



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



**Tightening the Efficiency of Government
Vehicles in Real-time**

By Deb LaCombe, Senior Planner

A recent article in *Roads & Bridges* reports that tracking vehicle use to tighten fleet operations, conserve fuel, track performances and activities, has paid off for the Indiana Highway Department. With just 15 tracking units in a fleet of 30, the article identifies the top 3 benefits as:

- The ability to monitor real time data such as idle time, location, speed, stops/starts, and odometer readings for each of the vehicles.
- Savings of \$15,000 experienced in the first year by focusing on operational efficiencies such as idling time, odd-hour use, and speeding.
- Recording the locations and activities of the snow plows helps when responding to complaints and queries about roadway services such as snow plowing.

The type and number of equipment installations required vary. The fleet in the Indiana Highway Department used a fleet management system which wirelessly transmits individual tracking device data for each vehicle with GPS location information and inputs the data into a remote database. The database can be data-mined by logging into a secured web page. Real time and historical analysis can be performed while in the remote database.

When I asked the Yakima Valley MPO/RTPO Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) members about using that technology here, the City of Yakima, Yakima Transit, and Yakima County all responded that they were already using some form of vehicle tracking.

- City of Yakima uses tracking devices on their refuse trucks.
- Yakima Transit uses this technology, allowing transit riders to log onto the web and track their anticipated bus arrival time at any stop in the system.
- Yakima County uses vehicle tracking devices on both their snow plows and their paint striping truck.



Sunnyside's vehicles do not have GPS devices installed, but the City has instituted other vehicle policies such as required vehicle inspections prior to, and after operations; no idling policy; fleet management and maintenance software. In the first year that the no idling policy was put into place, Sunnyside saved 4,000 gallons of fuel on its vehicles city-wide. Although Sunnyside doesn't yet use GPS equipment on their vehicles; they have installed hour meters installed on all equipment. This policy has resulted in less maintenance and greater efficiency.

Other TAC members showed so much interest in this topic that Yakima County offered to host the next TAC meeting in their Maintenance Shop so that all members can have a demonstration of the equipment used by the County. Please note the meeting address on the next agenda. January's TAC agenda should be circulated no later than January 3, 2011. If you would like to receive TAC notifications but are not currently on the list, please email Deb LaCombe at lacombed@yvcog.org with your contact info.



**Due to the January holiday observations, YVCOG Office will be CLOSED:
Monday 1/17 - Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. Regular office hours will re-
sume on Tuesday, 1/18. We apologize for any inconvenience.**

Dazzling December Membership Meeting

By Sarah Hyndman

At the December 8th YVCOG General Membership meeting, our YVCOG Outstanding Service Award went to our Executive Committee Member-At-Large, John Hodkinson. Earlier in the year, John resigned from the Executive Committee as Planning Commission Member-At-Large due to the dissolution of the Yakima Area Urban Planning Commission. However, a change to the YVCOG Bylaws opened the former Planning Commission position to any Yakima County resident. John was nominated by the YVCOG Executive Committee to fill this position and continue his service. His ongoing interest and involvement in the YVCOG has been invaluable. Thank you and, again, congratulations to John!

Yakima County Commissioner Elliott presented a lively recap of his Peking, China to Paris, France rally. He and his Road Rally partner, Les Roy, encountered countless setbacks along the way including replacing the starting car, a 1935 Ford Model B Phaeton, to a old Subaru to complete his trip.

Also, many thanks to the City of Yakima and Yakima County for hosting our meeting at the beautiful State Fair Park Room at the SunDome. We look forward to another year and great things for the Yakima Valley.



Top Left: 1) John Hodkinson receives his Outstanding Service Award from Page Scott and Jim Restucci, Chairman. 2) 2010 Peking-To-Paris Rally Route Map 3) Commissioner Elliott shares his photo slideshow 4) Sandee Hodkinson and DeLeesa Restucci are catching up. **Middle Row:** 1) DeAnn Hochalter from Sunnyside 2) Lovely lights at the State Fair Room. **Bottom Left:** 1) Rally Patch on Mr. Elliott's Jacket 2) Mt. Ararat, Turkey 3) Roman aqueducts 4) YVCOG Staff and Membership talking shop before the meeting starts 5) A gas fireplaces adds a little atmosphere to our meeting.

