



*Yakima Valley  
Metropolitan and Regional Transportation Planning  
Organizations*

**FINAL  
SFY 2010 ANNUAL REPORT**

July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010



**Prepared by**

*Yakima Valley Conference of Governments  
Transportation Planning Staff*

**August 16, 2010**

## INTRODUCTION

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The *Annual Report* relates directly to the *YVCOG SFY 2010 Unified Planning Work Program* (UPWP), which was approved by FHWA and FTA on July 8, 2009 and outlines in detail the planning tasks to be completed during each fiscal year. The UPWP also functions as a set of performance measures for the planning activities reported in this document.

This report details how the Yakima Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) and the Yakima Valley Regional Transportation Planning Organization (RTPO) used state and federal transportation planning funds during State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2010. This annual report lists work completed during SFY 2010, and identifies revenue sources utilized from the state, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), and revenues from required local match amounts.

The Yakima Valley Conference of Governments (YVCOG) is the lead planning agency for the federally designated MPO for the Greater Yakima Metropolitan area, as well as for the state-designated RTPO, as required in accordance with the Washington State Growth Management Act (RCW 47.80.20). The YVCOG is responsible for work described in the *UPWP* developed each state fiscal year.

This report on planning activities and expenditures was prepared by the senior transportation planning staff of the YVCOG. A map showing the planning boundaries of the Yakima Valley Metropolitan and Regional Transportation Planning Organizations is found in *Appendix A*.

## SFY 2010 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

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The Yakima Valley Conference of Governments met or exceeded all federal and state transportation planning, programming and administrative requirements. Additionally, the YVCOG successfully accomplished all routine tasks set out under the work elements of the *SFY 2010 Unified Planning Work Program* (UPWP). Of special note are the following accomplishments:

- **2009-2012 Metropolitan and Regional Transportation Improvement Programs (MTIP/RTIP)**

The 2009-2012 MTIP/RTIP and amendments were developed with input from local jurisdictions and citizens through their elected and appointed officials serving on Yakima Valley Metropolitan and Regional Transportation Planning Organizations (MPO/RTPO) Executive Committee, and the MPO/RTPO Technical Advisory Committee (TAC).

Amendments to the 2009-2012 MTIP were in lieu of a new 2010-2013 MTIP to align with the Washington Department of Transportation's (WSDOT's) STIP process during 2009-2010. The 2009-2012 MTIP/RTIP met all local, state and federal requirements for its adoption into the Washington State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). The 2009-2012 MTIP/RTIP programmed **\$111,544,000** in federal funds, and **\$119,325,000** in state and local funds to total **\$230,869,000** for the Yakima Valley region.

YVCOG staff also processed amendments to the 2009-2012 MTIP in August 2009, September 2009, March 2010, April 2010 and May 2010 to reflect changes in funding, project phases, and schedules.

▪ **Air Quality Conformity Determinations**

YVCOG transportation planning staff performed air quality modeling and issued air quality conformity determinations for the 2009-2012 MTIP and subsequent MTIP amendments. On December 9, 2008 the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) issued a finding that the Yakima Valley 2009-2012 MTIP conforms with the State Implementation Plan (SIP) to reduce the severity and number of National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) violations.

Transportation conformity ensures areas that Federal funding and approval are given to transportation activities that are consistent with air quality goals, and do not worsen air quality or interfere with the purpose of the SIP. A map showing the CO and PM<sub>10</sub> maintenance areas of the Yakima Valley is found in *Appendix A*.

▪ **Yakima Valley Metropolitan and Regional Transportation Plan 2007-2027**

On June 18, 2007 the Yakima Valley MPO/RTPO Executive Committee approved the *Yakima Valley Metropolitan and Regional Transportation Plan 2007-2027*. YVCOG's central focus in SFY 2010 was to ensure that the adopted long-range plan remained viable and provided meaningful policy direction to WSDOT and local agencies to meet their program goals. In SFY 2010 YVCOG worked with WSDOT and local agencies to identify potential necessary amendments to the plan. While no amendments were needed in SFY 2010, keeping the plan up-to-date ensured that it remained relevant and that WSDOT and local agencies were working to implement the plan.

