YVCOG) has issued a call for Transportation Enhancement (TE) projects. The TE program is part of federal surface transportation legislation that funds non-traditional transportation projects and programs and was created to invest in a more balanced, multi-modal approach to mobility and accessibility. The purpose of the Transportation Enhancement program is to fund projects that allow communities to strengthen the local economy, improve the quality of life, enhance the travel experience for people traveling by all modes, and protect the environment. Projects must relate to surface transportation. All public agencies and non-profit organizations in the Yakima Valley region are eligible to apply.

Estimated Funding

The estimated TE funding level for this call for projects is \$20 million statewide and covers federal fiscal years 2010-2011. Approximately **\$715,000** is targeted for the Yakima Valley region. No one project or jurisdiction/agency may ask for more than **\$357,500**.

Program Requirements

Projects must relate to surface transportation. **Applicants must attend a YVCOG sponsored workshop.** Interested applicants that did not attend one of the workshops on May 18th or May 20th can call YVCOG for an alternate meeting date.

The twelve categories of projects that can be funded with TE funds are:

1. Provision of facilities for pedestrians and bicycles.
2. Provision of safety and educational activities for pedestrians and bicyclists.
3. Acquisition of scenic easements and scenic or historic sites.
4. Scenic or historic highway programs (including the provision of tourist and welcome center facilities).
5. Landscaping and other scenic beautification.
6. Historic preservation.
7. Rehabilitation and operation of historic transportation buildings, structures, or facilities (including historic railroad facilities and canals).
8. Preservation of abandoned railway corridors (including the conversion and use thereof for pedestrian or bicycle trails).
9. Control and removal of outdoor advertising.
10. Archaeological planning and research.
11. Environmental mitigation to address water pollution due to highway runoff or reduce vehicle-caused wildlife mortality while maintaining habitat connectivity.
12. Establishment of transportation museums.

Application Process

Application materials and additional information are available on the YVCOG website (www.yvcog.org). YVCOG, as the lead agency for the Yakima Valley RTPO, is responsible for soliciting program applications, answering applicant questions, collecting applications and conducting the regional prioritization process. A regional "Enhancement Advisory Committee" developed the appli-



Good News!

By Shawn Conrad, Senior Planner

We read the bad news in the papers every day. How about some good news for a change? Here are some positive happenings in some of YVCOG's member jurisdictions.

Cities Receive Ecology Award

Each year, the Department of Ecology issues Wastewater Treatment Plant Outstanding Performance Awards to jurisdictions that achieve full compliance with the requirements of their National Pollutant Discharge Elimination (NPDES) permits, including pretreatment, monitoring and reporting, operational demands, and planning for spill prevention. Of 300 wastewater treatment plants across the state, 87 received awards; five of these were in the Yakima Valley. The awardees were:

- City of Grandview Wastewater Treatment Plant – previous awards in 2003 & 2006-2007
- City of Granger Wastewater Treatment Plant – previous award in 2008
- City of Selah Wastewater Treatment Plant – previous awards in 2007-2008
- City of Sunnyside Wastewater Treatment Plant – previous awards in 2005 & 2007-2008
- City of Yakima Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant – previous award in 2006

Kudos to all recipients for their contribution to health, safety, and regional water quality.

Mabton's Community Days Returns

After a two-year hiatus, Mabton is restarting its long tradition of hosting its annual Community Days celebration. The celebration will take place Saturday, August 7 through Sunday, August 8. Activities will tentatively include parades, games and contests, pony rides, dancing horses, a car show, an outdoor showing of the movie, "Avatar", and a basketball tourney. Mabton is recruiting volunteers to run a pageant as well, such as Miss Mabton. Volunteers are hard at work with a planning meeting at City Hall each week. If you would like to help make this comeback a success, please contact Ret Stewart, City Clerk, at 894-4096.



Wapato School Grant

Wapato High School has received a \$3.7 million grant through the federal Impact Aid program. This program provides funds to school districts that are located on federally-owned land that is exempt from property taxes, and have a significant proportion of "federally connected" students. Wapato High School qualified because it is located on the Yakama Indian Reservation and has a significant proportion of Native American students. The high school has not undergone significant renovations since it was built nearly 50 years ago. The high school will use the funds to renovate its west wing, which includes 10 classrooms.

Grandview Community Center Grant

Grandview has been awarded a \$1 million Community De-

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velopment Block Grant (CDBG) to construct a new 10,000-square-foot multigenerational community center in its Country Park Events Center. The community center will replace Grandview's existing senior center. Community center plans call for an indoor gym, dance area, dining area, stage, meeting/computer room, a kitchen, offices, and a conference room. The community center will facilitate a wide variety of activities for people of all ages. Grandview plans to start construction in spring of 2011.

