



YAKIMA VALLEY CONFERENCE OF GOVERNMENTS

CMAQ call
for projects
Page 3

Winter
Weather
Shelters
Page 7

Regional
Travel
Model
Page 9

Volume 44...Issue 3 May 2016

MEMBER JURISDICTIONS:

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

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

James A. Restucci, Chair
Mayor, City of Sunnyside
Mike Leita
Yakima County Commissioner
Maureen Adkison
City of Yakima City Council
Area 1 — Dan Olson
Union Gap City Council
Area 2 — Janice Gonzales,
City of Zillah, City Council
Area 3 — Mario Martinez
Mayor, City of Mabton
Member At Large-
John Hodkinson, Jr., Vice Chair

Grants Save Local Cities \$40,000



By: Shawn Conrad

YVCOG has been working with cities to complete their Growth Management Act (GMA) Periodic Updates. Compliance with the GMA will mean that these cities will remain eligible for Washington State infrastructure grants and loans.

But these updates are costly for many of our cash-strapped cities. YVCOG learned that Community Development Block Grant – Planning Only Grants (POGs) can be used for GMA Periodic Updates. We informed the eligible cities about the grant and its possible use. Two cities decided that rather than contracting with YVCOG to complete their GMA Periodic Update and other planning requirements, they would contract with YVCOG for a far smaller dollar amount to complete a POG grant application for the city. The proposed grant project would be completion of their GMA Periodic Update; the sub recipient to complete the grant activities would be YVCOG.

YVCOG has now completed the two POG applications: one for Wapato, one for Union Gap. YVCOG is able to contribute the cost of updating comprehensive plan transportation elements free of charge, a service offered to all YVCOG members. On March 13, Wapato was awarded \$24,000 from the POG program to complete their GMA Periodic Update. Union Gap's POG application to update their parks plan and a significant portion of their GMA update requirement is



now in the review process with the CDBG program, but we anticipate it will be awarded, as well. That will mean that these two cities will save approximately \$40,000 toward completing their GMA updates and plans. They will only have to pay YVCOG's administrative costs, and will still be able to take advantage of the significant local experience and efficiencies that YVCOG has to offer through the process. A win-win!



From Executive Director, Larry Mattson

The Yakima Valley's \$3.6 Million Homeless Question

The Problem

Among people who experience homelessness in Yakima County, there is a subset of individuals who remain homeless for years or even decades. These chronically homeless individuals often have disabling health conditions as well. The combination of lengthy homelessness coupled with their health status makes this subset of our population one of the most difficult groups to serve.



The Cost

While it can be difficult to serve the chronically homeless, our costs for failing to address the problem are huge. Appearing on *The Daily Show with Jon Stewart* in 2012, HUD Secretary Shaun Donovan said “It costs about \$40,000 a year for a person to be homeless on the streets.” Donovan’s office cited data from a University of Pennsylvania study.

Different studies have resulted in different cost estimates. A May 2015 study published by the California research nonprofit Economic Roundtable, found that each chronically homeless person in Santa Clara County costs about \$83,000 per year. The US Interagency Council on Homelessness says that “leaving a person to remain chronically homeless costs taxpayers as much as \$30,000 to \$50,000 per year.”

Why is chronic homelessness so costly? Hospitalization, medical treatment, incarceration, police intervention and emergency shelter expenses add up quickly. Such are the ‘unseen’ costs of chronic homelessness that we are nonetheless paying for.

The Solution

Our most recent Point in Time count of our homeless population indicated that there are approximately 90 chronically homeless people in the Valley. Assuming a cost of \$40,000 per person, chronic homelessness is costing us \$3.6 million every year.

Multiple studies indicate that Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) is one of the best methods of ending chronic homelessness. This model combines affordable housing to stabilize their living situation and provides housing case management to develop a housing stability plan. Then connecting people with supportive services including health care, treatment and other social services.

The cost to serve a single chronically homeless person with ongoing permanent housing subsidies and supportive case management in Yakima County is estimated at just under \$10,000 a savings of \$2.7 million annually to the community. Currently there are 49 PSH units in the County, a majority that are funding by Federal Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), which are currently full. Clearly, additional private market rental units are needed as well as additional public and private funding.

