



**MEMBER JURISDICTIONS:**

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

**YVCOG EXECUTIVE  
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John Hodkinson, Jr., Vice Chair



311 North 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite  
202  
Yakima, WA 98901  
509-574-1550  
FAX 509-574-1551  
Website: www.yvcog.org



## New SEPA Rules Update

*By Shawn Conrad, Senior Planner*

At the direction of the 2012 Legislature, the Department of Ecology has working to update State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) rules to streamline regulatory processes while maintaining environmental protection. The first round of rulemaking is complete and the new rules are effective as of January 28, 2013. Most significantly, the new rules raised the flexible exemption thresholds that jurisdictions can adopt.

During the current second round of rulemaking, Ecology is considering other rules that could affect implementation of increased flexible thresholds, including how jurisdictions would make sufficient consideration of cultural resources for projects that are exempt under the flexible thresholds. Drafts of these new rules are expected by **July**, with a formal rules proposal in **August**. For more information about the SEPA Rulemaking Advisory Committee current discussions related to this issue, visit <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/sea/sepa/rulemaking/AdvisoryCommittee.html>.



## Intelligent Transportation Systems

*By Deb LaCombe, Senior Planner*

Although YVCOG co-hosted a Regional Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) Architecture Development Workshop on April 2nd, the creation of the architecture (Plan) is just starting. YVCOG will gather information on the region's existing ITS programs and projects by canvassing stakeholders in the coming months. We are also interested in capturing the ITS-related plans that have been or are being developed by agencies in Yakima County.

### What are Intelligent Transportation Systems?

ITS are defined as the electronics, communications, or information processing in transportation infrastructure and vehicles, used alone or integrated with other systems, to improve transportation safety and mobility and enhance productivity. ITS covers a broad range of wireless and wired communications-based information and electronics technologies (<http://www.iteris.com/itsarch/html/glossary/glossary-i.htm>). Some examples are:

- Two or more synchronized traffic signals in one city or in multiple cities
- Online transit scheduling information such as Google Transit
- Electronic weather and traffic delay signs on the highway system
- GPS systems on snow plows tracking plow progress
- Light-changing technology on emergency response vehicles



### What information does YVCOG need?

YVCOG will gather ITS inventory from the plans and programs it already maintains, such as the Yakima Valley Metropolitan and Regional Transportation Plan 2010 – 2035 and the Metropolitan and Regional Transportation Improvement Program 2013 – 2016. Before now, the project descriptions in these two regional documents have been general and presented as stand-alone efforts. Tying the projects together under a focused Plan will require more detail.



# Celebrate & Cycle On!

## Yakima Valley's 3rd Annual Bike-To-Work Challenge

By Brian Curtin, CTR Coordinator

May is **National Bike-to-Work Month**, May 13<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> is Bike-to-Work Week, and Friday, May 17<sup>th</sup> is Bike-to-Work Day. Locally, the Yakima Valley Regional Commute Trip Reduction (CTR) program, administered by YVCOG, is promoting and sponsoring the **Third Annual Bike-to-Work Challenge** from May 1<sup>st</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup>. Ride your bike to work and home a minimum of four times during May and qualify for great prizes. To participate, please contact Brian Curtin at (509) 759-7992 or [curtinb@yvco.org](mailto:curtinb@yvco.org) for more information.

Andy Clark, President of the League of American Bicyclists, said, "Biking to work is an efficient and fun way to get the exercise you need, without having to find extra time to work out. And this year, with gasoline prices as high as they are, biking to work makes more sense than ever." For more information, visit [www.bikeleague.org](http://www.bikeleague.org).

Here are some tips that will help you enjoy biking to work.

- Have your bike checked over by your local bike shop
- Always wear a helmet to protect your head in the event of a crash
- Ride in the right-most lane that goes in the direction that you are traveling.
- Obey all stop signs, traffic lights and lane markings.
- Look before you change lanes or signal a turn; indicate your intention, then act.
- Be visible and predictable at all times; wear bright clothing and signal before turning.



## Way to Roll Day!

Please join us for cake and light refreshments in appreciation of our bicycling commuters. In addition, there will be bicycling and alternative commute information, regional bike route maps, and recognition buttons identifying the enthusiastic bike commuter available.



