



**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*  
Planning Commission Member At  
*Large-Vacant*



311 North 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 202  
Yakima, WA 98901  
509-574-1550  
FAX 509-574-1551  
Website: [www.yvcog.org](http://www.yvcog.org)



**WSDOT Public Transportation Grant  
Applications Available Online**

By Page Scott, Executive Director

WSDOT is now accepting grant applications for the Consolidated Program through Dec. 10, 2010 for 2011-2013 projects. The packet and application form are available for download at: [http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/Transit/Grants/Consolidated\\_Application.htm](http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/Transit/Grants/Consolidated_Application.htm)

As part of the grant solicitation process, WSDOT is conducting grant training at the upcoming Public Transportation Conference in Spokane on September 21st. The conference training will have the added bonus of including a professional grant trainer teaching the tricks of the trade. To register or find out more information about the Public Transportation Conference see [www.wsdot.wa.gov/transit/conference](http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/transit/conference).



In order to be eligible for this Consolidated Grant Program, projects must be address a need identified in locally developed, Coordinated Public Transit - Human Services Transportation plans. In the Yakima Valley region, People for People is leading the efforts to update the existing plan with help from the Yakima County Special Needs Transportation Coalition. A draft plan will be available later in September, with final adoption by the Yakima Valley MPO/RTPO Executive Committee on November 15th.



A formal call for projects will be issued by YVCOG in October, but interested agencies are encouraged to start early on their applications. Final applications will be due to WSDOT in December.

For more information about the Coordinated Public Transit - Human Services Transportation Plan or the Yakima County Special Needs Transportation Coalition, please contact Amy Neal, People for People, at [aneal@pfp.org](mailto:aneal@pfp.org) or call (509) 895-8249.



**YVCOG Executive Committee Selects New Vice Chair**

BY Page Scott, Executive Director

Toppenish City Councilmember, Loren Belton, was elected Vice Chairman by the YVCOG Executive Committee at the August 16th meeting. Jim Restucci, Sunnyside Mayor, succeeded John Hodgkinson as YVCOG Chairman upon John's resignation in July.



**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.

# Gathering Ingredients for a Successful Travel Demand Model

By Deb LaCombe, Planner

For many years, the Yakima Valley region has had two separate computer “models” to estimate present and future traffic on our regional road and highway system. One model was for metropolitan area planning – house at YVCOG as part of our federal transportation planning responsibilities. This metro model only covers the urbanized areas around Selah, Yakima, Union Gap and Moxee. The second model covers the rest of Yakima County. Imagine these two models as a donut of one flavor and a donut hole of another.



Technical staff and managers from the agencies who make use of these models met in August to discuss combining these separate tools. Although information has been shared and updated between the two separate models, inconsistencies are inevitable. In order to work towards a common model, a Model User’s Group (MUG) will be convened over the coming months to begin the consolidation process.

Involvement in the MUG is not dependant on whether a jurisdiction or agency has a transportation planner or modeler. Any jurisdiction or agency in Yakima County is welcome and encouraged to participate. This fall, the MUG will begin to address the various pieces to create a county-wide travel demand model.

## The challenges of creating a model are eased by breaking the process into small bites:

### Defining and Gathering Model Inputs

Inputs to the model are easily divided into two areas: Network and Land use.

**Network** - The MUG will choose a common set of road types and capacity assumptions for the roads that will be represented in the model. One recommendation, as a starting point, is to use the classification system defined by the U.S. Dept. of Transportation.

The network will be in a GIS-based format for use in other mapping projects as well as ease of sharing data with member jurisdictions.



**Land Use** – Land uses – both current and future – are the demand portion of the model inputs. Land uses and densities translate into vehicle trips, trip purposes, travel origins and destinations. Land use information is aggregated into Traffic Analysis Zones (TAZs) that cover all of Yakima County and adjacent, external areas.

Housing. Knowing the number of houses isn’t enough; experience has shown modelers that folks in different types of housing have different types of travel habits. Because of this, YVCOG conducted a Household Travel Survey in 2003. This survey sampled households throughout Yakima County and developed a stratification of types and respective travel patterns.



Other Land Uses. Most trips start at home. To understand where the trips end, an inventory is made to identify where people want to go when they leave home. People may be traveling to work, school, shopping, or services.



The formation of the MUG is intended to ensure that all of our region’s transportation stakeholders have an opportunity to join in on discussions and decisions related to the model inputs and maintenance. We hope to see you at the kick-off meeting sometime early this fall!

For more information about the travel demand models, please contact Deb LaCombe, Sr. Transportation Planner, at (509) 574-1550 or lacombed@yvcog.org.