Union Gap Water Project Grant

Union Gap also received a \$1 million CDBG award. Union Gap will use its award to extend water lines for domestic and fire flow in the South Broadway area, which is bordered by South 3rd Avenue, West Washington Avenue, Valley Mall Boulevard, and 16th Avenue in south Union Gap. Failing wells in the area led to the need for water line installation. Union Gap will be able to install water lines for half of the area with the CDBG funds, and hopes to receive another \$1 million from the State and Tribal Assistance grant to complete the project. Union Gap plans to begin construction in spring or summer of 2011.

If you would like to submit more good news related to our member jurisdictions for future newsletters, please contact Shawn Conrad, Senior Planner, at conrads@yvcog.org.



CONGRATS!

We wanted to let you all in on a little well known secret around the YVCOG office. While Shawn was extensively involved in your Community Planning, she was able to wrap up and was awarded her Ph.D. in Urban Planning from the Arizona State University! Be sure to congratulate Shawn if you see her this month. I'm sure she'll be quick to point out, she's not that kind of Doctor. We are all so proud of our Doctor Conrad!



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
- Sarah A. Hyndman, Office Specialist



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Enhancement Funding Continued from Page 1...

ation and criteria for prioritizing applications. **Applications will be due to YVCOG by 12 noon on June 25, 2010.**

Completed applications may be mailed, delivered or emailed to Deb LaCombe at the following address: Yakima Valley Conference of Governments, 311 North 4th Street, Suite 202, Yakima, WA 98901, email: lacombed@yvco.org.

Selection Process

All proposals will be reviewed by YVCOG staff to ensure that they are complete and eligible to receive **TE** funding. YVCOG's Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) will evaluate project applications and develop a prioritized list of projects. The MPO/RTPO Executive Committee will make the final decision on projects to be funded and amounts to be awarded.



May 24	Advertisement for Call for Projects May 24 - June 25.
May 24 – June 25	Accept applications.
July 7	TAC Selection Sub-committee reviews and scores applications.
July 8	TAC Committee recommends TE selections.
July 19	MPO/RTPO Executive Committee considers TE selections.
Target July 23	Announcement of TE funding awards.

Program Contacts

TE eligibility questions:
Roger Arms, WSDOT SCR 509-577-1780

TE application questions:
Deb LaCombe, YVCOG 509-574-1550

— May Meeting Highlights —

MPO/RTPO TAC Meeting — May 13

- FY 2010-2011 STP and CMAQ funding
- FY10-11 Transportation Enhancement Call for Projects

MPO/RTPO Executive Committee — May 17

- SFY10 UPWP Review
- 2009-2012 MTIP Amendment #5-Determination of Air Quality Conformity & Findings
- 2010-2011 STP Regional Funding
- Technical Assistance Contract Amendments to extend time of contract performance with City of Yakima, Yakima County and Cascade Mills Partners.

YVCOG Executive Committee — May 17

- April Budget Report and General Membership Meeting review

YVCOG General Membership— May 19

- FY10-11 Transportation Enhancement Call for Projects
- 2010 Legislative Update by Senator Honeyford, 15th District.

June Committee Meetings

MPO/RTPO Technical Advisory Committee

Thursday, June 10 at 10:00 a.m.

YVCOG Executive Committee & MPO/RTPO

Executive Committee & Policy Board

Wednesday, June 21 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.

The Numbers Are In!!!

By Brian Curtin, CTR Program Coordinator



Well, the good folks at the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) have been crunching the numbers and developing the reports to provide us with input as to our progress towards meeting our Commute Trip Reduction (CTR) program goals. As you may recall, back in 2006, the legislature passed the CTR Enhancement Act which set statewide reduction goals for Drive Alone (DA) trips as well as Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT). In the Yakima Region we adopted the statewide reduction goals of 10% reduction for DA and 13% for VMT. A baseline for Drive Alone rates and Vehicle Miles Traveled were established by the surveys taken in 2007 and the data developed from the 2009 surveys was used to develop progress towards goal information.

The good news is that as a region, Yakima has made great progress towards meeting the aforementioned goals. As a matter of fact when it comes to VMT reduction the goal of 13% reduction has been far surpassed. The VMT reduction was reduced a whopping 21.6% from the baseline survey (2007) to the 2009 survey. The 2009 survey also showed significant progress was made towards meeting the Drive Alone reduction goals of 10%. Drive Alone rates were reduced by an impressive 6.2%. This indicates that great strides have been made, while at the same time we recognize that work remains to be done.

