

## YVCOG RFP: Yakima Valley Regional Transit Feasibility Study

### Frequently Asked Questions

#### What is the purpose of the Feasibility Study?

The purpose of the Yakima Valley Regional Transit Feasibility Study is:

- Determine current transit funding, equipment, and operational resources of the Yakima County region's public transit system, and
- How those resources can be better utilized to address current and future public transportation needs and gaps; and
- Identify applicable mobility strategies, which may be implemented over time.

The study will be undertaken in parallel to the ongoing update of the Coordinated Public Transportation - Human Services Transportation Plan conducted by YVCOG staff. Both documents are to be completed in 2022.

#### What is the projected service area of the Feasibility Study?

- The projected service area of the study will cover the physical area of Yakima County, omitting areas restricted from public access.
- These restricted areas include Federal military lands (Yakima Training Center) not accessible to the public, Yakama Nation "Closed Area" lands, and other state lands or property not expected to be a candidate for public transportation.
- The Transit Feasibility should also include linking services to transit providers in neighboring counties such as Kittitas, Klickitat and Benton County.

#### What is the forecasting horizon and breadth of consideration for the Feasibility Study?

While this document is meant to address current resources and how said resources can be best developed in a near term planning horizon, consideration on longer-term planning strategies and best practices are welcome for discussion as the basis of future studies. This is necessitated on projected planning considerations in the areas of aviation, passenger rail, and alternative transportation modes that may take several years or decades to develop and implement but would have synergistic benefits when coordinated with public transit.

#### What is the desired timeframe or time outlook of the Feasibility Study?

Projected timeline:

November 1, 2021	Request for Proposals is issued
November 15, 2021, 10:00 a.m.	Pre-Application Workshop, via Zoom.
November 19, 2021	Deadline for Questions
November 30, 2021	Posting of FAQ, Frequently asked Questions and Answers
December 8, 2021, 4:30 p.m.	Closing date and time for receipt of proposals
January 7, 2022	Finalists contacted; interviews scheduled as needed
January 31, 2022	Final consultant selection; start of contract negotiation
February 7, 2022, 4:30 p.m.	Deadline for submission of Aggrieved Appeal form
February 28, 2022	Contract execution; notice to proceed
September 30, 2022	Desired end date of contract

#### Who will oversee the development of the Feasibility Study?

The YVCOG Transportation Program Manager will oversee the day-to-day facilitation of the study with the contractor. The manager will follow the direction of the study's Steering Committee, MPACT (Mobilizing Public Access to Countywide Transportation) Committee, the MPO/RTPO public transportation advisory

committee, and the YVCOG Transportation Policy Board for clarification or direction changes during the development of the study.

Contact information:

Alan Adolf, Transportation Program Manager

Phone: (509) 759-7981 email: [alan.adolf@yvcog.org](mailto:alan.adolf@yvcog.org)

### **How does the “Steering Committee” and the “MPACT Committee” differ and what are their responsibilities be?**

- The MPACT Committee is comprised of representatives from each of the region’s public transportation providers, social service provider agencies, Commute Trip Reduction (CTR) – required businesses and organizations, Yakima County, WSDOT, and general business and public stakeholders with an interest in improving transportation accessibility to our region. As YVCOG’s advisory committee to the Transportation Policy Board, MPACT is charged with providing guidance in the updating of the Human Services Transportation Plan document, introducing new public transportation issues/topics to the policy board, and recommending the prioritization of the WSDOT Public Transportation Consolidated Grant process project list.
- The Study’s Steering committee will be comprised of a volunteer subcommittee of the MPACT group. The Steering committee will aid the Transportation Program Manager and contractor in the development of information and study status that will be shared by the subcommittee to the general membership of MPACT.

### **How will YVCOG foresee the integration of the Feasibility Study into its update of its 2022 Human Services Transportation Plan (HSTP) Update?**

- YVCOG is currently in the initial update process of its 2018 HSTP document which will need to be adopted by the YVCOG Transportation Policy Board no later than June 2022. The 2022 HSTP is expected to concentrate on revisions to transportation provider services, projected service additions, and ongoing service gaps. The HSTP document will not delve into the financial, capital, or operational areas of our regions transit resources.
- The Study is intended to provide a regionwide inventory of existing resources, revenues, and expenditures, and capital investments and resources; and how they can be best brought together to improve efficiencies, opportunities of expanded or more frequent service, and coordination/cooperation amongst our transit systems.
- The study should also provide best practice strategies and recommendations that may be further explored in follow studies as recommended by the YVCOG Transportation Policy Board.

### **Will the contractor participate in MPACT meetings?**

The contractor is strongly encouraged to participate in scheduled MPACT general membership meetings, as needed. MPACT meetings are usually scheduled for the last Wednesday of the month between December 2021 and October 2022. The next MPACT meeting is scheduled for December 15, 2021.

### **How is the Feasibility Study funded? Are there limitations?**

YVCOG’s Transit Feasibility Study is funded through a combination of Federal/State/Local funding programs and thereby must comply with federal contracting requirements. In turn, the YVCOG requires all contractors to adhere to Federal contract provisions through the specific inclusion and certification of applicable clauses in the final planning services agreement as prescribed by the Washington State

Departments of Transportation, the Federal Highway Administration, and/or the Federal Transit Administration.

**Is a scope of work available?**

The Feasibility Study's Scope of work can be found on **page 5** of the [RFP document](#).

**What resources (documents) will be made available for the contractor team?**

The following resources are available:

[2016 – Yakima Valley Metropolitan and Regional Transportation Plan 2016 - 2040](#)

[2016 – Washington State - Public Transportation Plan 2035](#)

[2018 – YVCOG Human Services Transportation Plan](#)

[2019 – WSDOT Travel Washington Intercity Bus Program Study](#)

[2020 – Yakima Valley Metropolitan and Regional Transportation Plan 2020 – 2045](#)

[2020 – WA State Feasibility Study for East-West Intercity Passenger Rail System](#)

[WSDOT Active Transportation Plan Part 1: 2020 and Beyond](#) and "Part 2", when available

[2021 Yakama Nation Heritage Connectivity Trail \(HCT\) Concept Plan](#)

GIS databases and maps. Please inquire. Additional documentation and resources may be made available opportunities allow during the development of the study.

**What are the proposal requirements/limits?**

- The contractor candidate shall limit their proposal to no more than 12 pages, not counting professional resumes.
- The proposal requirements can be found on **page 7** of the [RFP document](#).

**What is the deadline to submit the contractor's proposal?**

- Proposals are due to YVCOG on Wednesday, December 8, 2021, 4:30 p.m. Late applications not accepted. Submit an electronic PDF of your proposal by email to [info@yvcog.org](mailto:info@yvcog.org)