**When: Thursday, May 16 7:30 – 9:00 a.m.**  
**Where: Dept of Ecology-Entrance Lobby**  
**15 W. Yakima Ave. #200**  
**Yakima, WA 98902**

YVCOG provides professional community and transportation planning services in partnership with our member jurisdictions. YVCOG administers the CTR program on behalf of the jurisdictions and employers who are covered by the state CTR Efficiency Act of 2006 (RCWs 70.94.527 and 70.94.531).

### \*\*\* YVCOG NEWS \*\*\*

The YVCOG Executive Committee approved the YVCOG Code of Conduct for committee members & staff on February 20. This is be available online here: [http://www.yvco.org/documents/Code\\_of\\_Conduct0313.pdf](http://www.yvco.org/documents/Code_of_Conduct0313.pdf)

## "ITS Planning" continued from Page 1...

Deb LaCombe will contact each project sponsor.



YVCOG will also conduct a survey to gather ITS project, program, and plan information. This survey includes an informal "call for ITS projects" to raise awareness about future ITS projects, including those not listed in the long range transportation plan and the region's transportation improvement programs. For more information or to participate in the survey, please contact Deb LaCombe by at (509) 574-1550 or [lacombed@yvco.org](mailto:lacombed@yvco.org).



# CONGRATS!



## Energy Efficiency Grants Awarded Locally!

By Shawn Conrad, Senior Planner

The 2013 Washington State Department of Commerce Energy Efficiency Grants have been awarded to the City of Mabton and the Yakima Valley Community College (YVCC).

- Mabton received \$68,229 for new interior lighting in City Hall, the police department, and the wastewater treatment plant, as well as a streetlight upgrade.
- YVCC received \$503,000 for six campus buildings to receive new lighting, daylighting, HVAC controls, and HVAC systems.



## Congrats to Mabton & YVCC!

**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.yvco.org/title6.pdf> or call (509) 574-1550.

## YVCOG General Membership Meeting

**WHERE:** Ahtanum Youth Park– Barn  
1000 Ahtanum Rd, Union Gap

**WHEN:** May 15, 2013 6:30-9:30 p.m.

**DINNER:** \$18 at 7 p.m.

Reservations and cancellations for a voting quorum and the caterer are appreciated no later than **Friday, May 10, 2013 at noon**. Please RSVP to Sarah or Tami at (509) 574-1550 or email to [haywardt@yvco.org](mailto:haywardt@yvco.org).





## Grants Alert: Community Facilities, Salmon & Broadband

By Shawn Conrad, Senior Planner

**REMINDER:** USDA-Rural Development is still seeking applications for **community facilities grants**. The awards are generally for \$20,000 or less and can help to fund a wide range of community facilities, including cultural, transportation, health care, public safety, utility, energy transmission, community support, and other facilities. Projects that serve communities of less than 5,000 and/or low-income communities receive priority. If you are interested in applying, contact Marti Canatsey, [marlene.canatsey@wa.usda.gov](mailto:marlene.canatsey@wa.usda.gov), (509) 454-5740 x138 to discuss your project, or visit [http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/wa/cfgrant\\_3.htm](http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/wa/cfgrant_3.htm).



The Washington Salmon Recovery Funding Board has initiated its annual grant process to **fund a broad range of salmon-related activities** to aid the recovery of salmonids (salmon, trout, and steelhead) in the Yakima Basin region. Pre-applications are due by April 15, 2013, and full proposals are due May 20, 2013. For more information, please contact Darcy Batura, Yakima Basin Fish and Wildlife Recovery Board, at [dbatura@ybfwrp.org](mailto:dbatura@ybfwrp.org) or (509) 453-4104.



Applications are now available from the Washington State Department of Commerce for the 2013 Local Technology Planning Team grant program, which **funds efforts to advance broadband access and use**. The grant application deadline is 5 p.m. on April 30 and grant awards will be announced in June. Cities, counties, public utility, districts, ports, nonprofit organizations, tribes, public and private colleges and universities, and community groups partnering with one of these entities may apply. There is a 20% match requirement. Use this short link to visit the website for more information and an application: <http://tinyurl.com/bejglx6>.

### MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

#### MPO/RTPO Executive Committee & Policy Board—March 18

- March MTIP Amendments approved.

#### YVCOG Executive Committee—March 18

- YVCOG Strategic Planning Report: Director's Goals for 2013
- Yakima River Basin Integrated Resource Management Plan update & support approved

#### YVCOG General Membership—March 20

- YC-Life Update: 2013 Local Indicators Report & New Online Tools— By Mark Todd, President of United Way of Central Washington, and Lee Murdock, Sr. Program Analyst of Yakima County Dept. of Human Services.



