



MEMBER JURISDICTIONS:

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

YVCOG EXECUTIVE  
COMMITTEE:

James A. Restucci, Chair  
*Mayor, Sunnyside*  
Mike Leita  
*Yakima County Commissioner*  
Rick Ensey  
*Yakima City Council*  
Area 1 — Dan Olson  
*Union Gap City Council*  
Area 2 — Loren Belton,  
*Toppenish City Council*  
Area 3 — Mario Martinez  
*Mabton City Council*  
Member At Large-  
John Hodkinson, Jr., Vice Chair



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## Statewide Survey Shows Support for Transportation Investments

*By Page Scott, Executive Director*

The Washington State Transportation Commission recently completed a statewide survey that asked thousands of Washington state residents several questions on transportation, including how they feel about the transportation system, what their transportation investment priorities are, and if they think the state has enough revenue to meet future needs. This is an annual survey called the Voice of Washington Survey (VOWS) project.

The survey reports include responses broken out by region. As you would expect, residents from different areas of the state have different opinions. Here's a link to the survey results by region: <http://tinyurl.com/nz4pnxn>. The YVCOG region is one that is specifically identified.

Statewide, 86% of those surveyed think it is urgent to make sure Washington's transportation system works effectively today and into the future, and 60% are willing to consider raising some transportation taxes and fees to ensure future transportation needs are met. Preserving infrastructure, investing in transit, and reducing congestion continue to be the top benefits residents must see to justify paying additional taxes.

The commission encourages residents to join the VOWS survey panel so they can participate in future surveys. The bigger the panel is, the louder the collective voice of Washington state residents will be to state decision makers. To join the VOWS survey panel, please visit: [www.voiceofwashingtonsurvey.org](http://www.voiceofwashingtonsurvey.org)

## Transportation Alternatives Program Call for Projects

*By Shawn Conrad, Senior Planner*



The 2013 Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) call for projects is under way, and the deadline is approaching! The TAP merges several streams of non-motorized transportation funding into one program, including funding for pedestrian and bicyclist facility construction, safe routes to school, and recreational trails. Eligible applicants include local governments, regional transportation authorities, transit agencies, natural resource or public lands agencies, school districts, local education agencies, schools, tribal governments, and any other local or regional governmental entity with responsibility for oversight of transportation or recreational trails. Approximately \$1.12 million is available for a four-year call for projects, with a maximum award per funded application of \$275,000. There is **no match requirement**. The call for projects, including a list of eligible activities and application, is posted on the YVCOG website at: <http://tinyurl.com/my878ac>. Applications are due **December 13, 2013**.

Following the application deadline, a subcommittee will meet to score the applications. Applicants will be notified about this meeting in advance to ensure that a project representative can be available to discuss any questions the scoring subcommittee might have by phone. Award letters will be sent by January 31, 2014.

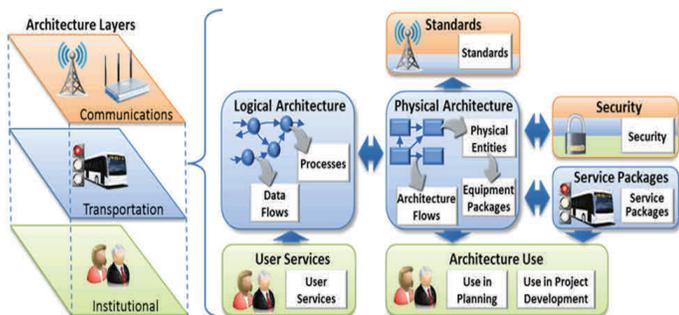
There has been a lot of interest in TAP and we are looking forward to funding some great projects. If you have questions about the application or call for projects, please contact Shawn Conrad at (509) 574-1550 or [conrads@yvcog.org](mailto:conrads@yvcog.org). For questions about project eligibility, please contact Roger Arms or Brian Hunter, WSDOT South Central Region office at (509) 577-1780.

# Yakima Valley Regional ITS Architecture

By Joseph W. Calhoun, Planner

The Yakima Regional ITS Architecture process is in full swing. As we prepare to complete the ITS Architecture process, input from stakeholders will be extremely important to create a complete, logical, and viable architecture that is specifically tailored to the priorities of the Yakima Valley.

