YVCOG

YAKIMA VALLEY CONFERENCE OF GOVERNMENTS

TIB Invests heavily
Page 3

Just Because
Page 4

Funding Calls
Page 7

Volume 44...Issue 1 January 2016

MEMBER JURISDICTIONS:

Grandview
Granger
Harrah
Mabton
Moxee
Naches
Selah
Sunnyside
Tieton
Toppenish
Union Gap
Wapato
Yakima
Yakima County
Zillah

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

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Mike Leita
Yakima County Commissioner
Maureen Adkison
City of Yakima City Council
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Union Gap City Council
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John Hodkinson, Jr., Vice Chair

Community Solutions to Homelessness

Tim Sullivan, Homeless Programs Manager

Homelessness is a complicated issue that is impacted by many individual and community factors. The strategies for addressing homelessness can be even more overwhelming due to the layers of complexities that exist. Simply placing someone in housing doesn't solve the problem of homelessness if they have no job, no income and a disability. Those who are considered chronically homeless coming straight from the streets, have even greater barriers if they suffer from mental illness, substance abuse and have a criminal record due multiple vagrancy offenses.

To affectively address issues of homelessness, local governments and law enforcement agencies need to be engaged in developing solutions through partnerships with housing and shelter providers, mobilizing resources and by examining local policies that create barriers for persons wanting to leave homelessness. For many communities it's not a matter of not wanting to address issues but of how.

Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS Office) is a component within the U.S. Department of Justice dedicated to community policing. The COPS office provides research on best practices in community policing from around the country and produces newsletters and research publications that are excellent resources for local government and law enforcement agencies.

With the growing attention in recent years on issues of homelessness, COPS has produced articles related to panhandling, homeless encampments, addressing persons with mental illness and alternatives to incarceration and criminalization.

The following article "law enforcement is a critical component of the coordinated effort to end homelessness". Provides three practical strategies that include cross-training, coordinated outreach and engagement, and forming a crisis intervention team. You can access the article at http://cops.usdoj.gov/html/dispatch/12-2015/le_critical_to_end_homelessness.asp

Larry Mattson

A Year of Big Changes for Your YVCOG

What a year we've just wrapped up at YVCOG. It's hard to believe that:

- I came aboard in January as your new Executive Director;
- Tim and Avery joined us in July, as we contracted with Yakima County to administer the Homeless Program;
- We hired Yakima County's Technology Services as our network service provider and IT support;
- In October, we welcomed Grandview native Jessica Hansen as our new Office & Communication Specialist;
- Also in October, we began the process of bringing routine administrative services previously performed by Yakima County in-house. This includes payroll and payables, and human resources

That's been quite a journey, and we're not done yet. Here's a sampling of what you can expect from your YVCOG in 2016:

- Continuing to search for and evaluate **new programs and services** that directly benefit you, our members;
- **Expanding partnerships** with local agencies and services providers within the Valley and beyond, with the primary goal of enhancing your ability to serve your citizens;
- **Bimonthly newsletters** – beginning in January, we'll begin publishing our newsletter every other month. To keep you informed of grant opportunities that may arise between newsletters, we'll develop a listserv for those interested in receiving funding alerts;
- **Meeting with newly elected officials** – up and down the Valley, this last election cycle ushered in significant changes for many of our cities. YVCOG staff and I are looking forward to visiting every city hall in 2016;
- **Relevant, timely presentations** on topics of interest to you at our General Membership meetings;
- Creating an **updated YVCOG strategic plan** with the Executive Committee this spring;
- **New, easy-to-navigate website** (with working links; yes, we've heard your complaints)
- Build on the strong, diverse involvement of our new Homeless Planning and Policy Council to create a **5-year strategic plan** to reduce homelessness;
- Generating **two-year budget and workload forecasts** to better inform the meetings of our annual budget sub-committee in August.

Thank you for your support of YVCOG. We exist because of you, in order to serve you. As I reported to the Executive Committee in my end-of-year letter, "Every day brings a new challenge or problem to solve, another opportunity to work with our members and our great staff to help improve the lives of the residents of our Valley. We live in a wonderful place and I remain grateful to you for the opportunity to be of service." Here's looking ahead to a productive 2016, our 50th year!

If you have any ideas or suggestions on ways to improve YVCOG please email them to Jessica.Hansen@YVCOG.org or call the office at 509-574-1550.