The YVCOG Homeless Planning and Policy Council is drafting a new Five-Year Plan to reduce homelessness. Reducing chronic homelessness will be one of the goals of that plan. As a community, we will also need to talk about affordable housing in general. With current rental vacancy rates hovering around 2% and increasing rents, it’s difficult to find affordable housing for homeless families and individuals who are literally homeless (in addition to housing the most chronically homeless individuals).

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read 'Larry Mattson', is located at the bottom center of the page.



CMAQ Call for Projects

By: Deb LaCombe

The Yakima Valley MPO/RTPO has issued its 2017-2020 Congestion Mitigation / Air Quality (CMAQ) call for projects. CMAQ provides funding that may be used by states, local agencies, non-profits and private businesses for projects and programs that reduce transportation related emissions in federally designated non-attainment and maintenance areas. There are specific federal requirements that must be satisfied prior to implementing a CMAQ project by a private entity.

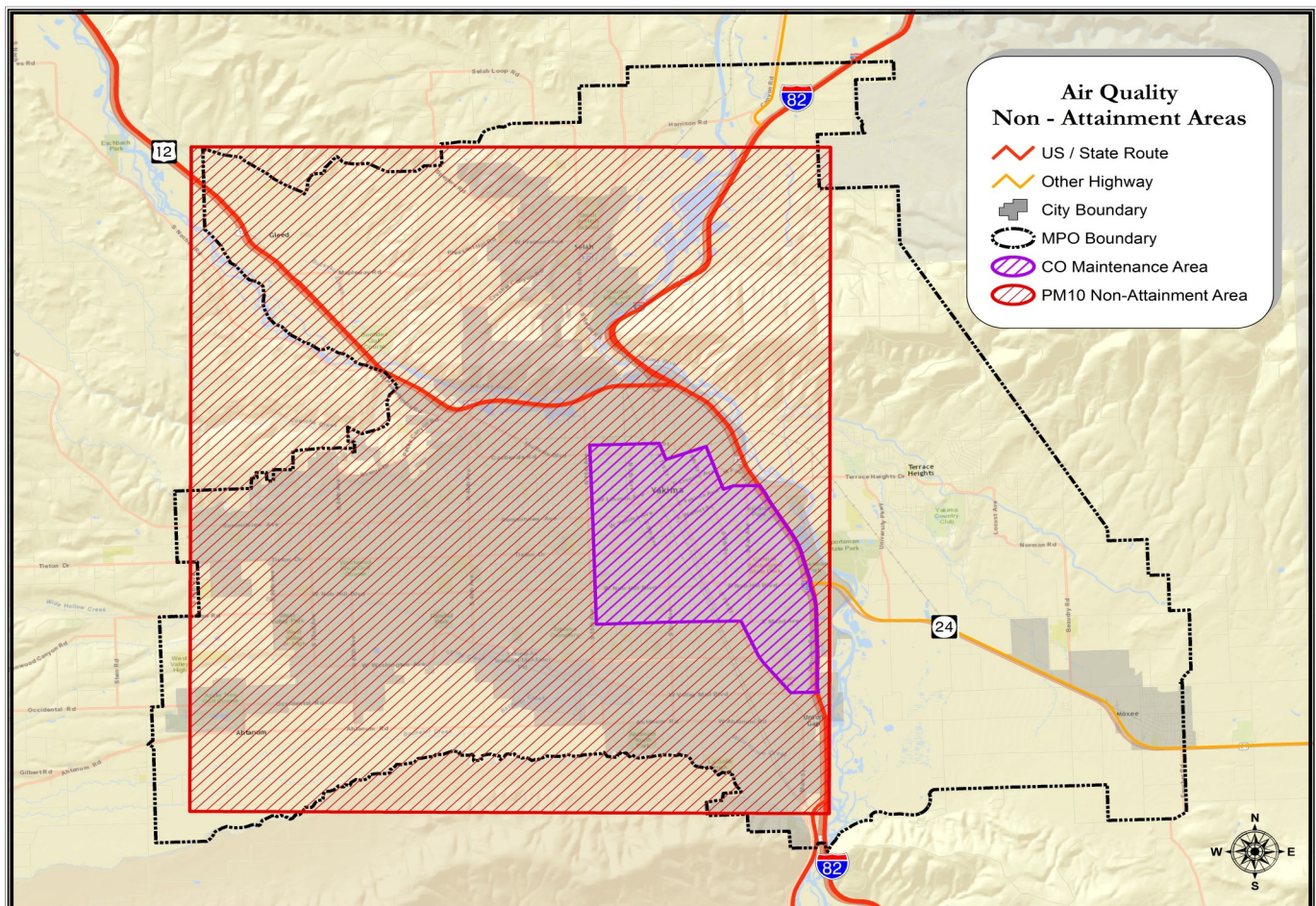
To be eligible for federal CMAQ funding in the Yakima Valley region, the project or program must take place within the boundary of, or provide measurable air quality benefits within, the PM₁₀ limited maintenance area and demonstrate a reduction in PM₁₀ or other air pollution emission.