What is a Regional ITS Architecture, you may ask? The Regional ITS Architecture provides a common framework for planning, defining, and integrating Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) Projects. ITS projects integrate communications technologies into the transportation infrastructure, which improves the safety and mobility of the transportation network. ITS projects include variable message signs, vehicle-to-vehicle communications, and emergency dispatch centers – to name a few. The ITS Architecture is also a requirement if you want to receive federal funding for ITS projects. The following chart shows the main 'layers' of the architecture, which include Communications, Transportation, and Institutional.



A draft plan is being prepared and the stakeholder-selected service packages have been identified. Tentatively, we will present a final draft of the plan to stakeholders by the end of January 2014, with approval of the final plan likely coming in February 2014. If you have any questions related to the Yakima Regional ITS Architecture, please contact Joseph Calhoun at 574-1550, or [calhounj@yvcog.org](mailto:calhounj@yvcog.org).

# Wheel Options: We're All Winners

By Brian Curtin, CTR Coordinator



**Julie Eggebeen:** "It really pays to rideshare!!"

They traveled by public transit, vanpool, carpool, bicycle and even by foot in pursuit of their ever-elusive prize. It might have been the trip to Hawaii, or perhaps the getaway to Vancouver, BC that drove them on. Not for me, no sir! It was the awesomely cool Apple iPad that I yearned for. I carpoled like I'd never carpoled before. Alas, it was not meant to be. I did not win that most-coveted prize (but, Julie Eggebeen of Yakima Valley Farmworkers Clinic did! Congratulations Julie). I'm still a winner, I saved money on my

daily commute, I made life a little easier on my fellow commuters by taking a car off the road, I sent less pollutants into our atmosphere and made life a little bit healthier for all of us. Yes, I was a winner after all! And each and every one of you who participated in Wheel Options is a winner as well!

I take pride and pleasure in congratulating the more than 250 employees from 23 local employers who participated in the Wheel Options campaign. During the month of October, they chose to exercise their right to use an alternative transportation mode (rather than driving alone) to work. Every conceivable alternative mode was utilized; carpooling and compressed work week proved to be, by far, the most popular. Many chose to dust off the old bicycle and use this "most efficient of all commute modes." There were a few who took the "Shoe Leather Express" to work; these were some of the shorter commutes of one to two miles, and they are to be commended for their efforts. The longest commute was a whopping 56 miles.

Just imagine if Wheel Options weeks were every week of the year! Well, they are! You have the option of using an alternative transportation mode every day of your life, and there are prizes every week. For each gallon of gas you don't pump into your tank, for each mile you don't drive alone, for each mile you do ride a bicycle or take the bus or walk, there are untold prizes in the form of saved money, improved physical health and improved air quality as well as decreased congestion on our roads. So make the choice, use a Wheel Option of your choice, and reap the rewards.

Congratulations to all who participated in the Wheel Options campaign. Please see the list of local winners in this newsletter and for a complete statewide listing of the Wheel Options Campaign prizes and winners visit the Wheel Options website at [www.wheeloptions.org](http://www.wheeloptions.org) and keep utilizing your wheel options! As Julie Eggebeen says, "It really pays to rideshare!"

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



## YVCOG General Membership Meeting



**WHERE:** Sunnyside—VFW  
**WHEN:** December 11, 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, December 6, 2013 at noon**. Please RSVP to Tami at (509) 574-1550 or email to [haywardt@yvcog.org](mailto:haywardt@yvcog.org).



## ACS Sheds Light on Post-Recession Changes

By John Rohrbaugh, IT/GISP

New statistics from the Census Bureau are allowing us to take a close look at how Yakima County has fared since the recent recession. The American Community Survey (ACS), conducted year-round by the U.S. Census Bureau, produces statistics on a wide range of topics, including homeownership and home values, educational attainment, household income, commute times, and more. This latest release allows us to compare the results of surveys conducted before and during the recent recession (2007-2009) with surveys conducted after the recession (2010-2012) to see how the recovery is progressing.

For example, the statistics show that Yakima County had a homeownership rate of 64.5% during the recession period and 61.4% during the post-recession period, showing a decline in owner occupied houses in Yakima County. Nationally, the homeownership rate was 66.4% during the recession period, and 64.7% post-recession. This statistic illustrates that Yakima County home ownership statistics are keeping pace with the national average.

