



**MEMBER JURISDICTIONS:**

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

**YVCOG EXECUTIVE  
COMMITTEE:**

- James A. Restucci, 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, Vice Chair  
*Toppenish City Council*
- Area 3 — Angel Reyna  
*Mayor, Mabton*
- Member At Large-  
John Hodkinson, Jr.



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Yakima, WA 98901  
509-574-1550  
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Website: [www.yvcog.org](http://www.yvcog.org)

**Transportation Commission  
Requests Regional Transportation “Top 20”**  
By Page Scott, Executive Director

The Washington State Transportation Commission (WSTC) was directed by the Legislature to review prioritized projects from metropolitan and regional transportation planning organizations as part of the Commission’s development of the state-wide transportation plan. In late June, WSTC requested that the Yakima Valley MPO/RTPO – along with the other 13 RTPOs – submit a list of up to 20 priority projects located within our region.



Fortunately, due to the collaborative efforts of both DRYVE and TRANS-Action over the years, our region already has a well-vetted, identified list of priority projects. On September 9th, the Yakima Valley MPO/RTPO Technical Advisory Committee recommended 20 transportation projects or programs for consideration by the Executive Committee. Project proponents are responsible for developing cost estimates by biennium, and brief project narratives for each of the “Top 20”. The final list will be compiled and reviewed at the October 14th TAC meeting for recommendation to the MPO/RTPO Executive Committee on October 18. Final lists must be submitted to the WSTC by October 29th.

In addition to the “Top 20” list, WSTC has asked that each region identify our roads and bridge preservation needs for the next 10 years. Each of the jurisdictions within our region are collecting and compiling costs for preserving roads and bridges to be included in the report to WSTC in October.

If you have any questions about either the “Top 20” list, or the Preservation Needs, please contact Deb LaCombe, YVCOG Sr. Transportation Planner, at (509) 574-1550 or email [lacombed@yvcog.org](mailto:lacombed@yvcog.org).



**Welcome Back, John Hodkinson!**  
By Sarah Hyndman, Office Specialist

At the September 20th YVCOG Executive Committee meeting, John Hodkinson was appointed as the newly created Member-At-Large representative on the Executive Committee. John previously served on the Executive Committee as the former “Planning Commission Member-at-Large”. For more information on this and other meeting highlights, please see Amendment to Articles of Association on Page 4.



**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 2011 Budget

By Page Scott, Executive Director

The YVCOG Executive Committee has recommended a 2011 Budget to be forwarded to our General Membership for consideration at the October 20<sup>th</sup> General Membership meeting in Grandview. Copies of the proposed 2011 Budget were mailed to all YVCOG member jurisdictions on September 21<sup>st</sup>.

For the 8<sup>th</sup> consecutive year, YVCOG has been able to maintain members' General Assessment rate at \$0.39 per capita. YVCOG's total budget for 2011 is approximately 1.5% higher than in 2010 due to a federal grant received to enhance the Commute Trip Reduction (CTR) program and assist affected employers and jurisdictions in meeting state goals for drive alone trips.

### How the Assessment is Calculated

The Total Assessment is made up of three variables: the General Assessment rate (\$0.39/capita), OFM population for April 1 of the most current year, and the MPO/RTPO assessment. The MPO/RTPO assessment is based on 1) whether the jurisdiction is under or over-5,000 population; 2) whether the jurisdiction is within the federally designated MPO boundary, and 3) the percentage of federal transportation "project" funding an individual jurisdiction was awarded in the current year through the Yakima Valley MPO/RTPO processes.

The first two MPO/RTPO Assessment factors remain fairly static from year to year and those are reflected in flat assessment amounts of either \$500 or \$1000 depending on the population size of member jurisdiction. Year-to-year fluctuations of a jurisdiction's MPO/RTPO assessment almost always reflects an award of federal STP "project" funding through the MPO/RTPO process.

Almost \$5.75 million in federal Surface Transportation Program (STP) funds were distributed and awarded to 6 member jurisdictions through the Yakima Valley MPO/RTPO process. Compare that with last year's distribution when nearly \$10 million in STP and ARRA funds was distributed to 13 member jurisdictions.

If a member jurisdiction was awarded STP funding for a transportation project(s), they are assessed based on their percentage share of the overall federal transportation funding distributed. When jurisdictions receive the benefit of project funding, the assessment is distributed among them. That way, the cost is shared among those jurisdictions that benefited.