Some project examples can be found at: <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/fastact/factsheets/cmaqfs.cfm> .

YVCOG will program CMAQ projects for **\$1,500,000** in federal funds. The Policy Board has approved: 1) each jurisdiction be allowed to submit one project for this Call for Projects, 2) and that no single project application submitted for consideration may request more than **\$500,000** in federal CMAQ funds.

The lead agency/jurisdiction will be responsible to provide a minimum required 13.5% match for CMAQ funds; the maximum federal CMAQ participation on any project is 86.5%.

For more information including the application materials please visit: <http://www.yvcog.org/pages/trans/transportation.htm#CMAQ>





What's Happening? Member City Updates



CITY OF ZILLAH HEART OF WINE COUNTRY

By: Ardele Steele

The **City of Zillah** is working on a Downtown clean-up day on May 7th and gearing up for Community days on

May 12th -14th. The city received funds from the Transportation Improvement Board for a grind and overlay on Glen Drive, Bartlett St., and 4th St. We are very excited to continue our improvements of the community. The City would also like to take this opportunity to Congratulate Tim Tilley on his Retirement from the City of Zillah. 36 yrs. of service.



By: Eric Patrick—**Visit Union Gap**

The first annual **'Play the Gap!'** is being held May 20-May 22 at Union Gap's Fullbright Park. Fiddle contests, jamming, Dutch Oven cooking and more!

Plus, the Ahtanum Youth Park is hosting the **2016 Yakima Youth Soccer Association's Yak Attack 5v5 soccer tournaments** May 14-15 and May 20-21, one of Washington's largest soccer events. Union Gap's Old Town Day's is Father's Day weekend, June 18 & 19.



By: Menglou Wang **3rd Annual Wapato Community Days and Celebration of Life**

Memorial Day - In Honor of Our Loved Ones

Lions Park—1000 South Camas Ave., Wapato

May 28, 2016 Please join us for a day of fun -

entertainment, food vendors, jumpers, face painting, tee pee setup, live music, and car show.

Car Show - 10:00 am roll-In Celebrate of Life

Festivities - 2:00 pm Live Music by Jared Stewart,

Drezus, Vision Seeker and The Cody Blackbird Band Carnival: 3-Day,

Friday through Sunday Sponsored by Wapato Lions Club. For more

information contact Main Contact: Marshall Lee (509) 941-3410 Car

Show: Stephen Diaz (509) 307-9098 - \$20 entry fee Vendors: Stephanie

Wendt (509) 594-8339



By: Santos Trevino **YVCC—2016 Grape to Glass Gala -**

Winemaker's Dinner and Silent Auction Join us for an evening of fun, food, and wine! YVCC will host the 9th annual Grape to Glass Gala- A Winemaker's Dinner on Saturday, May 21, 2016 from 6:00-9:30pm. The event will benefit student scholarships and will be held at the Grandview Activity Center, 401 West Second Street, Grandview, WA. The event will include a dinner, wine tasting, a silent auction, live music and dancing.