But, unlike homeownership, Yakima County median home values actually outperformed the national average. During those same mid and post-recession periods, the median home value in Yakima County went from \$153,700 during the recession period to \$157,900 post-recession showing a value *increase*; whereas nationally, the median home value was \$174,600 in the post-recession period, a \$17,300 decline from the recession period of 2007-2009.

The importance of taking part in the ACS cannot be overstated. The YVCOG assists many local community comprehensive plan updates which rely on the ACS and other Census data for updating various sections, including

the land use and housing elements. Other plans and successful grant applications rely on demographic information contained in the ACS and decennial Census.

The ACS is the only data source that can show us how the economic situation in Yakima County and surrounding areas compares with the nation as a whole. The ACS statistics allow our local businesses and governments to make better informed investment and policy decisions.

Because the ACS is a “year-round census,” the Census Bureau sends questionnaires to more than three million households across the country every year. There’s a good chance that at some point in the years ahead, *you* could be randomly selected to participate. If so, you’ll be doing your part to provide the kind of accurate, detailed statistics our communities need to better plan for the future.

If you would like to examine the new statistics comparing mid- and post-recession values, you can do so via the American Fact Finder (AFF) Census web portal. A shortcut address to the AFF three-year comparative profiles is: <http://tinyurl.com/AFFCOMPARE>. Once at this site, go to the “refine your search result” area and type in “Yakima County” in the location box.



## DECEMBER COMMITTEE MEETINGS

**YVCOG General Membership**  
Wednesday, December 11 at 6:30 p.m. at the Sunnyside VFW (615 North Avenue)

**MPO/RTPO Technical Advisory Committee**  
Thursday, December 12 at 10:00 a.m.

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

Monday, December 16 at 1:30 p.m.  
LOCATION: 311 North 4th Street—Yakima

\* The 300 Building \* 2nd Floor \*

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

## NOVEMBER MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

### MPO/RTPO TAC — November 14

- Discussion regarding Transportation Alternatives program call for projects and developing TAC bylaws.

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

- Board approved YVCOG’s 2014 Metropolitan Planning Organization Self-certification statement.

### YVCOG Executive Committee — November 18

- The State Auditor’s Office has completed the 2010-2013 YVCOG audit. There were no audit findings.

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<input type="checkbox"/>	NP01 - Population and Housing Narrative Profile: 2012	2012 ACS 1-year estimates
<input type="checkbox"/>	NP01 - Population and Housing Narrative Profile: 2010-2012	2012 ACS 3-year estimates

## Nominations Open for 2014-2016 Executive Committee

Are you interested in setting the direction for YVCOG programs? Weighing in on services and contracts? Do you know of someone who would be a good representative of YVCOG membership interests?

Nominations for all 2014-2016 Executive Committee positions will be open in December. The Executive Committee members serve a two-year term (February 2014 through January 2016) and need to be available for regular monthly meetings.

The YVCOG Executive Committee consists of the following seven representatives:

- Yakima County Commissioner
- City of Yakima Councilmember
- City of Sunnyside Councilmember
- Area 1 (Naches, Tieton, Selah, Moxee and Union Gap)
- Area 2 (Toppenish, Zillah, Wapato and Harrah)
- Area 3 (Grandview, Granger and Mabton)
- Member-At-Large

If you know of someone you would like to nominate for one of these positions – or if you would like to nominate yourself – please contact Page Scott

([scottp@yvcog.org](mailto:scottp@yvcog.org)) or Tami Hayward ([haywardt@yvcog.org](mailto:haywardt@yvcog.org)) or call 574-1550 **by Friday, December 15**. Nominations will be forwarded to the Nominating Committee to develop ballots for elections to be held at the January 15, 2014 General Membership Meeting.

If you have any questions about Executive Committee duties or time commitments, please feel free to contact Page Scott or any current Executive Committee members for further information.