While overall regional numbers look very good there is room for improvement on the jurisdictional level. The four jurisdictions affected by the CTR program are the Cities of Yakima, Selah, Union Gap and Moxee. When it comes to Drive Alone reduction, all four jurisdictions made progress towards goal; and that is the key, making a 'good faith effort' towards achieving the goal. If there were awards given out for "Jurisdiction with Most Drive Alone Reduction" City of Selah would be the winner with an impressive 17.5% reduction. In the "Jurisdiction with Most VMT Reduction" it would be a virtual toss-up between City of Yakima at 15.1% and City of Selah with 15.2%.

The Phase II Survey Reports developed by WSDOT have been delivered to each of the CTR affected employers and should be a great tool to help them determine what has worked and what needs to be worked on. Program success has always been about the individual efforts of the affected employers and it looks like overall they are doing a great job of reducing drive alone trips and vehicle miles traveled. The real test of the programs success will occur in the spring of 2011 when the next round of surveys are conducted. I have great confidence that the numbers will look even better then. Congratulations and continued success to all Commute Trip Reduction program employers and jurisdictions!



The Night of Claire --Anonymous

A ride in the woods in the dark of the moon
Was no challenge or so it was said
So I mounted my Schwinn and I turned on my lights
And away in the evening I sped.

Slicker than owl snot my drive train did run
As I reached the first tulgey glade
Completely at ease I passed under the trees
Breathing deeply and yet unafraid.

A sudden light clicking then came to my ear
And I wondered if it was the bike.
The volume and frequency seemed to increase
And something just didn't seem right.

My crank set? My pedals? Perhaps the rear wheel?
But my spokes were stress relieved.
I'd checked all the torques and examined the forks
No fault could be conceived.

But then I remembered the horrible squirrels
That run in the woods at night.
More cunning than weasels and faster than bats
My blood ran cold with fright.

My mirror was useless, it bounced up and down
I carefully looked to the back.
Not one running there in the LED glare, not one
But the whole freaking pack!

I knew in an instant the danger I faced
For the squirrels of the East are unreal.
Like furry piranha that scamper like rats
They wanted my brand new wheel!

I knew in the morning they'd find my bones
spread out by the side of the trail.
If I couldn't pull off a quick finesse
I had to deliver the mail.

I spun and I sweated and pulled a huge gear
In the face of imminent death.
The grade was intense and my terror immense
I smelt their squirrely breath!

Just then I remembered that in my valise
Which I'd strapped to the top of my bars
I had peanuts and trail mix and Gatorade
And a couple of candy bars.

I unzipped the bag and flung out the tools
Which only impeded my hand.
An anvil, a tow chain, a hacksaw and such
And a brand new truing stand.

I hated like fury to throw out that stand
But I needed to get to the food.
I whipped out the trail mix and tossed it back
It halted that Hell spawned brood.

I sat at the top of the hill and wheezed
As the squirrels devoured the nuts.
I'll never again take a ride on that trail
No ifs, no maybes, no buts!

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.



Fair Housing Act Training

Shawn Conrad, Senior Planner

What is and what isn't "fair housing" and "discrimination?" The provisions of the Fair Housing Act (FHA) are far-reaching and can be confusing. The FHA prohibits discrimination in the sale, rental, financing, and regulation of housing based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, familial status, or disability. For local governments, the FHA affects whether and how they can regulate different types of housing. To increase awareness of FHA provisions, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) is hosting a series of **free** Fair Housing Training workshops. The following workshops are available in Washington:

- Spokane: June 2, 2010 and September 1, 2010. 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Registration: <http://tinyurl.com/36j6kuk>
- Seattle: April 28, 2010, June 16, 2010, and August 25, 2010. 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. Registration: <http://tinyurl.com/3yceph>

Senator Honeyford Gives Update

By Sarah Hyndman, Office Specialist

Despite the unusual rain and thunderstorm, YVCOG members made their way to our May 19th General Membership Meeting. The City of Sunnyside hosted us at their locally famous El Valle Family Mexican Restaurant, which provided a wonderful fajita dinner. Our May meetings have traditionally been an opportunity for our members to hear from local area legislators in an open forum. This year, Senator Honeyford was able to provide a brief update from the last session. He covered topics regarding the State's budget, recently applied taxes, and responded questions from the membership.

A big thank you to Mayor and Mrs. Restucci of Sunnyside for hosting this meeting, the staff at El Valle for having us and for a exquisite meal, and to Senator Honeyford for braving the storm and keeping us all in the Legislative loop.



THE NEXT MEETING....

WHAT: YVCOG General Membership Meeting
WHERE: The City of Toppenish
LOCATION: TBD
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.