Keeping Winter Traffic Flowing – Got Milk?

By Deb LaCombe, Senior Planner

After the last winter storm, I started searching for Winter Driving Tips on the Washington State Dept. of Transportation (WSDOT) website. WSDOT has multiple formats and ways to receive travel information prior to heading out during possible adverse weather challenges drivers may encounter when traveling this winter. WSDOT travel info is accessible on the web, calling 511, using Twitter, Blogger, Flickr, Facebook, YouTube, email, radio, or more traditionally at <http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/winter/>



The WSDOT winter travel page also has general tips which can instruct readers on the safest way to:

- Prepare your vehicle for winter driving
- Create and maintain an emergency car kit
- Drive in proximity to snow plows, and
- Chain-up

So what does any of this have to do with milk? An interesting video on the WSDOT website explains how cheese whey is used in WSDOT's anti-icer. The salt brine process uses the whey, a dairy by-product, designed to lower the corrosiveness of older styles of de-icer. The video is accessible here: <http://www.tvw.org/media/mediaplayer.cfm?evid=2008120078&TYPE=V&CFID=773572&CFTOKEN=82468528&bhcp=1>

January Committee Meetings
MPO/RTPO Technical Advisory Committee
 Thursday, Jan 13 at 10:00 a.m.
 Location: Yakima County Maintenance Shop
YVCOG MPO/RTPO
Executive Committee & Policy Board
& YVCOG Executive Committee
 Wednesday, Jan 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.

THE NEXT MEETING....

WHAT: YVCOG General Membership Meeting
WHERE: Wapato American Legion
WHEN: January 19, 2011
 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.
 (Dinner at 7:00 p.m.)

Reservations and cancellations are due no later than Friday, Jan. 14, 2011 at noon. Please RSVP to Sarah or Tami at (509) 574-1550 or email to haywardt@yvcog.org.



Grants Available Through Economic Development Administration

By Shawn Conrad, Senior Planner

The U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) (www.eda.gov), according to their mission statement, "partners with distressed communities throughout the United States to foster job creation, collaboration, and innovation." The EDA offers grants through eight programs, including Public Works and Economic Development, Economic Adjustment Assistance, Planning, Technical Assistance, Research and Evaluation, Trade Adjustment Assistance for Firms, Community Trade Adjustment Assistance, and the Global Climate Change Mitigation Incentive Fund.

Previously, EDA has accepted grant applications on an ongoing basis. To increase transparency and efficiency in their grant administration process, EDA is now switching to a quarterly grant application framework.

Currently, EDA is circulating a Federal Funding Opportunity announcement (FFO) (see <http://tinyurl.com/3xx22yv>) for three of its programs which share the same funding cycle deadlines. The three programs include:

- Public Works – for construction or rehabilitation of essential public facilities and infrastructure to create jobs and ensure economic resilience.
- Economic Adjustment Assistance – Provides a wide range of technical, planning, and public works and infrastructure assistance in regions experiencing adverse economic changes.
- Global Climate Change Mitigation Incentive Fund – promotes EDA policies and strategies which contribute to environmentally sustainable development.

The deadlines for the above three programs are:

- Funding cycle 1: (deadline passed).
- Funding cycle 2: March 10, 2011
- Funding cycle 3: June 10, 2011
- Funding cycle 1 of fiscal year 2012: September 15, 2011

EDA also is circulating a second FFO (see <http://tinyurl.com/37dfln>) which extends the current application deadline to January 21, 2011 for the following programs:

- Planning - Assists local and regional organizations (District Organizations, Indian Tribes, and other eligible entities) with their short and long-term planning efforts.
- Technical Assistance - Focused assistance provided to public and nonprofit leaders to help in economic development decision making (e.g., project planning, impact analyses, feasibility studies).