### Bottom Line: Why did my assessment change?

If a member's population grew, their general assessment grew, too. If a member jurisdiction received a STP funding award, they will probably notice a change in their assessment also.

I am happy to meet with your finance staff or council members. It is a very busy time of year for our programs, but I will do my best to make myself available for your meetings. Scheduling conflicts are likely, so please let me know as soon as possible if there is a meeting you would like me to attend. I can be reached at [scottp@yvcog.org](mailto:scottp@yvcog.org), or call the YVCOG office at 509-574-1550.

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## October 20th General Membership Preview

- Review and action on a proposed 2011 YVCOG Budget. Please make your reservations before Friday, October 15th.
- AWC and Liquor Control Board invited to present on Impacts of I-1100 & I-1105.





# Transportation Commission in Yakima

By Deb LaCombe, Planner

YVCOG and the Washington State Transportation Commission (WSTC) hosted a Regional Listening Session on September 14<sup>th</sup> at the Harman Center to help shape the Washington State Transportation Plan 2010-2030 (WTP 2030). Transportation planners and stakeholders from the Yakima Valley and Tri-Cities represented diverse interests. Opening remarks from J. Page Scott, YVCOG's Executive Director and WSTC Chair Carol Moser set the tone for the cooperative spirit that followed in the group discussions.

Comments from the participants were captured, highlighting the information gathered during small group sessions.

The full DRAFT WTP 2030 is available online at <http://wstc.wa.gov/WTP/default.htm>

WSTC encourages comments on the DRAFT WTP 2030 through October 15, 2010 in a variety of ways: Leave your comments on the WTP blog at <http://wtp2030.wordpress.com>

Provide your input online at <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/WTP2030DRAFT2>

Email your comments to [wtp2030@wstc.wa.gov](mailto:wtp2030@wstc.wa.gov)

Or mail your comments to:



Send to the Commission  
P.O. Box 47308  
Olympia, WA 98504-7308

## Bicycle Commute

Stillness returns as I retrace the path  
Daily rhythms hold at workday close.

Spirit wind is a constant companion.  
Even when the leaves are idle,  
The breathe of life is called forth  
By the joy of movement.

Time is irrelevant, the sun moves  
The mind to reflect on the day  
As gravel stones sing a broken melody  
And the horizon communicates purpose.

Machine, sacred ring of Black Elk's vision  
Revealed in steel and sweat.

Alan Bender  
Volga, SD



# Washington State Transportation Plan (WTP) at the General Membership Meeting

By Deb LaCombe, Planner



The stormy weather couldn't keep our dedicated members from gathering for a delicious meal and exciting program at the Mt. Adams Country Club on Wednesday, September 15<sup>th</sup>. The regular business of revising the 2010 YVCOG budget and amending the Article of Association was followed by a presentation and discussion about the Washington State Transportation Plan (WTP). Elmira Forner, Commissioner on the Washington State Transportation Commission (WSTC) addressed the YVCOG General Membership about the DRAFT Washington State Transportation Plan (WTP) 2010-2030.

Ms. Forner highlighted the WTP work the WSTC has completed and the timeline for completing the Final Plan. One of the challenges facing the WSTC and the transportation sector as a whole is the ever-declining revenue available through traditional means. Ms. Forner predicted that the gas tax era is coming to its sunset phase. With more fuel efficient and alternative fuel automobiles, motorcycles, buses and trucks on the road, the contribution from gas taxes are decreasing while needs are steadily increasing.

Preserving the existing transportation network is one of Washington State's identified priorities. This echoes the discussions we hear from the other Washington as well. The administration has recently released President Obama's vision of investing in our roadways, railways and runways.



Commissioner Forner identified the six policy goals set in statute that are driving the structure of this WTP: economic vitality, preservation, safety, mobility, environment, and stewardship. Defining and developing what these six policy topics mean to regional and local stakeholders are the emphasis of the WSTC Listening Sessions scheduled

## September Meeting Highlights

### MPO/RTPO TAC Meeting — Sept 9

- FY 2009 STP Regional Funding
- 2011-2014 MTIP/RTIP
- WSTC Regional Priority Project List Review
- Model User's Group (MUG) Identification

### MPO/RTPO Executive Committee — Sept 20

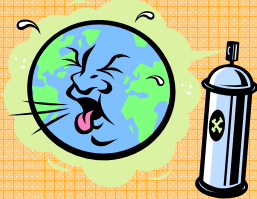
- Approval of the 2011-2014 M/RTIP

### YVCOG Executive Committee — Sept 20

- John Hodkinson appointed as Member-At-Large
- 2011 YVCOG Preliminary Budget

## Intriguing Map Link of the Month: Air Quality?

By John Rohrbaugh, GISP



As stated in the NASA article linked below, it's very difficult to assess air quality issues in places that do not have effective monitoring programs. These locales are generally poorer nations or those that do not have an air pollution control regulation in place. Often these countries can have very poor air quality which in turn lowers the health of their population. Recently however, newer satellite imaging techniques aided by computer modeling have been able to draw out global areas of concern for air quality. The result is a global map with graded air quality based upon levels of various particulates (such as PM2.5). Take a look at the map and the article and be very thankful the next time there's a burn ban!