Tickets for the Grape to Glass Gala are \$65 per person if purchased in advance by May 13, 2016. Tickets purchased between May 14-May 20, 2016 are \$75 per person. Tickets are on sale now. Contact 509.882.7037 / wine@yvcc.edu or buy online: www.yakimavalleyvintners.com.

Submit your city's next event to: jessica.hansen@yvccog.org



BIKE TO WORK CHALLENGE

BIKE TO WORK

May 1st - 31st, 2016

Win Local Prizes

2—Monkeylectric Monkey Lights

**Crgolite Metro 400 and Hotshot USB
Rechargeable headlight and taillight set**

Bontrager Flare R Tail Light

Crank Brother Y12 Tool Silver

Keeper 785 Integrated Chain

Speedzone Sport wireless

Bontrager Air Rush Road CO2 Pump

Specialized Air Tool HP Floor Pump

Thule Shield Small Pannier

**Yakima Valley Conference of
Governments CTR program** invites
you to join commuters around the U.S.
for **BIKE TO WORK** month.

May is National Bike Month!

Make a fun shift and ride to work
during the Bike-To-Work Challenge
from May 1st to the 31st.

How does it work?

- Get a **FREE** application at
www.rideshareonline.com or contact
Brian Curtin at **509-759-7992** or
email: brian.curtin@yvcog.org
- Log bicycle commute trips on your
application (work commute trips only)
- **4 commute trips enters you
to win a prize!**
- Turn in your completed application to
brian.curtin@yvcog.org

BIKE COMMUTER PARTY

May 20th

Cake and Refreshments

Bike Commuter Appreciation Party

Join us May 20th at Valley Cycling and
Fitness (1802 W. Nob Hill Blvd. Yakima)
for a Bike Commuter Appreciation Party.
There will be cake and light refreshments.



For more information contact your Employee Transportation Coordinator or contact Brian Curtin, YVCOG
CTR Program Coordinator—Phone **509-759-7992** or email: brian.curtin@yvcog.org or
visit www.rideshareonline.com for an application.



May is National Bike Month!

SPRING 2016 PRIZE ENTRY FORM

Bike to Work Challenge! May 1-31

- Bike to work (round trip), minimum four times for the month. Win great prizes!
- Each day during Bike Month, mark the days you participated.
- Return the completed form to your ETC or Fax to (509) 574-1551 or email to Brian Curtin brian.curtin@yvcog.org by June 8th.
- Incomplete entries are invalid. One entry form per person.

SUN May 1	MON May 2	TUES May 3	WED May 4	THUR May 5	FRI May 6	SAT May 7
SUN May 8	MON May 9	TUES May 10	WED May 11	THUR May 12	FRI May 13	SAT May 14
SUN May 15	MON May 16	TUES May 17	WED May 18	THUR May 19	FRI May 20	SAT May 21
SUN May 22	MON May 23	TUES May 24	WED May 25	THUR May 26	FRI May 27	SAT May 28
Sun May 29	MON May 30	TUES May 31				

Number of days I participated: _____

One-way miles to work: _____

RETURN BY JUNE 8th TO: Fax: (509)574-1551 or email to brian.curtin@yvcog.org

Employee Name: _____ Work Phone: _____

Employer: _____ E-mail: _____

City/County you work in: _____

At the end of the Bike to Work Challenge, return the completed paper form to your ETC or Fax to (509) 574-1551 by **June 8th** for your chance to win great prizes.



Rounding Third and Heading Home

By: Deb LaCombe

With land use data coming in, I'm preparing to print out each jurisdiction's roadway networks so that WSDOT, county, city, and town staff can review the roadway network as it's represented in the regional demand model. It's been a few years since we did this exercise and I'm happy to go through the basics with you if you'd like a 1-on-1 with me. Just let me know when you are available and we'll schedule a visit in May. Otherwise, I'm happy to package up some pdfs and a definition sheet and we can correspond electronically.