December Meeting Highlights

General Membership Meeting: Dec 8

- 2010 Budget Amendment #2-No Quorum
- Peking-To-Paris Presentation by Commissioner Rand Elliott

MPO/RTPO TAC Meeting: Dec 9

- Model User's Group (MUG) Meeting Information
- MPO/RTPO & WSDOT Updates

MPO/RTPO Executive Committee: Dec 20

- Cancelled

YVCOG Executive Committee: Dec 20

- HOME Consortium Housing Rehab Sub-recipient
- YVCOG Business Expense Reimbursement Policy
- Appointing 2011 Auditing Officer & Alternate Auditing Officers
- Professional Services Contract with Gene Weinmann
- Wapato Comp Plan Amendment #2
- Yakima County Fire District #4-2011 DUI Cost Recovery



by John Rohrbaugh, GISP

Earlier this month at the Yakima Valley Conference of Governments December General Membership Meeting, we were privileged to have Yakima County Commissioner Rand Elliott as the guest speaker. Commissioner Elliot shared photos, experiences, and anecdotes with the crowd, from his journey on the Peking-to-Paris Rally this last fall. To someone like myself, a geographer, junior cultural anthropologist (haven't collected enough box tops for the secret decoder ring!), off-road fanatic, and history buff, this presentation left me filled with awe and wonder.

Although I've traveled to a great many places in my life, I've found it impossible to get a sense of a place I *haven't* been without actually setting foot on the ground at the location in question. This seems obvious, but how many of us have wondered about our height relative to an Easter Island statue or considered the actual depth of the Grand Canyon? I pondered such things as Commissioner Elliot began his presentation with a picture of vehicles lined up against the Great Wall of China. The Wall is a truly impressive structure, so massive that it's said that it can be seen from space (not entirely true). The picture, at the right, shows a wall that seems to go on forever into the distance.



In fact, Wikipedia states in part: "The Great Wall stretches from Shanhaiguan in the east, to Lop Nur in the west, along an arc that roughly delineates the southern edge of Inner Mongolia. The most comprehensive archaeological survey, using advanced technologies, has recently concluded that the entire Great Wall, with all of its branches, stretches for 8,851.8 km (5,500.3 mi). This is made up of 6,259.6 km (3,889.5 mi) sections of actual wall, 359.7 km (223.5 mi) of trenches and 2,232.5 km (1,387.2 mi) of natural defensive barriers such as hills and rivers." (see: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Great_Wall_of_China.) Although one should normally take a great deal of wikipedia with a proverbial grain of salt, facts about the Great Wall are well known. This would safely make wikipedia a viable source on the Wall.

The article states that the Great Wall is therefore roughly 5,500 miles long with many disparate sections. Does this aid your understanding of the scope? Even a fact monger like me has a hard time grasping the size and scale of this monumental creation of man strictly given the rattle of numbers in the article. So how do I get my perspective?

Nothing beats actually visiting a monument of interest such as the Great Wall, to actually see the size and scope first hand. This can, however, be cost prohibitive. Airfare alone, to Beijing, is currently about \$900 (a whopping 6000 Chinese Yuan) and a 12 hour flight! Lucky for us, we live in the new era of digital mapping.

We can now ask the question, 'if the Great Wall of China had been built in and around Yakima, what areas would it cover?' The good folks at the British Broadcasting Corporation (yes, the BBC) have developed a great website called "Dimensions", to give us some needed perspective on current global events, and areas and items of historical interest. Below is a drawing of the great wall as it would look stretched out across Washington State:

Continued 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.

Perspective Continued From Page 3...



No, it doesn't escape me that the builders would need to be proficient at scuba diving but again; we can start to get the idea of how massive this structure is compared to this northwest corner of our great nation!

Thanks to the British Broadcasting Corporation, it's now possible to get a better grasp of the scope and size of events throughout history. From the Great Wall, to the Pyramids at Giza, to the foot print of the Twin Towers in as they may have stood in Yakima prior to the 9/11 attacks, the 'Dimensions' site uses new digital mapping technologies to help us better understand ourselves and our world, without the expensive of thousands of Yuan in travel costs. To see for yourself, visit: <http://howbigreally.com/>.

As a footnote to the article, it was believed for a long time that the Great Wall was visible from space. As it turns out, this isn't the case without high end photographic equipment or specialized radar imagery. For the whole story and some exciting imagery from NASA, visit: http://www.nasa.gov/vision/space/workinginspace/great_wall.html.

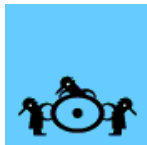
Your YVCOG Staff:

- 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
- Serena Pettit, Office Technician



The CTR Safety Net...