## September 15th General Membership Preview

- Carol Moser, Chair, of the Washington State Transportation Commission will be our guest.
- Review and Action on a proposed amendment to the YVCOG Articles of Association and the 2010 YVCOG Budget Amendment #1. Please make your reservations before Friday, September 10th.





# Our Region's 2010 Census Participation Rates

By Page Scott, Executive Director

Jurisdiction	Census 2010	Census 2000
<i>United States</i>	72%	72%
<i>Washington State</i>	74%	72%
Yakima County	75%	73%
Grandview	73%	72%
Granger	54%	57%
Harrah	63%	58%
Mabton	62%	56%
Moxee	77%	75%
Naches	78%	54%
Selah	71%	75%
Sunnyside	71%	67%
Tieton	80%	61%
Toppenish	69%	61%
Union Gap	75%	65%
Wapato	49%	62%
Yakima	75%	73%
Zillah	75%	72%

Yakima County as a whole is about on par with Washington State participation rates, and even a little better than the United States as a whole. However, because these decennial Census figures will have an impact on funding directed towards each community, it is imperative that these jurisdictions push the Census staff to complete the remaining 25%. This is not the time to lose revenue due to an undercount of our population. Remember, **EVERY BODY COUNTS!!!!**

For more information on these figures as well as who to contact at the Census Bureau about completing the counts, please call or email Steve Hill, Yakima County Department of Human Services at (509) 574-1520 or [Steven.Hill@co.yakima.wa.us](mailto:Steven.Hill@co.yakima.wa.us).

## More Valley Grants Awarded

- The City of Mabton has received a \$35,000 Planning-Only Community Development Block Grant to prepare a wastewater facilities plan. Completion of the plan will allow Mabton to upgrade their wastewater treatment plant and increase capacity. Great job!
- The City of Sunnyside received \$111,000 Municipal Stormwater Capacity Grant from the Department of Ecology. The grant allows the City to use the funding for a variety of stormwater operations needs, and will assist the City when applying for further grants. Congratulations!



## Water Quality Funding Cycle Gears Up

By Shawn Conrad, Planner

The fall funding cycle for the Department of Ecology's water quality program is gearing up. Each year, Ecology accepts applications for three integrated funding and technical assistance programs aimed at improving and protecting water quality. These funds are awarded through a single application process. The programs include the following:

- *Centennial Clean Water Grant Program*: grants and some low-interest loans for pollution control facilities and activities, on-septic system repair and replacement, and stormwater activities.
- *Federal Clean Water Act Section 319 Nonpoint-Source Grant Program*: grants for planning or implementing strategies identified in the State's nonpoint-source pollution control plan.
- *Washington State Water Pollution Control Revolving Fund Loan Program*: low-cost financing for projects that protect and improve the State's water quality.



Three types of projects are eligible:

1) facilities to control, collect, store, treat, dispose of, or recycle domestic wastewater and stormwater; 2) activities, to control nonpoint water pollution sources or to protect or restore water quality; and 3) stormwater projects that emphasize conservation and natural hydrologic features. Priorities for these funds include construction of wastewater treatment plants and upgrades in small, financially-distressed towns; planning, design, and construction or upgrade of wastewater treatment plants in large urban areas; stormwater management and control, on-site septic repair and replacement, and stream restoration and protection.



Application packets must be received at Ecology's Lacey headquarters office by **5:00 p.m. on Friday, November 5, 2010**. Ecology will hold four application workshops:

- Spokane – September 14, 2010 at the Spokane Convention Center.
- Ellensburg – September 15, 2010 at Central Washington University.
- Lynnwood – September 21, 2010 at the Lynnwood Convention Center.
- Lacey – September 23, 2010 at the Lacey Community Center.

Applications available at: <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/biblio/ecy070379.html>.

Further information available at <http://tinyurl.com/33zv6ct>



September Committee Meetings

**MPO/RTPO Technical Advisory Committee**

Thursday, Sept 9 at 10:00 a.m.

**YVCOG Executive Committee & MPO/RTPO**

**Executive Committee & Policy Board**

Monday, Sept 20 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.**



## “Bike, Brains and Efficiency...!”

Brian Curtin, CTR Program Coordinator

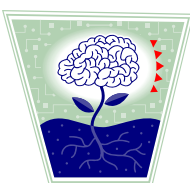
It's time to talk about bikes and their impact on our health and welfare. H.G. Wells said it best: "When I see an adult on a bicycle, I do not despair for the future of the human race." I'm not sure Mr. Wells had Commute Trip Reduction in mind when he uttered those words, but with a little poetic license we can certainly make it fit with the concepts of CTR. When I see a car with more than one commuter in it, a transit bus filled with patrons, someone walking rather than driving to a local deli at lunch time, a vanpool on I-82 headed to work; I do not despair for the future of the human race.