The roadway information review this time around includes reviewing the Federal Functional Classification (FFC) of roadway, number of lanes each way, whether the

section is a one-way, sections where a two-way left turn lane (twltl) exists in your jurisdiction, any special intersection control or restriction like a two-way stop, yield, round-a-bout, signal, right-in right/out only restriction, designated turn lanes, etc.

For most smaller jurisdictions this review can go pretty quickly. For future years (2020 and 2040) the indication of improvements and when they are planned to occur can be drawn on the maps and returned in person, through the mail, or electronically. The timing for this work fits in beautifully with the development of the 2017-2022 Transportation Improvement Programs (TIPs) each community is currently working on.

Please look for correspondence from me in the first week of May as we come around third base in developing our Regional Travel Demand Model and thank you so much for your continuing cooperation.



2015-2016 Winter Weather Shelter Project



**Contact Tim Sullivan
for volunteer and
donation opportunities
tim.sullivan@yvcog.org
or call the office at:
509-574-1550**

Living and working in the Yakima Valley we all know how harsh winters can be here. There's the almost daily scrapping of a frosty car window, the unexpected morning driveway shoveling and the occasional thawing of a frozen pipe. All of this can be a minor inconvenience to most, but what does it look like to someone who is homeless and unsheltered. There's the daily walking in the cold to find a public building or laundry mat to stay warm, the unexpected morning emergency room visit for frostbitten toes or hypothermia and there's the occasional death due to exposure.



The plight of the homeless during the coldest time of the year is what lead to the creation of the first Winter Weather Shelter project in 2006. The project consisted of volunteers from the faith and homeless services community in partnership with County Government to fund a small handful of churches



2015-2016 Winter Weather Shelter Project

Continued from page 7



setup as overnight shelters as well as emergency hotel/motel vouchers. Ten years later the Winter Weather Shelter Project still operates as a public private partnership to serve a critical need with funding through the

YVCOG Homeless Programs.

This past winter 238 individuals were served (92 identified with a disability) for a total of 3,297 bed nights. In addition to a warm mat to sleep on each person received a meal for a total of 3,297 meals, prepared by church volunteers. Shelter guests were also offered behavioral health services, medical, dental and vision services and transportation. The long term benefit of this year's project was that 30 individuals and 3 families were placed into housing and support services with many more in the process of receiving assistance.

And what about those who were sheltered this winter, what does it mean to them to have this resource? Well John says "if it wasn't for you I know I would



be dead right now", Jeff commented "you guys treated us like people" and James said that "I really appreciate what you do for us".

Tim Sullivan



Homeless Programs Manager

Wenatchee
Convention Center

**OCTOBER
18-20, 2016**

Infrastructure
Assistance
Coordinating
Council

Conference

IACC
INFRASTRUCTURE ASSISTANCE
COORDINATING COUNCIL

www.infracfunding.wa.gov



YVCOG's Regional Travel Demand Model

Building a model to evaluate bang for the buck

Gathering Projects for 2017-2020

By: Deb LaCombe

What is a Travel Demand Modelling?

YVCOG uses a four-step travel demand model to evaluate the current roadway system and inform decision makers about potential consequences, good and bad, that future transportation and land use decisions can create on the future system. Four-step models have been around since the 1950s and use a very straight forward process:

Trip generation – the number of trips that are made.

Trip distribution – where the trips start and end.

Mode choice – how the trips are distributed to the various available types of modes (walking, bicycle, private vehicle, bus, freight truck, etc.)

Trip assignment – predicting the route that each trip will take between start and end.



What is land use?

All of the land areas in our County can support and are being planned for various types of uses. The use of half a city block as a school, for example, has much different travel characteristics as say a residential area of single family homes, a supermarket, or a hospital complex. Identifying the land use as either residential or commercial and then determining the number of housing units, employees, students, etc. allows YVCOG staff to input data into the travel demand software. Staff receives the data from visiting with each jurisdiction individually. To make the data review and entry easier, each town or city is broken into smaller analysis zones known as

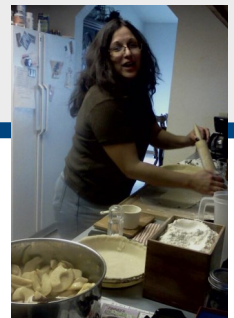
Transportation Analysis Zones (TAZs).

