

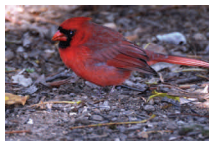


MEMBER JURISDICTIONS:

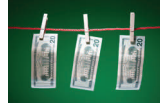
Grandview
Granger
Harrah
Mabton
Moxee
Naches
Selah
Sunnyside
Tieton
Toppenish
Union Gap
Wapato
Yakima
Yakima County
Zillah

**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 Hodgkinson, Jr.



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



FY 2013 TIB Funding Awarded

By Page Scott, Executive Director



On November 18, the Washington State Transportation Improvement Board (TIB) announced funding awards for local jurisdictions. Nearly \$3.5 million was awarded to projects in our region. Six YVCOG member jurisdictions were among those who were awarded funding in either the Expanded Preservation Program (EPP), Small City Preservation Program (SCPP), or Urban Corridors Program (UCP). City of Yakima was awarded \$2.4 million in UCP funds for Nob Hill Blvd., 49th Ave. to 64th Ave. improvements. Five other agencies were awarded funds for much-needed preservation projects.

Agency	TIB Funds
Yakima	\$ 2,400,000
Grandview	\$ 200,146
Selah	\$ 200,000
Toppenish	\$ 190,000
Union Gap	\$ 396,000
Wapato	\$ 270,000
TOTAL	\$3,485,146



**Consortium Achieves Preferred
Sustainability Status**

By Shawn Conrad, Senior Planner

In October, YVCOG applied for a U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant on behalf of a 24-member regional consortium. Competition was fierce – HUD received 120 eligible applications and was only able to give out 29 awards. While YVCOG's application was not awarded, we were one of 23 applications that scored high enough to receive what the federal Partnership for Sustainable Communities calls **Preferred Sustainability Status (PSS)**. This status signifies to federal funding agencies that the region is ready to advance planning that prioritizes sustainability and inclusion as core outcomes of community development. HUD will award bonus points to grant applicants that are working with communities that have received Preferred Sustainability Status. The U.S. Department of Transportation, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and other federal agencies may also award points based on this status.

In addition, PSS consortia will be invited to participate in a range of capacity-building training opportunities to be offered by the Partnership for Sustainable Communities, including sharing best practices; techniques for moving from visioning and plan development to implementation; and methods for helping communities to prioritize principles for social equity and inclusion that frame long-term outcomes for regional development. PSS communities will be part of a learning network of regions committed to advancing sustainability, which will build peer-to-peer networks focused on issues of common concern. Finally, PSS recipients may be able to preserve elements of their proposal for the next Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant competition.

A huge THANK YOU to all the enthusiastic and patient consortium members and supporters who made this accomplishment possible!



Yakima Valley Transportation Group Goes to Washington



By Page Scott, Executive Director

Local delegates from DRYVE and TRANS-Action visited Washington D.C. in November to meet with federal agencies and “hill” staffers. The group met with staff from Congressman Hastings, Senator Murray and Senator Cantwell’s offices, as well as

House Transportation & Infrastructure (T&I) committee staff, lobbyists, stakeholder organizations, and several USDOT offices. The meetings were productive despite the discouraging news from Washington D.C. concerning budget outlooks. We were able to present many positive examples of coordination and cooperation in our region through the efforts of DRYVE and TRANS-Action.

Pictured above: Ron Davis, TC Transportation; Alan Adolf, Yakima County; Page Scott, YVCOG; Jeff Louman, HLA; and Michael Morales, City of Yakima.



Wheel Options-Winners All!

By Brian Curtin, CTR Program Coordinator

They traveled by public transit, vanpool, carpool, and bicycle and even by foot in pursuit of their ever elusive prize. It might have been the \$2,500 cash prize, or one of the getaways to the Coeur d’Alene Resort, the Ocean’s Edge Bed and Breakfast or one of the many gift cards offered by the Washington State Rideshare Organization that drove them on. Not for me, no sir! For me, it was local grand prize of a luxury getaway at Cave B Inn near George, WA. The world famous Yurts were calling my name. The award winning wines were beckoning. I carpoled like I’d never carpoled before. Alas, it was not meant to be. I would not be a Yurt inhabitant (but Charles Hundley from Yakima County will be; congratulations!). But I won much more! I saved money on my daily commute, sent less pollutants into our atmosphere and made life a little bit healthier for all of us. Yes, I was a winner after all! And each and every one of you who participated in Wheel Options is a winner as well!

I take pride and pleasure in congratulating the 200 employees from 18 local employers who participated in the Fall Wheel Options campaign. During the two week period from October 16th to October 29th they chose to exercise their right to use an alternative transportation mode (rather than driving alone) to work. Every conceivable alternative mode was utilized.



Continued on above right...

Wheel Options continued from below...