A full update to the plan will be required in 2011 to maintain the region's eligibility to receive federal funding for transportation improvement projects. The plan includes an extensive list of fiscally constrained transportation improvements for the region. These include both improvements on state highways and regionally significant improvements that will be implemented by local jurisdictions and service providers.

▪ **Jobs for Main Street Act (JOBS) 2010**

Yakima Valley MPO/RTPO coordinated with WSDOT and local agencies within the Yakima County region to conduct an expedited regional process to prioritize a potential second year of economic stimulus projects (JOBS). On March 17, 2010 Yakima Valley MPO/RTPO sent WSDOT a priority project list of 8 Tier I projects totaling \$5,638,289 for potential federal JOBS funds based on regional equity and the confidence of readiness to go. YVCOG transportation planning staff will continue tracking federal legislation for transportation funds in SFY 2011 and work to ensure the prioritized list is periodically updated to reflect projects receiving other federal, state, or local funding.

▪ **Competitive Congestion Mitigation/Air Quality (CMAQ) Grant Distribution Funding Process**

In 2010, YVCOG coordinated a two-year call for projects and selected 3 projects to receive \$631,080 in funding for the 2010-2011 CMAQ cycle.

- **Coordinated Public Transit and Human Services Transportation Plan**

SAFETEA-LU requires communities to prepare a coordinated public transit and human services transportation plan to be eligible for certain FTA funding programs. In the Yakima Valley region, YVCOG has coordinated with People for People and the Yakima County Special Transportation Needs Coalition to lead development of the plan. In SFY 2010, People for People began the process of updating the Coordinated Public Transit and Human Services Transportation Plan using a set of comprehensive surveys. Separate surveys were distributed to special needs service users and providers canvassing stakeholders and special needs population groups throughout the Yakima County region. In SFY 2011, YVCOG will continue coordinating with WSDOT, the Agency Council on Coordinated Transportation and People for People to update the plan and identify/prioritize transportation projects and programs for funding consideration.

- **Surface Transportation Program (STP) Regional Distribution Process**

The Yakima Valley RTPO's process of distributing STP Regional funds changed in response to direction by WSDOT: RTPOs that receive federal STP funding must distribute funds based on regional priorities rather than by formula. The MPO/RTPO Executive Committee approved Yakima Valley's new STP competitive application and money distribution process in February 2007.

In SFY 2010, the Yakima Valley MPO/RTPO Executive Committee continued to authorize STP Regional funds up to the amount of the original STP request to the three urban and one rural project originally selected in 2007 with \$7,927,756 in total STP Regional funding. In SFY 2010, \$5,748,968 was made available for a two-year funding cycle. After fully fund all three previously committed 2007 urban projects and the previously committed 2009 rural project, Yakima Valley MPO/RTPO awarded full funding for 6 additional 2010-2011 regional projects.

- **Surface Transportation Program (STP) Enhancement Distribution Process**

The STP Enhancement funding anticipated in SFY 2010 covered a two-year funding cycle of 2010-2011 and available funding was estimated at \$715,000. Yakima Valley RTPO was directed to select the regional projects through an open and competitive process. The Transportation Enhancements (TE) Call for Projects was issued on May 24, 2010 with an application closing date of June 25, 2010. The anticipated funding amount and funding cycle years were modified in the WSDOT TE funding allocation letter to \$1,287,000 for a three-year funding cycle 2010-2012. This increase in funding allowed YVRTPO to select and fully fund 4 projects within our region.

- **Partnership Building**

YVCOG staff and members participated in the interagency consultation process, and collaborated with citizen and jurisdictional interests throughout the year. The following are notable instances that occurred in SFY 2010:

1. Collaborated with the WSDOT South Central Region Office, TRANS-ACTION and D.R.Y.V.E. Committees, to coordinate transportation planning and economic development in the Yakima Valley region. These efforts included participation in the D.R.Y.V.E./TRANS-ACTION information booth at the Central Washington State Fair (September 25 - Oct. 4, 2009).