Of all the commuter options, bicycling is by far the most efficient. For example, pound for pound biking uses less energy per mile than any animal or machine. The second most efficient, the salmon, uses twice as much energy. A car consumes 8000 calories of petroleum energy to go 6 miles while a bicyclist only consumes 210 calories. Where is that energy directed? Ninety-five percent of the energy goes towards pushing the car—not the cargo/passengers, conversely, about 80% of the energy goes towards moving the cargo/passenger on a bike.

Besides being the most ecologically sound choice for commuting, it is also the top choice for your physical as well as fiscal health. Sure, you can outfit yourself like Lance Armstrong and cruise on a bike that cost more than my first house. But for commuting to work, you might be more comfortable riding a Pee Wee Herman cycle.

For those of you who are thinking "Riding a bicycle to work just isn't practical for me," you have options. Bike to a bus stop and take the bus the rest of the way to work; drive to a park-and-ride and cycle to work from there; bike to a co-worker's house and carpool from there. Just like we pontificate during Wheel Options weeks, it's all about choices and those choices are bountiful.



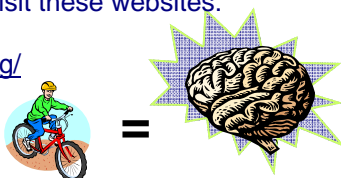
How do brains work their way into this conversation? A University of Illinois study published in the February 2003 issue of the Journal of Gerontology: Medical Sciences, found an inverse relationship between physical fitness and brain density/shrinkage in the three key areas of the

brain adversely affected by aging. In other words, the better shape you are in, the denser, bigger, and more efficient your brain. So make a promise to yourself for that bigger and better brain; make the choice to leave the car at home and give bicycling a try.

For more information about the benefits of bicycling, rules of the road, and safety tips visit these websites:

<http://www.bikeleague.org/>

<http://www.bicyclealliance.org/>



## THE NEXT MEETING....

**WHAT:** YVCOG General Membership Meeting

**BUSINESS:** 2010 YVCOG Budget Amendment  
Proposed Articles of Assoc. Amendment

**PROGRAM:** 2011-2030 WA. Transportation Plan

**WHERE:** Mt. Adams Country Club  
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@yvco.org](mailto:haywardt@yvco.org).

## Proposed Amendment to YVCOG's Articles of Association

By Page Scott, Executive Director

The YVCOG Executive Committee has recommended a change to the Articles of Association, Article VI regarding Executive Committee positions. The proposed amendment will, if approved by the General Membership, broaden the current position of "Planning Commission Member-At-Large" to a more general "Member-At-Large" position.

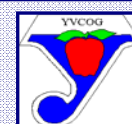
Most of our member jurisdictions have experienced challenges recruiting and retaining volunteers for their own local planning commissions. These "citizen planners" serve an important role in the review and public process of development proposals and long range plans, but it requires a commitment of time that competes with jobs, family, and other personal interests.

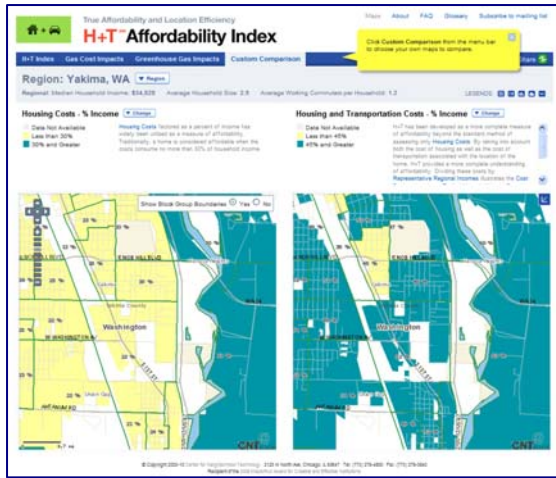
By expanding the eligibility for this at-large position, YVCOG will be able to enhance our Executive Committee representation to other interested residents. Local planning commissioners are welcome and encouraged to seek the at-large position. This change is intended to be less prescriptive and more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

The proposed amendment to the Articles of Association will be considered at the September 15th YVCOG General Membership meeting. Information about the proposed amendment and Executive Committee recommendation has been sent to all YVCOG member jurisdictions. 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).

