



What is Draft 2007 Regional Transportation Plan?



YVRTP Update
Project Fact Sheet
May 2007

Quick Facts

- The Yakima Valley Regional Transportation Plan addresses future transportation needs over the next 20 years.
- The Plan is for both the Yakima County region and the greater Yakima metropolitan area.
- It includes a list of future transportation improvement projects.
- The Plan is being updated in order to continue the region's eligibility for state and federal transportation improvement funds.
- The Draft Plan is issued for the purpose of gathering comments. The 30-day comment period on the Draft Plan ends on Thursday, June 14. Comments will be considered and the Final Plan will be adopted following the comment period.
- The Update will be completed in June; the Final Plan is scheduled to be adopted by the Yakima Valley Metropolitan and Regional Transportation Planning Organization (MPO/RTPO) on June 18, 2007.

What does the Draft Plan say?

- The Draft Plan is based on expected population and employment growth throughout the region.
- The Draft Plan includes a strategy for future transportation improvements, which calls for:
 - Maintaining and preserving prior investments in the regional transportation system.
 - Completing transportation projects that are underway or have previously been established as having a strong regional commitment.
 - Focusing on improvements that resolve operational and safety issues.
 - Investing in selected road widening or construction to accommodate future growth, reduce existing congestion, and enhance access to major regional highways.
 - Enhancing transit and other programs to better serve the local community needs and to reduce overall traffic volumes.
 - Improving special needs transportation services, especially outside the Yakima metropolitan area.
 - Constructing high priority components and missing links of the regional non-motorized transportation system that are not addressed by other transportation improvements.
- Identifying other regionally significant projects that could be funded at a later date.
- Supporting local agency projects to improve overall mobility and reduce the local traffic on regional highways.
- The Draft Plan examines the potential for environmental issues associated with future implementation of transportation projects. Specific environmental issues will be examined during the design and permitting processes for individual projects.

What transportation improvements are shown in the Draft Plan?

- The Draft Plan includes an extensive list of potential transportation improvements in the valley. These include both improvements on state highways and regional improvements that will be implemented by Yakima County or one of the local cities or towns.
- While a number of projects involve road widening or construction of new road corridors, the project list also includes many projects for preservation and maintenance, upgrades, and intersection improvements to help the flow of traffic.
- Transit, pedestrian, bicycle, rail, and freight improvements are part of the Draft Plan.

- Commuter trip reduction measures are a component.
- Because it is a regional plan, construction of the improvements listed in the plan is not certain. Instead, the Plan is used to determine future funding priorities for agencies such as local city governments. These agencies rely on a variety of funding sources for transportation improvements, including grants from the state and federal government.

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.
- The Draft Plan was developed through a 10-month planning process that included a consultant team headed by The Transpo Group of Kirkland, Washington, and meetings of the Yakima Valley MPO/RTPO Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and Executive Committee. Public input was sought and obtained through workshops, written comments, and the project website.

Where can I see the Draft Plan?

- Copies of the Draft Plan are available at the downtown Yakima and Sunnyside branches of the Yakima Regional Library, YVCOG office, and on the project website at www.yvcog.org/PlanUpdate.html. The public is invited to submit comments on the Draft Plan via the project website's online comment form (both English and Spanish versions are available), by emailing scottp@yvcog.org, or by writing to J. Page Scott, Executive Director of YVCOG at 311 North 4th Street, Suite 202, Yakima, WA 98901. Information is also available by calling YVCOG at 509-574-1550. The comment period ends Thursday, June 14, 2007 at 5:00 pm.

How can I give my input?

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

J. Page Scott, Executive Director
YVCOG
311 North 4th Street, Suite 202
Yakima, WA 98901
Phone: (509) 574-1550
Fax: (509) 574-1551
Email address: scottp@yvcog.org
- Meetings of the Yakima Valley MPO/RTPO Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and Executive Committee are also open to the public. The project website includes notification of meeting dates and locations.

How can I get more information?

Project website: www.yvcog.org/PlanUpdate.html
Phone: (509) 574-1550
Email: scottp@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 regional, llame al (509) 574-1550 y pida al extensión de teléfono de 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.