2. Participated in quarterly Special Needs Transportation Coalition meetings with human services / transportation stakeholders in the region to assess the needs and gaps in human services transportation services and opportunities for better coordination.
  3. Assured consistent regional evaluation of transportation facilities and recognized regional corridors with WSDOT and local agencies to comply with RCW 36.70A.
  4. Reviewed the transportation elements of local comprehensive plans to ensure compliance and consistency with state law and the adopted regional transportation plan as required by RCW 36.70A.070.
  5. Collected traffic counts for jurisdictions within the RTPO to assist preparing their long range GMA comprehensive plans and 6-year Transportation Improvement Programs.
- **Coordination with national, state, and regional planning organizations**  
Participation in national and statewide committees and ad hoc work groups in SFY 2010:
    1. MPO/RTPO/WSDOT Coordinating Committee – quarterly meetings (Page Scott, Drew Miller);
    2. TRANS-ACTION/D.R.Y.V.E. – bi-monthly meetings to develop strategy for expanding public transportation options throughout Yakima County (Page Scott, Deb LaCombe);
    3. Agency Council on Coordinated Transportation – ex-officio membership on the council that meets bi-monthly (Page Scott);
    4. Participation in CTR Technical Advisory Group (TAG) to CTR Board, meeting as required by the CTR Board. (Brian Curtin);
    5. Washington State Commute Trip Reduction (CTR) Board representing affected RTPOs (Page Scott, Brian Curtin);
    6. Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations (AMPO) Policy Committee. (Page Scott);
    7. Coordinated with other Washington State MPO's to assess federal and state policy concerning mandatory annual appropriations rescissions and develop a preferred policy statement (Page Scott);
    8. Coordination with the Yakima Regional Clean Air Agency to assess future transportation planning impacts related to new federal regulations concerning PM<sub>2.5</sub> and CO<sub>2</sub> (Page Scott);
    9. Coordination with WSDOT, Yakima County, the City of Yakima, private developers and PTV America to create long-range transportation planning studies and data necessary to redevelop the old Boise Cascade sawmill adjacent to I-82 in the City of Yakima (Page Scott, Deb LaCombe);
  - **Staff Development**  
Below is a list of work-related training sessions and professional conferences attended by the YVCOG's transportation planning staff during SFY 2010:
    1. *NARC 2009 Executive Directors Conference*, October 4-6, 2009, Phoenix, AZ (Page Scott);
    2. *IACC Conference*, October 14-16, 2009, Wenatchee, WA (Shawn Conrad);

3. *AMPO Annual Conference and Policy Committee Meeting*, October 27-30, 2009, Savannah, GA (Page Scott);
4. *TRB Annual Meeting*, January 11-15, 2010, Washington D.C. (Page Scott);
5. *New Partners Smart Growth*, February 4-6, 2010, Seattle, WA (Shawn Conrad);
6. *NARC Conference of Regions and Transportation Committee Meetings*, February 21-23, 2010, Washington D.C. (Page Scott);
7. *AMPO Policy Committee Meeting*, March 1-2, 2010, via conference call (Page Scott);
8. *COG Directors Retreat*, April 11-13, 2010, Hood River, OR (Page Scott);
9. *2010 PTV Model Users Group*, April 22-23, 2010, Seattle, WA (Deb LaCombe);
10. *2010 WSRO Spring Workshop*, April 26-27, 2010, Bellingham, WA (Page Scott);
11. *NARC Annual Conference and Transportation Committee Meeting*, June 14-16, 2010, Cleveland, OH (Page Scott);
12. *2010 NATMEC TRB Conference*, June 21-24, 2010 Seattle, WA (Deb LaCombe).

## **SFY 2010 EXPENDITURE SUMMARY**

### **STP Regional Planning funds**

In 1999, an agreement was reached locally that allowed for an annual planning set-aside of 5% of anticipated STP Regional funds. In 2007, the STP Regional funding distribution process changed to only allow funding for selected regional priority projects – including planning projects. Regional transportation planning projects requesting STP Regional funds must be presented, prioritized and selected for funding. These funds are to be made available only for special regional planning projects which are endorsed by the MPO/RTPO Technical Advisory Committee and/or to cover MPO/RTPO expenses when all other funding sources have been exhausted. Local match requirement for STP funds is 13.5%.