How do I know the model is close to reality?

Once the model has been developed and has gone through the four-step procedure until no trip can be made any faster by changing any pathway for every trip, the model is said to have come to equilibrium. In this very stable state, the results are scrutinized against real (observed) traffic counts. The YVCOG model shows the PM peak period or the transportation system during the heaviest three evening hours of traffic. Therefore, all the traffic counts that have been taken throughout Yakima County that include the PM peak period are being sought by YVCOG so that when the model finishes its equilibrium, comparisons can be made between the model and the observed conditions of every major roadway in the county. If the results are close enough, the model is determined to be calibrated.

Then can the model be used to evaluate proposed transportation projects and land use change?

Yes. But. Although the model can show potential consequences for proposed projects and land use changes, there are a lot of assumptions built into the future year models that may or may not happen. As the land use data is gathered from each jurisdiction, two future year predictions are provided as well. The predictions are the town's or city's planned population and business growths according to their individual comprehensive plans. There is also a process each jurisdiction completes annually which identifies transportation projects that are evaluated and proposed to happen as they are needed. The travel demand model is a tool to be used with other tools for decision makers and as such provides a pretty good way to identify consequences for changes in our ever changing world. Not perfect perhaps, but better than a crystal ball. The results from a good model are so convincing that many funding sources request or require modelled results as part of their application process.



HUMAN SERVICES TRANSPORTATION COALITION



Please help us spread the news!

Looking to Expand Participants

The Coalition provides the framework for development of this region's Coordinated Public Transit - Human Services Transportation Plan.

In order to do that as a coalition we:

- gather input representative of public, private, and non-profit transportation and human services providers and members of the public.
- identify the transportation needs of individuals with disabilities, older adults, veterans, youth, and people with low-incomes.
- assess the existing transportation resources, needs and service gaps.
- provide strategies for meeting identified local needs.
- prioritize transportation services for funding and implementation.
- maximize the utilization of resources while minimizing duplication of services.

May 10, 2016 11:00am – 12:00noon

Yakima Transit – Public Works conference room – 2301 Fruitvale BLVD Yakima, WA

We are creating bylaws now!



YAKIMA VALLEY CONFERENCE OF GOVERNMENTS
311 North 4th Street, Suite 204, 2nd Floor, Yakima, WA 98901
509.574.1550 | deborah.lacombe@yvcog.org | www.yvcog.org



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

**Wapato Community Days and
3rd Annual "Celebration of Life"**

Balloon Release

May 28th, 2016
Lions Park • Wapato, WA

"CELEBRATION OF LIFE" FESTIVITIES START AT 2PM

Live Music
JAMES STEWART
DREZUS
MELISSA SAEGER
THE COWBOY BOYS

Car Show 10AM ROLL IN
Food Vendors
Carnival Friday thru Sunday
Guest Speakers
Jumpers & Face Painting
Tee Pee set up

Main Contact: Marshall Lee 509.941.3410
Car Show: Stephen Diaz 509.307.9098
Vendors: Stephanie Wendt 509.594.8339

this special tribute is in honor of our loved ones

JOIN OUR GROUP ON **facebook**

— Sponsors —
FLYING ANGELS
OF UNITY
H from
KAMEE'S VOICE
LIONS CLUB

Save the Date: YVCOG General Membership Meeting

WHERE: Zillah Civic Center 119 1st Ave, Zillah, WA 98953
WHEN: May 18, 2016 6:30-9:30 p.m.
DINNER: \$20 at 7 p.m.

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



509-574-1550 / www.yvcog.org



TITLE VI Notice to the Public: YVCOG fully complies with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and related statutes and regulations in all programs and activities. For more information, or to obtain a Title VI Complaint Form, see http://www.yvcog.org/title_vi.htm or call (509) 574-1550.