

YVCOG General Membership Video Conference
Meeting Minutes
March 17, 2021

JURISDICTION	PRESENT	ABSENT
GRANDVIEW	Bill Moore-M;	Cus Arteaga-A
GRANGER	Veronica Bermudez-PC	Lilia Villarreal-M; Julie Sharp-A
HARRAH	Pat Krueger – M	
MABTON	Sophie Sotelo – M; Arturo Dela Fuente - A	
MOXEE		David Mullen-M; Greg LaBree-A
NACHES		Kit Hawver – M; Wayne Hawver - A
SELAH	Sherry Raymond-A; Jacquie Matson-M	Lisa Smith-PC
SUNNYSIDE		Dean Broersma-M; Francisco Guerrero-A
TIETON	Ed Marquand-M	Amy Oberrender-A
TOPPENISH	Clara Jimenez-M; Naila Duval – A; Al Hubert-PC	
UNION GAP	Jack Galloway-M	Sandy Dailey-A; Mike Moore-PC
WAPATO		Keith Workman – M; Margaret Estrada - A
YAKIMA CITY		Brad Hill-M; Holly Cousens-A
YAKIMA CO.		Ron Anderson – M; Amanda McKinney-M; LaDon Linde-M
ZILLAH	Janice Gonzales-M; Doug Stewart-A	Ardele Steele-PC/A

Note: M=Member; A=Alternate; PC=Planning Commission

Speakers: Cliff Hall – Washington State Department of Transportation

Additional Attendees: Others: Hilda Guzman (Granger); Laura Vazquez (Mabton); Martin Casey, Jim Restucci (Sunnyside); Lance Hoyt (Toppenish); John Hodkinson (Union Gap); Representative Bruce Chandler (15th District); Mike Battle (HLA)

YVCOG Staff: Chris Wickenhagen, Alan Adolf, Lynn Deitrick, Jeff Watson, Tami Hayward, Jodi Smith, and Shane Andreas.

CALL TO ORDER: James Restucci, Chair, called the meeting to order at approximately 6:00 p.m.
INTRODUCTIONS AND ROLL CALL The meeting was hosted via ZOOM. A quorum was present.

PUBLIC COMMENT POLICY It is the policy of the YVCOG General Membership to accept public comment on agenda items at the time the item is being discussed. Public comments regarding items not on the agenda will be heard at the end of the meeting.

WELCOMING REMARKS Martin Casey, City Administrator of the City of Sunnyside, opened the meeting with an update on current and future happenings in Sunnyside.

BUSINESS
Approval of Minutes – February 17, 2021 General Membership Meeting City of Zillah moved to approve the [Minutes from February 17, 2021](#). The City of Toppenish seconded. *The motion carried.*

Letter of Support All Aboard Washington has requested a Letter of Support from YVCOG, supporting the Amtrak Reauthorization Act and establishment of a Northwest Rail Commission. This letter is addressed to Senator Maria Cantwell, Chair of the Commerce, Science & Transportation Committee, and Representative Marylyn

Strickland, Member of the House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee. Representative Dan Newhouse will receive a copy of the letter.

Action: City of Toppenish moved to approve the Chair signing the YVCOG Letter of Support, supporting the recognition of Regional Rail Commissions, and the establishment of a Northwest Rail Commission. City of Zillah seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Robert's Rules Training Opportunity

YVCOG Executive Director, Chris Wickenhagen, provided information on the upcoming Robert's Rules Training opportunity:

- YVCOG will be offering a series of live, 'how-to' trainings for City Councils and Commissions, City Administrators, and staff.
 - Thursday, May 13: A New Perspective on Council Meetings
 - Thursday, May 20: Making Motion Work for You
 - Thursday, May 27: Public Comment and Citizen Committees
- Each training will last approximately a 1.5 hours
- Discounts will be given if an entire City Council attends all 3 trainings.
- Registration fees may be charged against pre-approved Technical Assistance contracts.
- The meetings will be in compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act.

PROGRAM

Cliff Hall, WSDOT Regional Coordinator

Mr. Hall presented "MPO/RTPO 101," explaining the purpose and function of Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organizations (MPOs) and Regional Transportation Planning Organizations (RTPOs).

- YVCOG is both an MPO and an RTPO. This presentation focused on MPOs.
- The YVCOG Policy Board *is* the MPO in our area – it is a transportation policy-making and planning body designated to carry out the metropolitan planning process.
- MPOs are created by federal law and are required in urbanized areas with populations exceeding 50,000.
- Jurisdictions within an MPO area must be a member in order to qualify for federal funding.
- The MPO does all the transportation planning and programming in their respective region.
- A Metropolitan Program Area (MPA), must be approved by the Governor. Includes urbanized area within the expected 20-year growth area. The boundary may be expanded to include the statistical area – YVCOG was granted MPA status last year, and now includes all of Yakima County.
- The first federal transportation law was championed by bicycle organizations in the 1916 Federal Aid Road Act. People were fed up with muddy, nasty roads and wanted them paved. All subsequent acts are amendments to this original act.
- MPOs consist of elected officials, transit operators, state DOT, counties, regional agencies, cities, ports, and the private sector.
- It is the responsibility of the MPO to create the UPWP (prerequisite to receive federal planning funds), the MTP, the TIP, etc.

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A recording of this meeting is available

- RTPOs are state-created, and they are voluntary.
- This RTPO was authorized in 1990 as part of the Growth Management Act.
- Law states that where there is an MPO, the RTPO will be the same.
- RTPO boards are very similar to the MPO boards, consisting of cities and towns, counties, WSDOT, transit agencies, port districts, major employers, state legislators from districts within the RTPO, and tribes with reservation lands and/or trust lands within the RTPO.
- The purpose of the RTPO is to coordinate transportation planning among local jurisdictions outside the metropolitan planning area.

Troy Suing, WSDOT South-Central Region, shared how important MPO/RTPOs are to the Region. WSDOT SCR is part of the board and included in the TAC – the MPO/RTPO fulfills an important role as far as the regional planning that goes on, including the contacts and the continued communications with all of the local agencies. The Policy Board and the TAC are really important and valuable forums, and are highly considered and looked towards for direction in area transportation issues.

Mr. Hall commented that WSDOT South-Central Region is WSDOT’s ‘boots on the ground,’ and that they assist both WSDOT headquarters planning and the local MPO/RTPO – they are the ones to go to for assistance with project planning, etc.

UPCOMING GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

2021 meetings may be held via Zoom, or we may be able to meet in one of our cities.

Meeting dates: May 19 – Granger
 September 15 - Grandview
 October 20 - Zillah
 December 8 – City of Yakima

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

ADJOURN

With no further business, Chairman Restucci adjourned the meeting at approximately 6:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

 James A. Restucci, YVCOG Chairman

Date signed: _____

 Tamara Hayward, Financial Specialist