

# **Yakima Valley Regional Transportation Plan Update**

## **Summary of Public Workshops**

Two two-hour public workshops were held in order to gather public input on regional transportation issues and priorities for the Plan update. In addition, input on a range of potential Plan strategies for allocating future funding toward improvements was gathered. The workshops occurred on December 12, 2006 at the Yakima Convention Center, and on December 13, 2006 at the Sunnyside Community Center, both from 4:00 to 6:00 pm. They included exhibits on existing transportation conditions, including traffic volumes and capacity deficiencies; locations of safety concerns; freight routes; funded regional improvement projects; and rail, air, public transportation, and alternative modes. There was also an exhibit on forecasted population and employment growth. Finally, the workshop included exhibits designed to gather public input on Plan priorities and strategies.

Eight people attended the December 12 workshop in Yakima. Eight people attended the December 13 workshop in Sunnyside. Attendees included members of the general public, representatives of public agencies (both elected and non-elected), and a member of the media (The Daily Sun). Comments were given both verbally to project staff and consultants, and in writing. Comments received at the workshop are summarized as follows:

- Questions related to growth in the amount of freight and its use of rail, truck, and air travel.
- Operational issues at 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue/Washington and 16<sup>th</sup> south of Washington to 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue.
- The need for local governments to define priorities jointly to compete for limited funding.
- A comment that tolls may be needed to pay for transportation improvements.
- A comment noting City of Yakima key projects, including:
  - 40<sup>th</sup> Avenue (noting that 40<sup>th</sup> Avenue/Fruitvale improvements are funded)
  - 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue (noting that 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue/River improvements are funded)
  - Nob Hill Boulevard
  - S. First, R/R grade separation at MLK and at Lincoln
- Interest in the Valley Mall Boulevard project being completed and possible extension across the freeway to SR 24.
- Correction of the traffic volume map by removing the Valley Mall extension from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue.
- A comment related to 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue being closed due to the airport, and 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue connection to the park entrance.
- A comment supporting an extension of Nob Hill Road to Wide Hallow.
- The need for a public transit system in the lower valley, and/or a private system of shuttles, taxis and more local vanpools.
- The need for transit/mobility options for seniors.
- A comment concerning long term solutions for truck traffic from the Cargill and Arnstein property in Granger to Hudson Road, in order to make the property more

attractive for industrial development and to reduce conflicts with residential, school and other uses in the downtown area.

- A comment calling for maintaining roads.
- A comment calling for dust control on gravel roads.
- The need to consider an intermodal freight system to reduce impacts of trucks on arterials.
- A comment calling for considering future expansion of air cargo.
- The need to address Sunnyside Municipal Airport as a support facility for McAllister Field.
- A comment that the regional plan should build on TransAction and DRYVE planning processes.
- Widening of US 12 to White Pass should be considered to provide an alternative when Snoqualmie Pass (I-90) is closed.

The workshop materials are posted on the project website. They will be updated or new materials posted as new materials are gathered. The general public will continue to have an opportunity to submit comments via the online comment form, mail, email, or telephone.