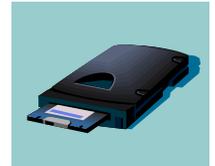
## Techy Spring Cleaning!

By John Rohrbaugh, GISP/IT

If you haven't thought of it recently, I wanted to take a 'spring cleaning' moment to remind readers to **back up your data!** This means all your Windows profile data, including folders such as

My Photos, My Music, and My Documents; as well as folders you may not think about, such as your Favorites folder with your internet shortcuts, and your Desktop folder (tip: try not to store anything other than shortcuts on the desktop)!

There are many useful tools that you can buy to create fancy timed backups of your system, but you may not realize there's a simple and free tool built right into Windows. In older systems such as those running Windows XP, Microsoft Backup will create a complete data backup. Even better, Windows 7 and 8 users can use Microsoft Backup and Restore. A good and simplified run-through of this system is available from Microsoft here: <http://windows.microsoft.com/enus/windows7/products/features/backup-and-restore>.



It's Spring when most of us think about cleaning and getting ready for summer. This is a perfect time to spend a few dollars on an external USB hard drive and explore the backup tools available to you right in the Windows Operating System. Save yourself great pain down the road and backup your files today – don't delay!



## APRIL COMMITTEE MEETINGS



#### MPO/RTPO Technical Advisory Committee

Thursday, April 11 at 10:00 a.m.  
Yakima Transit - PW Training Room  
2301 Fruitvale Blvd Yakima, WA

#### YVCOG MPO/RTPO Executive Committee & Policy Board & YVCOG Executive Committee

Monday, April 15 at 1:30 p.m.  
LOCATION: 311 North 4th Street—Yakima  
\* The 300 Building \* 2nd Floor \*

**For more info, call (509) 574-1550.**

#### Your YVCOG Staff:

J. Page Scott, Executive Director  
Brian Curtin, CTR Coordinator  
Deb LaCombe, Senior Transportation Planner  
Shawn Conrad, Senior Planner  
John R. Rohrbaugh, GIS Analyst/Systems Administrator  
Chris Wickenhagen, Administrative Finance Officer  
Tamara Hayward, Office Specialist  
Sarah A. Hyndman, Office Specialist



# Bike to Work Challenge!

## **WIN LOCAL PRIZES!!**

- Camelbak Hydration System
- Cycling Computer
- Rear Pannier Bags
- Bicycle Lighting System
- Rear Bike Rack
- 26 Function Bike Tool
- Frame Bike Pump
- Bicycle Seat Bag



**May is National Bike Month! Make a fun shift and ride to work during the Bike-To-Work Challenge from May 1st to 31st. By riding your bike at least four times during this event, you will be eligible to win prizes! But your greatest reward will be saving money, reaping the health benefits of biking, and reducing air pollution!**

**Join us for Bike Commuter Recognition Event! There will be cake and light refreshments.**

**WHEN: Thursday, May 16th from 7:30-9:00 a.m.**

**WHERE: Dept. of Ecology Lobby at 15 W. Yakima Ave.**

- Bike to work (round trip), minimum four times for the month. Win great prizes!
- Each day during Bike to Work Month, mark the days you participated.
- Return the completed form to your ETC or Fax to (509) 574-1551 by June 7th.
- Incomplete entries are invalid. One entry form per person.

**Number of days I participated:**

\_\_\_\_\_

**One-way miles to work:**

\_\_\_\_\_

SPRING 2013 PRIZE			WED 1	THUR 2	FRI 3	SAT 4
ENTRY FORM						
SUN 5	MON 6	TUES 7	WED 8	THUR 9	FRI 10	SAT 11
SUN 12	MON 13	TUES 14	WED 15	THUR 16	FRI 17	SAT 18
SUN 19	MON 20	TUES 21	WED 22	THUR 23	FRI 24	SAT 25
SUN 26	MON 27	TUES 28	WED 29	THUR 30	FRI 31	

**Employee Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Work Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Employer:** \_\_\_\_\_

**E-mail:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City/County you work in:** \_\_\_\_\_

**RETURN YOUR COMPLETED PAPER FORM BY JUNE 7<sup>th</sup> TO: Your Worksite ETC or Brian Curtin, YVCOG's CTR Coordinator or Fax to YVCOG at (509) 574-1551 for your chance to win great prizes.**