### 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





## Index Measures the True Cost of Housing

By Shawn Conrad

The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) defines affordable housing as housing that costs less than 30% of the household's income. However, many factors beyond a household's income determine whether housing is affordable for a family. Two very significant factors are: household location and neighborhood design. These factors are behind the concept of "location efficiency." Households in neighborhoods with good access to employment opportunities, goods and services, and public transportation opportunities result in less time and money expenditures. A simple example is the tradeoff between housing and transportation costs. A household can locate two towns away from its primary source of employment because that town has more affordable housing. However, the household could end up spending more in commuting costs than it saves in housing costs.

To aid in housing affordability assessment, the Center for Neighborhood Technology and the Rockefeller Foundation developed the online "Housing + Transportation Affordability Index," accompanying their report, *Penny Wise, Pound Foolish*. The website allows users to view detailed maps and statistics generated from user-selected indices for 337,000 metro areas, 161,000 neighborhoods and 80% of the U.S. population. The index allows users to map housing affordability based on locational efficiency, and illustrates how transportation costs resulting from both household location and neighborhood design affect housing affordability. Access the index and report at: <http://htaindex.cnt.org/>.

Compare

Left Map  Right Map  Regional Typical Household  Regional Moderate Household

**Two Views of Affordability**

Housing Costs - % Income

Housing and Transportation Costs - % Income

**Affordability Indices**

Transportation Costs, % Income

Housing Costs, % Income

Housing Costs, % Income for Owners

Housing Costs, % Income for Renters

Housing + Transportation Costs, % Income

Housing + Transportation Costs, % Income for Owners

Housing + Transportation Costs, % Income for Renters

**Amplified Exposure to Gas Prices**

Monthly Transportation Expenses % Income - 2000 gas

Monthly Transportation Expenses % Income - 2008 gas

Monthly Transportation Expenses (\$) - 2000 gas

Monthly Transportation Expenses (\$) - 2008 gas

Annual Household Gasoline Expenses (\$) - 2000 Gas Price

Annual Household Gasoline Expenses (\$) - 2008 Gas Price

**Greenhouse Gas from Household Auto Use**

CO2 per Acre From Household Auto Use

CO2 per Household From Household Auto Use

**Household Model Outputs**

Autos per Household

Annual Auto Ownership Pool (€)

# At The Fair



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

## At the Fair Word Search

13 Words to Find

- |          |         |
|----------|---------|
| CHIPS    | HOTDOGS |
| BIGWHEEL | KIOSKS  |
| DARTS    | APPLES  |
| JACKET   | TOYS    |
| CANDY    | FRIES   |
| TICKETS  | MUSIC   |
| RIDES    |         |



## August Meeting Highlights

### MPO/RTPO TAC Meeting — August 12

- FFY 2010-2011 STP Funding
- 2011-2014 MTIP/RTIP
- WSTC Regional Priority Project List Review

### MPO/RTPO Executive Committee — August 16

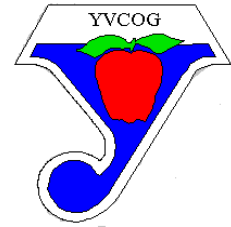
- CTR Program Update
- FFY 2010-11 STP Funding Distribution
- WSTC Listening Session in Yakima-Sept 14
- SFY 2010 Annual Report

### YVCOG Executive Committee — August 16

- Loren Belton elected as Vice-Chair
- 2010 YVCOG Budget Amendment #1
- 2011 YVCOG Budget Subcommittee Report & Review
- Proposed Amendment to Articles of Association



# WASHINGTON STATE TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION & YVCOG Invite You to Attend



WHAT: Washington Transportation Plan 2011-2030  
Regional Listening Session

WHEN: Tues, Sept. 14 from 9 a.m.—Noon

WHERE: The Harman Center  
101 N. 65th Ave  
Yakima, WA 98908

## Listening Session Objectives:

- Share information with stakeholders about the Washington Transportation Plan 2011-2030 (WTP 2030), vision, foundational themes, and strategies
- Actively engage the full range of stakeholders across the state in helping to shape the content and priorities of the WTP and solicit input on key questions
- Learn about regional and local perspectives on transportation system needs, challenges and opportunities.

## About WTP 2030

WTP 2030 is a high-level policy plan providing policy guidance and strategic recommendations across all transportation modes and regions in the state. WTP 2030 encompasses the 2011-2030 planning horizon, a period in which significant change is expected in the state's growth, economy, climate change policies, and mobility and infrastructure investment needs.

For more information on the WTP 2030, see the Washington Transportation Commission website at: <http://www.wstc.wa.gov>