Carpooling and compressed work week proved to be the most popular. Many chose to dust off the old bicycle and use the “most efficient of all commute modes.” There were a few that took the “Shoe Leather Express” to work; these were some of the shorter commutes of 1 to 2 miles and they are to be commended for their efforts. The longest commute was a whopping 84 miles. For those of you who live for statistics, here are a few impressive ones; Carbon Dioxide lbs. reduced = 32,033; number of one way trips reduced = 1,324; gallons of gas saved = 1,643, for a savings of \$5,209 and the most impressive statistic is the number of vehicle miles reduced: 39,425!!!

Just imagine if Wheel Options weeks were every week of the year! Well, guess what? They are! You have the option of using an alternative transportation mode every day of your life; you just have to make the choice. And guess what else? Believe it or not, there are prizes every week. Each gallon of gas you don’t pump into your tank puts money back in your wallet. Each mile you don’t drive alone improves air quality and reduces traffic congestion. Each mile you ride a bicycle or take the bus or walk, awards you numerous health benefits. So make the choice, use a Wheel Option of your choice and reap the rewards. Congratulations to all who participated in this Fall Wheel Options campaign! Please see the list of local winners in this newsletter and for a complete statewide listing of the Wheel Options Campaign prizes and winners visit the Wheel Options website at www.wheeloptions.org and keep utilizing your wheel options!



YVCOG General Membership Meeting

WHERE: Wapato American Legion

PROGRAM: 2012 Yakima Countywide Planning Policies Process

BUSINESS: 2011 Budget Revision
Annual Outstanding Service Award
2012 Executive Committee Elections

WHEN: Dec. 14, 2011
6:30 p.m.— 9:30 p.m.

DINNER: \$18 at 7:00 p.m.

Reservations and cancellations for a voting quorum and the caterer are appreciated no later than **Friday, Dec. 9, 2011 at noon.** Please RSVP to Sarah or Tami at (509) 574-1550 or email to haywardt@yvcog.org.

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.

Yakama Nation Receives Statewide Community Impact Award

By Shawn Conrad, Senior Planner

The Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation won the Infrastructure Assistance Coordinating Council's (IACC) Community Impact Award at IACC's third annual Infrastructure Awards program, presented during IACC's annual conference on October 20, 2011. The IACC recognizes projects and individuals that have made a difference in bettering communities in Washington State.

The Yakama Nation project that was the target of the award was their waste handling efficiency project called *mataawit tiichamnan* or "Cleansing the Land." The overall goal of the Yakama Nation's solid waste program is to develop a tribally administered, sustainable, integrated solid waste management system that is economical, safe, and incorporates ancestral knowledge of ecology into practice while protecting and enhancing cultural and environmental resources on the reservation and the tribe's areas of influence. With assistance from U.S. Department of Agriculture-Rural Development, the project was aimed specifically at improving waste handling and collection methods employed by the Yakama Nation while changing the waste disposal behaviors and practices that adversely affect the land, the waters and the people of the Yakama Nation.

The tribe set out five goals to change tribal member's attitudes, behaviors, and practices. They are: improve solid waste handling efficiency; reduce costs of waste handling; increase user participation in curbside collection; education and outreach on proper waste handling and recycling; and lastly, improve relationships with their Federal partners at the U.S. Department of Agriculture's regional Rural Development office. The "Cleansing the Land" program not only met its goals, it has succeeded beyond the expectations of the tribe and the tribe's partners. This pilot program is now being implemented by other tribal groups across the state.



Great job and congratulations!

Derald Ortloff, Yakama Nation Facilities Management Program Manager, accepts the IACC Community Impact Award on behalf of the Yakama Nation. Source: IACC.



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
 Chris Wickenhagen, Administrative Finance Officer
 Tamara Hayward, Office Specialist
 Sarah A. Hyndman, Office Specialist
 Serena Pettit, Office Technician (CTR Intern)



LEFT: Dennis Henne, Union Gap Public Works Director, and team participants develop ideas for addressing challenges to providing safe walking/biking routes to Union Gap School at the SRTS National Course held October 25, 2011.

Safe Routes to School News

By Shawn Conrad, Senior Planner

Safe Routes to School (SRTS) programs are developed and implemented collaboratively by parents, schools, community leaders, and governments. SRTS programs enable and encourage children to walk and bicycle to school through application of five "E's": Engineering solutions, Education about walking and biking safety and the benefits of children walking and biking to school, Encouragement of walking and biking, Enforcement strategies to improve safety and accessibility around schools, and Evaluation of program efforts. Through these efforts, walking and bicycling to school becomes a safer and more appealing transportation option, and children reap the benefits to their health and well-being.

On October 25-27, three SRTS National Courses were offered in the Yakima Valley, focusing on Union Gap School in Union Gap, Adams Elementary School in Yakima, and Summitview Elementary School in Yakima. The SRTS National Course is a one-day course that was developed by the Pedestrian and Bicycle Information Center and is maintained by the National Center for Safe Routes to School. Fundamental to the course is the understanding that each community and school has a different set of conditions requiring their own unique solutions. The course helps schools and communities establish an understanding of SRTS so that they can create their own programs using best practices that are most suited to their needs. In addition, the course lays the groundwork for establishing a SRTS program by identifying challenges and potential solutions unique to the school.