Transportation Improvement Board (TIB) Invests Heavily in the Yakima Valley

By Deb LaCombe

Congratulations goes out to 10 different cities and towns in Yakima Valley. In November, the Transportation Improvement Board (TIB) chose 142 projects statewide to receive just over $116 million dollars and Yakima Valley scored very well indeed with 13 projects at $5,876,990 in TIB awards. Only three other counties received more project approvals. The following improvements will start rolling out in Fiscal Year 2017:

Grandview (1 award)
Grind and overlay of Wine Country Road from Ash Street to Fir Street in multiple locations and installation of 9 ADA ramps along the same roadway segments.
TIB Award Amount: $406,341

Granger (1 award)
Overlay projects on East 3rd Street from Main Street to SR 223 in multiple locations and on Bailey Avenue from G Avenue to SR 223 in multiple locations.
TIB Award Amount: $284,885

Harrah (1 award)
Construct sidewalk, curb and gutter and widen of the roadway to allow for parallel parking on Harrah road from Branch Road to the north parking lot at Harrah Grade School.
TIB Award Amount: $208,610

Mabton (1 award)
Restore the road base and asphalt on South Street from Boundary Road to Main Street and on Boundary Road from SR 22 to Pine Street.
TIB Award Amount: $309,600

Moxee (1 award)
Reconstruct sidewalks on Seattle Avenue between Spokane Avenue and Liberty Avenue and realign the intersection at Postma Road and Beaudry Road to prevent damage from large trucks jumping the curb.
TIB Award Amount: $147,498

Sunnyside (3 awards)
Reconstruct sidewalks, curb, and gutter on Edison Street between 7th Street and 9th Street.
TIB Award Amount: $154,440

Replace intersection signal light system at Yakima Valley Highway and North 6th Street and reconstruct the sidewalk, curb, and gutter including ADA ramps at the intersection.
TIB Award Amount: $555,105

Grind and overlay of Yakima Valley Highway from 6th Street to 15th Street and installation of 7 ADA ramps along the same roadway segment.
TIB Award Amount: $293,467

Toppenish (2 awards)
Remove and replace the sidewalk on Washington Street from Buena Way (SR 22) to Alder Street.
TIB Award Amount: $148,476

Reconstruct Second Street from SR 22 to Bolin Drive with parking on both sides of the street as well as curb, gutter, and sidewalk.
TIB Award Amount: $1,043,700

Wapato (1 award)
Grind and overlay of West 1st Street from SR 97 to Wapato Avenue and upgrades 20 ADA ramps along the same roadway segment.
TIB Award Amount: $710,280

Yakima (1 award)
Reconstruct North 1st Street from West N Street to Martin Luther King Jr Boulevard including bike lanes, sidewalk, curb, and gutter as well as the intersection realignment at North 1st Street and I Street.
TIB Award Amount: $1, 500,000

Zillah (1 award)
Grind and overlay of Glen Drive from 1st Avenue to 2nd Avenue and Bartlett Avenue from Glen Drive to Pearson Street.
TIB Award Amount: $114,588

By applying for and receiving funding from a variety of sources, this means Yakima County leaders strive to maintain and improve upon the transportation investments and stretch our regional funds to the max. Let your local officials know you appreciate their dedication and resourcefulness. And thanks to the TIB evaluators who continue to invest state dollars into our region!

I look forward to celebrating these successes with you as you complete your projects.

Just Wondering…

by Brian Curtin, CTR Program Coordinator

Here I sit in my luxurious corner office at the corner of "Stop and Don't Stop." (OK, anyone that has seen my office knows that I don't even have a window to look out at the falling snow) pondering the question, "I was just wondering, Mr. CTR Guy; what's the topic of this months newsletter article?" I ask myself this question quite often, especially when deadline is looming just two days hence. While gazing out the window (again, no window in my office) I'm transfixed on the small particles of white stuff falling from the sky and the theme song from Charlie Brown's Christmas (you know the one; Schroeder playing the piano; da da da…da da da…) is perpetually stuck in my head. My one thought is "It's mighty cold out there." And that got me to thinking about "Cold Starts." Do you follow the linear thinking here?

