



Why is the Yakima Valley Regional Transportation Plan being updated?

YVRTP Update
Project Fact Sheet
Winter 2010 - 11

Quick Facts

- The Yakima Valley Regional Transportation Plan addresses future transportation needs over the next 20 years, to ensure the timely and efficient movement of people and goods.
- The Regional Transportation Plan includes a list of future transportation improvement projects in the valley. This list will be updated with input from the public.
- An approved Plan is required for compliance with federal and state laws, and for the region to be eligible for federal funds for transportation improvements.
- Public participation is a key component of the update. The Draft Public Participation Plan for the update is available for comment at www.yvcog.org/PlanUpdate11/ beginning December 28, 2010 through February 15, 2011. Public review copies are also available at the Yakima Valley Library Downtown Branch, the Sunnyside Library, and YVCOG.

What is the Regional Transportation Plan?

- The Plan anticipates the next 20 years and identifies transportation system improvements to achieve the timely and efficient movement of people and products within and through the Yakima Valley region.
- In addition to roadway needs, the Plan addresses issues such as safety, security, programs to improve the operational efficiency of the transportation system, pedestrian and bicycle transportation, public transportation, the environment, and strategies to reduce the amount of travel throughout the region.
- An approved Regional Transportation Plan is needed so the region can be eligible for federal transportation improvement funds. The Plan also addresses compliance with air quality regulations, which in turn affects funding eligibility.
- The full name of the Plan is the Metropolitan Transportation Plan/Regional Transportation Plan, or MTP/RTP, but for the sake of simplicity it is referred to as the Regional Transportation Plan.

Why is an update needed?

- The current Plan was adopted in 2007. Federal and state laws require periodic updates to the Plan.
- In 2005, the federal Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: a Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) was signed into law. The Plan update must address SAFETEA-LU requirements, including planning for individual security/safety and homeland security as related to the transportation system.

Who is responsible for the planning effort?

- The Yakima Valley Conference of Governments (YVCOG) is designated by both the federal and state governments as the responsible party for updating the Plan. Member jurisdictions of the YVCOG include Grandview, Granger, Harrah, Mabton, Moxee, Naches, Selah, Sunnyside, Tieton, Toppenish, Union Gap, Wapato, Yakima, Yakima County, and Zillah.

How does planning for future transportation facilities occur?

- The planning process will look at forecasts for future population and employment growth in the region, and where within the region new residents and businesses are likely to locate. These are known as land use forecasts.
- The regional travel forecasting model (a computerized model) will be updated to reflect the land use forecasts, in order to forecast future transportation demands in the region.
- Several scenarios for transportation improvements will be developed. These scenarios will be evaluated and a preferred scenario for the region will be defined.
- A list of future transportation improvement projects to serve the region will be generated based on the preferred scenario.

What is the timeline for the planning process?

- The planning process to update this plan officially began in December 2010. Land use modeling and the development of transportation improvement scenarios begin in January 2011.
- YVCOG Staff will meet with stakeholders; transportation service providers; as well as other state, tribal and local transportation agencies to develop and review draft materials and make recommendations to be included throughout the process
- Transportation modeling of the scenarios, the definition of a preferred scenario, and drafting of the updated Plan will occur late this winter and early spring 2011.
- The new Plan is to be adopted by June 2011 in order for YVCOG to comply with federal laws.

What opportunities are there for public involvement?

- The project website at www.yvcog.org/PlanUpdate11 includes an online comment form. Comments may also be sent to:

Deb LaCombe, Sr. Transportation Planner
YVCOG
311 North 4th Street, Suite 202
Yakima, WA 98901
Phone: (509) 574-1550
Fax: (509) 574-1551
Email address:
YVCOG2011RTP@yvcog.org
- Meetings of the Yakima Valley MPO/RTPO Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and Executive Committee are open to the public. The project website will include notification of meeting dates.

How can I get more information?

Project website:

www.yvcog.org/PlanUpdate11/

Phone: (509) 574-1550

Email: YVCOG2011RTP@yvcog.org

Information in Spanish is available by calling 509-574-1550 and asking for the Spanish extension

¿Cómo se puede obtener información en español?

Para obtener información en español sobre este proyecto de planificar para el transporte en el región, puede llamar al número 509-574-1550. Solicitar la extensión del idioma español

If you need special accommodations to participate in a meeting or materials in an alternative format, please call YVCOG at (509) 574-1550 by 10:00 AM three days prior to the meeting. For TTY users, please use the State's toll-free relay service, 7-1-1, and ask the operator to dial (509) 574-1550.