Shawn Conrad, YVCOG Senior Planner, can work with interested communities and school districts to offer and teach the National Course, customized to an individual school. In addition, YVCOG can assist communities in developing applications for SRTS funding, available through the Washington State Department of Transportation. The next call for funding is expected by April 2012, and could be advertised as early as January. All proposals must address the five "E's: Engineering, Education, Encouragement, and Enforcement. The SRTS website at <http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/LocalPrograms/SafeRoutes/planning.htm> provides assistance for developing a competitive SRTS program for funding.

For more information, please contact Shawn Conrad at 574-1550 or conrads@yvco.org.

December Committee Meetings

MPO/RTPO Technical Advisory Committee
 Thursday, Dec. 8 at 10:00 a.m.

YVCOG MPO/RTPO Executive Committee & Policy Board & YVCOG Executive Committee
 Monday, Dec. 19 at 1:30 p.m.
The 300 Bldg* 2nd Flr * 311 North 4th St * Yakima For more info, call (509) 574-1550.

~~drive alone~~

chill out

read

exercise

sleep

knit

sudoku

catch up

Win \$2,500

on your
way to work

Oct. 16-29, 2011

wheel
options

your trip, your way.

FALL 2011 WHEEL OPTION LOCAL PRIZE WINNERS!

Luxury Getaway at Cave B Inn (\$500) -

Charles Hundley - Yakima County

Tony's Steakhouse Gift Cert. (\$100) -

Gregory Barrett - WSDOT

El Mirador 2 Gift Cert. (\$60) -

James Moberly - WSDOT

**Mike Bastinelli's Russillo's Gift
Cert.(\$50) -** Hugo Morales - Perry Tech.

Inklings Bookstore Gift Cert. (10@ \$15) -

Ivy Rangel - DSHS; Jenaro Urena-Posadas - YVFWC; Victoria Valdez - Yakima County; Ted Cox - Yakima County; Jeff Collins - Perry Tech.; Armando Hernandez - Alexandria Moulding; Eric Hartwig - Dept. of Ecy.; Deb LaCombe - YVCOG; Vinnie Richardson - Perry Tech.; Ryan Sande-

Movie Bucks (20@ \$10) - Tim Collins - YVFWC; Terel Cuevas - YVFWC; Phil Gotterbarm - Dept. of Ecy.; Nikkie Kautzman - YVFWC; Darlene Terry - YVFWC; Ric Attaway - YVFWC; Paula Davis - Yakima County; Clara Bucio-Martinez - Yakima Regional; Delia Mendoza - YVFWC; Angela Crowder - Yakima Regional; Patricia Crane - WSDOT; Ray Brown - Alexandria Moulding; Candy Graff - Dept. of Ecy.; Wally Morrison - Yakima County; Craig Zirkle - WSDOT; Kevin Nicholson - WSDOT; Sherrie Testerman - City of Union Gap; Jamie Dawson - Perry Tech; Jacob Reed - Yakima County; Mark Schmitt - Yakima County

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.



2012 YAKIMA VALLEY CONFERENCE OF GOVERNMENTS MEETING DATES

***MPO/RTPO & POLICY
BOARD & YVCOG
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEES**

****YVCOG
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP**

*****MPO/RTPO
TECHNICAL ADVISORY
COMMITTEE**

JANUARY 18 - Wednesday

FEBRUARY 15 – Wednesday

MARCH 19

APRIL 16

MAY 21

JUNE 18

JULY 16

AUGUST 20

SEPTEMBER 17

OCTOBER 15

NOVEMBER 19

DECEMBER 17

JANUARY 18

MARCH 21

MAY 16

SEPTEMBER 19

OCTOBER 17

DECEMBER 12

JANUARY 12

FEBRUARY 9

MARCH 8

APRIL 12

MAY 10

JUNE 14

JULY 12

AUGUST 9

SEPTEMBER 13

OCTOBER 11

NOVEMBER 8

DECEMBER 13

*The Metropolitan and Regional Transportation Planning Organization (MPO/RTPO) & Policy Board and YVCOG Executive Committee meet at 1:30 p.m. at the YVCOG office, 311 North 4th Street, Suite 202, in Yakima on the **3rd Wednesday** of January and February and on the **3rd Monday** of each month thereafter.

** The YVCOG General Membership meets at 6:30 p.m. on the **3rd Wednesday** of January, March, May, September, and October. The December meeting is held on the **2nd Wednesday**. These meetings are held at alternating locations throughout the county.

***The MPO/RTPO Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) meets at 10:00 a.m. at the YVCOG office, 311 North 4th Street, Suite 202, in Yakima on the **2nd Thursday** of each month (unless notified otherwise).