**Yakima Valley MPO/RTPO  
SFY 2010 Unified Planning Work Program Financial Report  
July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010**

SFY2010	FEDERAL FUNDS		STATE FUNDS		STP Regional Planning Funds	TOTAL
	FHWA PL*	FTA Section 5303	CTR Grant	RTPO		
	<i>13.5% match</i>	<i>20% match</i>	<i>No Match Required</i>		<i>13.5% match</i>	
<b>Funds AVAILABLE</b>	<b>\$491,968</b>	<b>\$49,913</b>	<b>\$74,378</b>	<b>\$97,750</b>	<b>\$92,312</b>	<b>\$805,779</b>
<b>EXPENDITURES (Billed)</b>	<b>\$395,627</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$70,801</b>	<b>\$97,750</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$569,636</b>
<b>CARRY FORWARD to SFY2011</b>	<b>\$96,341</b>	<b>\$49,913</b>	<b>(\$2,423)</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$92,312</b>	<b>\$236,143</b>

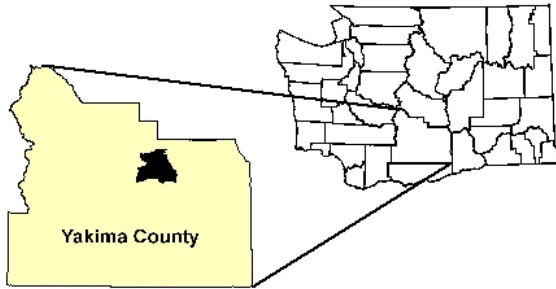
\* Funds carried forward are intended to be used for MTP/RTP update to be completed in SFY2011.


The YVCOG will continue to enhance interaction with our membership, agencies, organizations, and civic representatives such as the Greater Yakima Chamber of Commerce, the Yakima Regional Clean Air Authority, Yakima Community Development Association, Yakima City Transit, and WSDOT South Central Region.

The YVCOG will do this by meeting the goals, and completing the tasks outlined in the *SFY 2011 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)*. Particular attention will be paid to the following:

1. Updating the adopted *Yakima Valley Metropolitan and Regional Transportation Plan 2007-2027*.
2. Participating in the update of the WTP by adding local value to the process to include hosting a Washington State Transportation Commission (WSTC) listening post event in September 2010.
3. Ensuring environmental considerations are incorporated, where appropriate, early in the transportation planning process.
4. Ensuring equity and environmental justice issues are addressed early in the transportation planning process.
5. Enhancing the efficiency, integration, and connectivity of the transportation system, across and between modes, for people and freight.
6. Ensuring the *Yakima Valley Metropolitan and Regional Transportation Plan* and local comprehensive plans are consistent with each other, as required in RCW 47.80.023 and 47.80.030.
7. Ensure development of the update to the Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan and incorporating into the new M/RTP as appropriate.
8. Coordinating with WSDOT to update the Highway System Plan and incorporating economic vitality criteria into the prioritization process to ensure that it is consistent with the adopted Yakima Valley M/RTP.
9. Utilizing the inter-agency consultation process to develop a process and accompanying evaluation criteria to meet planning, programming, and project level transportation conformity requirements for CO and PM<sub>10</sub>. In addition to complying with existing conformity requirements, continue to coordinate with the Yakima Regional Clean Air Agency concerning new transportation planning requirements related to PM<sub>2.5</sub> and CO<sub>2</sub>.
10. Using the best available data and methodology to identify mobile deficiencies on our transportation network.
11. Continue to support the professional development of staff.
12. Continue to participate in state and national transportation policy discussions.

**Appendix A**  
**MPO AND RTPO PLANNING AREA MAPS**



**Yakima Valley**   
**Metropolitan Planning  
Organization  
Planning Area**

