

Mobilizing Public Access to County-Wide Transportation – MPACT
A YVCOG Transportation Policy Board Standing Committee
Minutes of May 3, 2017

- Present:* Naeem Kara – Yakima Transit, Madelyn Carlson – People for People, Jan Ollivier – People for People, Angie Eagleclaw – Pahto Public Passage, Mike Shuttleworth - YVCOG, Brian Curtin – YVCOG, Alan Adolf- YVCOG.
- Call to Order and Introductions/Welcome* Jan Ollivier, MPACT Chairperson, called the May 3, 2017, MPACT meeting to order at 2:35 p.m. in the YVCOG Law Library (311 North 4th Street, Yakima, WA 98901)
- Approval of August 24, 2016 minutes* Quorum was not met, Minutes from January 4, 2017 were tabled to next MPACT meeting date.
- Executive Board Discussion Items* Ms. Ollivier discussed filling of secretarial position (currently open). Position is a 2-year term with option for a 3rd.
- MPACT funding through Coordinated Transportation Program currently ends at the end of the 2017 Fiscal Year (June 30, 2017). No new funding is presently available.
- WSDOT Consolidated Grant Program Update* Ms. Carlson reported that People for People received all three grant requests. Mr. Naeem reported that Yakima Transit was awarded its two applications for bus shelters and the Ellensburg Commuter Services.
- Mr. Adolf reported that the YVCOG’s “Yakima County Regional Transportation Feasibility Study – Phase I” project (a “C” rate project by MPACT) was not funded this year.
- RTPO / MPO Focus Group – February Meeting* Nicole Patrick with the WSDOT Coordinated Grants Program reported at February 23rd, 2017 RTPO/MPO Focus Group meeting at WSDOT was seeking feedback on the “A, B, C” ranking process used by MPACT and other organizations around the state for the past several years.
- Ms. Ollivier reported that Yakima County RTPO has historically received 4-8 funded projects per call. The feedback questionnaire centers on the RTPO’s ranking methodology. The question posed to MPACT were:
- Would you like to see WSDOT provide more guidance on ranking of projects or on WSDOT’s priorities?
 - Would you like to see a system of distribution of ABC’s that recognizes the number of service providers in a region?
 - What type of data would provide a better basis for distributing ABCs amongst the regions if the current data isn’t working?
 - Does WSDOT simply need to better explain how the current distribution of ABC’s is determined?
- Ms. Carlson stated that local regions work out local priorities then send the results to the State to confirm project eligibility, and return the reviewed results to the locals. Committee agreed that training for “New Staff” or “New Committee Membership” is always needed at the start of the ranking process.
- Committee agreed that ABC’s SHOULD NOT be based on the number of providers in the region where the number of providers in regions are not standard or consistent. A few “high quality”- “high volume” providers may limit the number of grant submittal opportunities for small providers within a region, leaving potential service holes.
- Committee agreed that “data” based distribution process would act similar to “number of providers” in which the size, quality, and volume of providers in an area may not adequately address holes in regional services.

Finally, the Committee believed that transparency for the entire prioritization process (including determination of ABC allocations) is key for both WSDOT and the local regions when prioritizing projects.

*Highlight Agency:
YVCOG Commute Trip
Reduction (CTR)
Program*

Mr. Curtin, YVCOG CTR Program Official, provided an overview of the county’s Commute Trip Reduction Program, funded by the state to reduce congestion in rural areas.

- Started in the 2000’s as a countywide program but was later consolidated to the metropolitan planning organization boundary.
- Received funding in the fall of 2016 through the Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ) program to assist funding of the program through at least 2020.
- Congestion in Yakima County is limited but several businesses in the region voluntarily participate to assist employee transportation to/from work.
- Program currently operates in Yakima, Selah, Union Gap, and Moxee.
- Larry Mattson, YVCOG Executive Director, was recently appointed to the Statewide CTR Board.

*Preview – Unified
Planning Work
Program (UPWP)*

Mr. Adolf reported on YVCOG’s final draft of the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) which outlines YVCOG’s planning and funding plans for the upcoming State Fiscal Year (SFY) July1, 2017 through June 30, 2018. UPWP included various unfunded (multimodal) planning projects such as the previously discussed Transit Feasibility Study – Phase 1, that shows need if funding opportunities arise.

The UPWP document was shown to the Committee. The document will be submitted to YVCOG’s Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) on May 11th, and the Policy Board on May 15th for approval and submittal to the State.

*Announcements of
Upcoming Events*

Ms. Eagleclaw reported that the Yakama Nation has formed a Traffic Safety Committee (TSC) to address accidents within the YN boundary. Projects/sites of potential concern will be shared with local jurisdictions to consider mitigation options.

Yakima Transit is adding new vanpool vans. Service routes to Selah will be altered due to ADA-based sidewalk improvement projects beginning this spring/summer.

Next Meeting Location

The next MPACT meeting will take place in early July at a time to be determined at the YVCOG Offices – 311 North 4th Street, Yakima, Washington.

Adjourn

Ms. Ollivier adjourned the meeting at 4:30 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Jan Ollivier, Chair

Date signed: _____

Attest:

Alan Adolf, Attending and Attesting Member

Date signed: _____