The term "Cold Start" does not necessarily have anything to do with the outside temperature but this is a great time to talk about it anyway. These days some starts are far colder than others. What the term refers to is when a vehicle is started with a completely cool engine. This typically occurs when you start your car each morning or at the end of the day as you leave from work for home. Different levels of pollutants are emitted at different times during vehicle operation. The greatest levels of pollutants occur when the catalytic converter is cool. According to the Federal Laboratory Consortium for Technology Transfer (FLC), it takes a car at least two minutes to reach the working temperature of the catalytic converter (527 degrees F). During this two minute period, 60-80% of your engines pollutants are emitted. In addition, a cold start creates 80% more unhealthy hydrocarbons than when the car engine is warm.

What can you do to limit your cold starts? One simple solution is to plan your schedule to combine trips. For example, on your way home from work try to run a few errands before you arrive home. Or when meeting for lunch, offer to pick up your lunch mate on the way rather than going in separate cars (or better yet, walk). The most effective solution to this problem is quite simple; don't start your engine at all! Choose an alternative to driving your car; carpool, vanpool, ride transit. For your shorter commutes use a healthy alternative like walking or the most efficient transportation of all, the bicycle. And don't forget; if you participate in an approved CTR activity such as carpooling or vanpooling, you can rely on a Guaranteed Ride Home (GRH) in the event you are stranded at work or need an emergency ride home. So, the article is complete and I can get back to watching snowflakes accumulate. HEY, another inch has fallen since I started writing!! Snow Day anyone?

Save The Date—GMA Periodic Update Workshop

If you missed YVCOG's GMA Periodic Update Workshop last May, check out the Department of Commerce's offering in Ellensburg on January 21! City/county staff, planning commissioners, elected officials and representatives from special purpose districts encouraged to attend. The workshop will include discussions of setting yourself up for success, land use, urban growth areas, and capital facilities.

What: GMA Periodic Update Workshop

Where: Kittitas Valley Event Center – Armory Hall
901 E. 7th Avenue, Ellensburg, WA

When: January 21, 2016

Time: 6:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Questions? Contact Scott Kuhta, Growth Management Services, 509-795-6884 or scott.kuhta@commerce.wa.gov.

Yakima Valley Funders' Forum

Save the Date!

Wednesday, March 9, 2016

Connect face-to-face with funders, learn which funding sources work best for your needs, and promote your projects!

- Learn about state and local funding programs for transportation, water/sewer, parks, economic development, housing, and more
- Meet one-on-one with the funders of your choice to discuss your projects and learn more about the funding programs
- Gain valuable tips for developing funding applications

Sponsored by: Yakima Valley Conference of Governments

Contact: Shawn Conrad, (509) 574-1550 or

Upcoming Washington Cities Insurance Authority

January 28th 8:30am to 12:00pm

Succession Planning for the New Government Workforce
Trainer: Patrick Ibarra, Co-founder and Partner, The Mejorando Group

Where:
Foster Golf Links
13500 Interurban Ave South
Tukwila, WA 98168

January 29th 8:30am to 12:00pm

Succession Planning for the New Government Workforce
Trainer: Patrick Ibarra, Co-founder and Partner, The Mejorando Group

Where:
Yakima Valley Museum
2105 Tieton Drive
Yakima, WA 98902

Overview:
Audience:
Public Officials, Executive Management, Department Heads & Management Staff
Non-Members: Please check with your Risk Pool - AWC, RMSA, or Enduris - for scholarship information.
This training has been approved for AWC Certified Municipal Leadership credits: **3.0 CMLs.**

Description:
Every day 10,000 people turn 65 years of age. For the first time, millennials now outnumber baby boomers in the workplace, 76 million to 75 million and they will make up 75 percent of the workforce by 2025. It's an oversimplification to believe that current approaches for developing leaders will work for millennials--they won't.

In this session, Patrick Ibarra, one of the country's leading experts on succession planning for governments, will share his ideas and insights on effective ways to attract, develop and retain the Millennial generation in your workforce.

YVCOG Staff:

Larry Mattson, Executive Director
Christina Wickenhagen, Deputy Director
Deborah LaCombe, MPO/RTPO Manager
Brian Curtin, CTR Coordinator
Tim Sullivan, Homeless Housing Program Manager
Shawn Conrad, Senior Planner
Joseph Calhoun, Planner
John R. Rohrbaugh, GIS Analyst/Systems Admin
Avery Zoglman, Homeless Housing Program Analyst
Tamara Hayward, Office Specialist
Jessica Hansen, Office and Communication Specialist

January 2016 Funding Calls

By Shawn Conrad, Senior Planner

Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Grants

The next DWSRF Preconstruction Grant cycle will be **January 2-31, 2016**. Preconstruction grants help small public water systems (less than 10,000 connections) evaluate the feasibility of seeking a DWSRF infrastructure loan. Funded activities include planning, feasibility studies, design and engineering, historical and cultural consultations, and environmental reviews. More information at http://tinyurl.com/DWSRF-16.