<http://www.nasa.gov/topics/earth/features/health-sapping.html>

## THE NEXT MEETING....

**WHAT:** YVCOG General Membership Meeting

**BUSINESS:** 2011 YVCOG Budget

**PROGRAM:** Impacts of I-1100 & I-1105

**WHERE:** Carl L. Stevens Senior Center  
401 W 2nd St,  
Grandview, WA 98930

**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, Oct. 15, 2010. Please RSVP to Sarah or Tami at (509) 574-1550 or email to [haywardt@yvco.org](mailto:haywardt@yvco.org).

## Amendment to Articles of Association

By Page Scott, Executive Director

On September 15th, the YVCOG General Membership approved a change to the Articles of Association, Article VI regarding Executive Committee positions. The amendment broadens the position of "Planning Commission Member-At-Large" to a more general "Member-At-Large" position.

By expanding the eligibility for this at-large position, YVCOG will be able to enhance our Executive Committee representation to other interested residents. Local planning commissioners are welcome and encouraged to seek the at-large position. This change is intended to be less prescriptive and more inclusive of all residents who have an interest in our services and programs.

If you have any questions or would like additional information, please contact Page Scott, YVCOG Executive Director, at (509) 574-1550 or [scottp@yvco.org](mailto:scottp@yvco.org) or Jim Restucci, Chair, YVCOG Executive Committee at (509) 643-4343 or [jrestucci@ci.sunnyside.wa.us](mailto:jrestucci@ci.sunnyside.wa.us).



October Committee Meetings  
**MPO/RTPO Technical Advisory Committee**  
Thursday, Oct 14 at 10:00 a.m.  
**YVCOG Executive Committee & MPO/RTPO  
Executive Committee & Policy Board**  
Monday, Oct 18 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.



## 2010 IACC Funding Conference

By Shawn Conrad, Planner

The Infrastructure Assistance Coordinating Council (IACC) is holding their annual conference **October 20-22, 2010** in Wenatchee. The costs is \$175 and includes two breakfasts and lunches. This is a terrific opportunity to network and gain the latest information about grant and loan funding sources for your community, whether you're learning about them for the first time, looking for the latest updates or future possibilities, or want to learn more about the technical aspects of completing applications. According to IACC's mission statement, they are "dedicated to helping Washington communities identify and obtain resources they need to develop, improve, and maintain public works programs."

You can register for the conference at <http://tinyurl.com/38owrck>. There are also \$100 need-based scholarships that are available on a first-come, first-served basis.

For more information about the scholarships, please contact Janice Roderick at [janice.roderick@wa.usda.gov](mailto:janice.roderick@wa.usda.gov) or (360) 704-7739. Hope to see you in Wenatchee!



### 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



# wheel Options

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

## LOCAL PRIZES!!!

- Seattle Seahawks Gift Card (\$100)
- Safeway Gift Card (\$50)
- Lowe's Gift Card (\$50)
- Santiago's Restaurant Gift Card (\$50)
- Second Street Grill Gift Cards (2-\$25)
- Bob's Burger & Brew Gift Cards (2-\$25)
- Valley Cycling Gift Card (\$50)
- Inklings Gift Cards (10-\$10)
- Yakima Theaters Movie Bucks (10-\$10)

**Exercise your options and win \$2,500.00! From October 17th to the 30th say goodbye to your solo commute and carpool, 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. 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-Phone 574-1550 or email at: curtinb@yvcog.org.**

**Enter online at:**

**[www.wheelloptions.org](http://www.wheelloptions.org)**

**People do  
goofy things  
to win prize  
money**



**Try  
something  
normal:**

**Walk.  
Bike.  
Ride the  
bus.  
Share a  
ride.**

**You could  
win \$2,500  
cash!**

wheel  
Options  
your trip, your way.

**OCTOBER 17-30, 2010**