By Brian Curtin, CTR Coordinator



In preparation for next spring's biennial CTR affected employer survey, I have been reviewing past survey results. As usual, one question, and more importantly its answer always jumps out at me. Question number nine reads something like this "If you drive alone to work, which of the following would most encourage you to try using an alternative to driving alone?" There are 18 possible answers plus one marked 'other' (those by the way are some of the most humorous and sometimes not so funny answers). Of all of those possible answers one stands out more than any other. Answer 'C', "An immediate ride home in case of an emergency (guaranteed ride home)." That seems to be the biggest concern when deciding to use an alternative mode to drive alone. Well, those folks need not be concerned, for the answer lies in the Guaranteed Ride Home (GRH) program. The GRH program ensures that participants that utilize an alternative commute mode, rather than driving alone, such as carpool/vanpool, public transit, walking or bicycle are provided with a ride home in the event of an emergency. The Commute Trip Reduction (CTR) program here at the YVCOG, provides a program that guarantees a ride home for those participating employees of CTR affected worksites.

It is ironic that survey after survey indicates that employees rank the availability of GRH as the most important influencing factor in their choice to participate in using a commute alternative. The ironic thing is that GRH is so under-utilized. It is rarely used, yet it is considered an important safety net that allows a comfort zone for those participating in the CTR program. This is a reminder to all of our Employee Transportation Coordinators (ETCs), that you need to make your employees aware of this opportunity. Posters, brochures and informational flyers, as well as the ride vouchers for the program have been distributed to your worksites. If you are an ETC and you need more vouchers or additional information about Guaranteed Ride Home, call me, e-mail me, and hound me. This is an important program that encourages your employees to use commute alternatives and it costs them nothing. In fact, A-1 Tri-City Taxi (the same folks that provide Dial-A-Ride for Yakima Transit) is providing this service at no cost as a very important service to the community. So the next time an employee says "Now, how am I going to get home?" You can respond, "Not to worry, GRH to the rescue."



Maturing of America II: Getting Communities on Track for Baby Boomers

By Page Scott, Executive Director

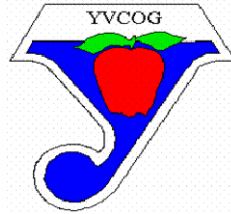
Only 46 percent of American communities have begun planning to address the needs of the exploding population of aging Baby Boomers. The Baby Boom generation - born between 1948 and 1964 - is rapidly approaching retirement age. When this trend hits its peak in 2030, the number of people over age 65 in the United States will soar to 71.5 million – twice their number in the year 2000, or one in every five Americans. How are local communities preparing for this change?

The American Planning Association is partnering with the National Association of Area Agencies on Aging to undertake a MetLife Foundation-funded survey that will look closely at the progress under way in every aspect of community life including: land use and zoning, housing, transportation, social services, and civic engagement.

With its other partners — the International City/County Management Association, Partners for Livable Communities, the National Association of Counties, and the National League of Cities — the survey will poll 10,000 cities and counties across the nation and look at advances made since the last "Maturing of America" survey was conducted in 2005. In the Yakima County region, surveys were sent to the cities of Grandview, Selah, Sunnyside, Toppenish, Union Gap, Wapato, Yakima, and Yakima County.

The 2005 study found that while initial steps were being taken, much more needs to be done. The coalition will issue the "Maturing of America II" report in May 2011 on this year's follow-up survey.





2011 YAKIMA VALLEY CONFERENCE OF GOVERNMENTS MEETING DATES

*MPO/RTPO & POLICY BOARD & YVCOG EXECUTIVE COMMITTEES	**YVCOG GENERAL MEMBERSHIP	***MPO/RTPO TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
JANUARY 19-Wednesday	JANUARY 19	JANUARY 13
FEBRUARY 16- Wednesday	MARCH 16	FEBRUARY 10
MARCH 21	MAY 18	MARCH 10
APRIL 18	SEPTEMBER 21	APRIL 14
MAY 16	SEPTEMBER 21	MAY 12
JUNE 20	OCTOBER 19	JUNE 9
JULY 18	DECEMBER 14	JULY 14
AUGUST 15		AUGUST 11
SEPTEMBER 19		SEPTEMBER 8
OCTOBER 17		OCTOBER 13
NOVEMBER 21		NOVEMBER 10
DECEMBER 19		DECEMBER 8

*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).