Washington State Department of Transportation

Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Program

WSDOT is expected to issue a two-year Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Program call for projects in late January, with projects awarded in late May. The purpose of the Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety program is to improve the transportation system to enhance safety and mobility for people who walk or bike. All public agencies are eligible to apply. Keep an eye on this page: http://tinyurl.com/BikePed-16.

Safe Routes to School Program

WSDOT is expected to issue a two-year Safe Routes to School call for projects in late January, with projects awarded in late May. The purpose of the Safe Routes to School program is to increase the number of children walking and biking to school safely. Local governments as well as primary, middle, and high schools are eligible to apply. Keep an eye on this page for further updates: http://tinyurl.com/SafeRoutes-16.

Washington State Traffic Safety Commission Safety Grant

Applications for the WSTSC's Annual Grants for Traffic Safety are now available, and due February 12, 2016. State agencies, tribal governments, local governments, nonprofits, public schools, and private nonprofit schools are eligible to apply. Eligible projects address one or more of the top priorities included in Washington State's Strategic Highway Safety Plan 2010 (Target Zero) (see www.tinyurl.com/TargetZero). Keep an eye out here: http://wtsc.wa.gov/grants.

Also, check out WSTSC's **mini-grants**: up to $1,000 for traffic safety projects, and up to $300 for school crossing guard equipment.

Need assistance with funding applications?
Contact Shawn Conrad, Senior Planner, at shawn.conrad@yvcog.org or (509) 574-1550.

Sidebar

Couldn't make the Infrastructure Assistance Coordinating Council (IACC) 2015 annual conference? Presentations are now available here: http://www.infrafunding.wa.gov/conference.html.

Learn about funding sources, applying for grants, rate setting, cultural resources, local government financing, and more!

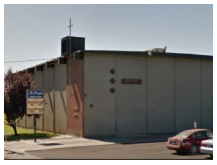
Project Homeless Connect

Are you homeless at risk of being homeless or know someone homeless?

FREE, On-site Services and Referrals for our Neighbors Experiencing Homelessness and People at Risk of Becoming Homeless. We will be offering Medical Exams Dental Screenings Vision Care Hot Meals Hair Cuts Veteran Services Assistance with ID / Licenses Hygiene Packets Clothes Point in Time Survey and so much more……

We are in need of donations and volunteers for each location. Please contact us at 509-574-1550 for more info.

Wednesday JANUARY 27, 2016
10 am - 4 pm
St Joseph's Church
920 South 6th Street
Sunnyside



www.yakimahomeless.org
Follow us on Facebook
The Homeless Network of Yakima County

THURSDAY JANUARY 28, 2016
10 am - 3 pm
Toppenish Food Bank

TOPPENISH COMMUNITY CHEST

4 North B Street Toppenish
www.yakimahomeless.org
Follow us on Facebook
The Homeless Network of Yakima County

Wednesday JANUARY 27, 2016
10 am - 3 pm
Yakima Heritage Cultural Center
100 Spiel-Yi Loop

YAKAMA NATION CULTURAL CENTER

www.yakimahomeless.org
Follow us on Facebook
The Homeless Network of Yakima County

THURSDAY JANUARY 28, 2016
9 am - 3 pm
Southeast Community Center
1211 S 7th St Yakima

www.yakimahomeless.org
Follow us on Facebook
The Homeless Network of Yakima County

Save the Date: YVCOG General Membership Meeting

WHERE: **Toppenish Eagles** 515 S Division St, Toppenish, WA 98948
WHEN: ***January 20th*** 6:30-9:30 p.m.
DINNER: $20 at 7 p.m.
PROGRAM: Returning Passenger Rail to Central Washington

Reservations and cancellations for a voting quorum and the caterer are appreciated no later than **Friday, *January 15, 2016* at noon.** Please RSVP to Jessica at (509) 574-1550 or jessica.hansen@yvcog.org

YVCOG: 311 North 4th Street, Suite 204 Yakima, WA 98901

509-574-1550 / www.yvcog.org

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