### Your YVCOG Staff:

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



## Yakima County Urban Growth Area Update

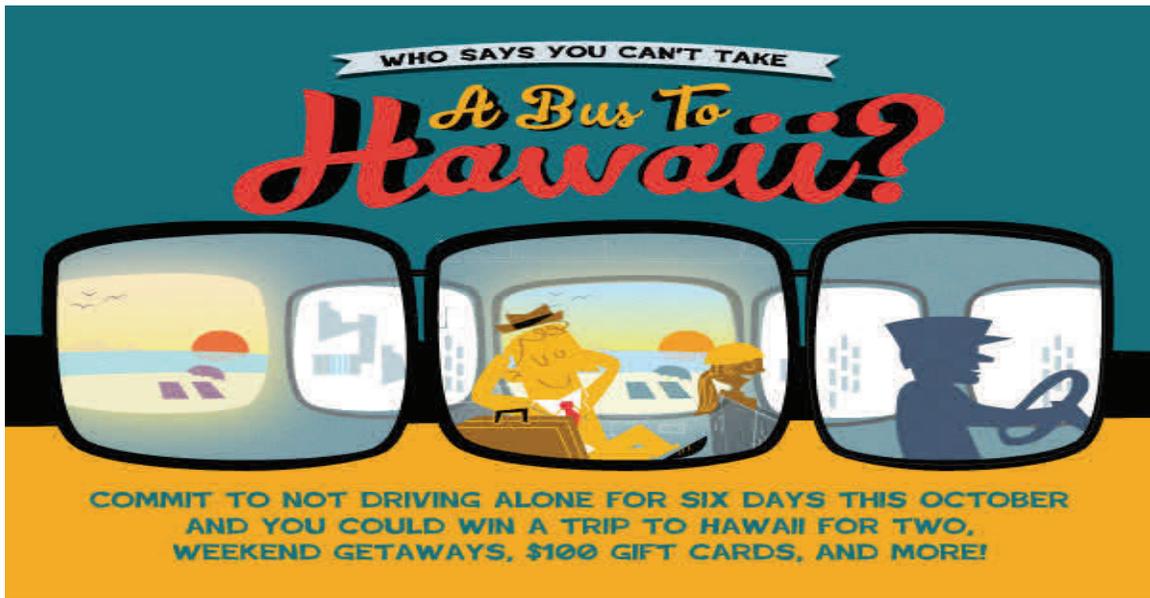
*By Shawn Conrad, Senior Planner*

In early 2013, Yakima County re-convened the Countywide Planning Policy Committee (CWPPC) to initiate the current round of jurisdictional Urban Growth Area (UGA) updates mandated by the Growth Management Act. Each jurisdiction has been asked to designate an elected official to serve on the CWPPC. The UGA update process is completed every five years to revise the UGA boundaries of cities and towns in Yakima County to reflect the amount of land that will be needed by each jurisdiction for growth during the next 20 years. The process will take approximately three and a half years to complete.

In early 2013, County staff met with most jurisdictions' staff and elected CWPPC representative to introduce the update process. Last May, Yakima County convened a CWPPC meeting to review the process, goals, and upcoming steps with the jurisdictions. The County presented at the September YVCOG General Membership meeting, where the UGA update process and the proposed development of a buildable lands model was discussed. Yakima County is now in the process of revising the Interlocal Agreement for Growth Management Act Implementation (ILA) that the County currently holds with each jurisdiction. The purpose of the ILA is to provide a management structure for growth occurring in the portions of UGAs that fall outside of city or town limits, and thus are in the jurisdiction of Yakima County. The County held two meetings regarding ILA revisions with staff of jurisdictions during October, where a number of related topics were also discussed. Future staff-level meetings will be held to revise the ILA before it goes to the CWPPC and to each jurisdiction for approval.

The next step in the process is for the County to complete assessments of jurisdictions' capital facilities plans, and develop tools for jurisdictions to use to gather development information. Later major steps in the process for the County will include establishing needed updates for capital facilities plans, conducting land capacity analyses to determine land needed to accommodate growth in each UGA, and establishment of a buildable lands model. Yakima County will continue to work in partnership with the jurisdictions throughout the process.

YVCOG has played an active role in meetings and has provided comments on the proposed ILA revisions. YVCOG will remain active throughout this process on behalf of our members. If you believe your jurisdiction would benefit from a more in-depth role of YVCOG staff in your individual UGA update, please contact Shawn Conrad at 574-1550 or [conrads@yvcog.org](mailto:conrads@yvcog.org).



## **Wheel Options Prize Winners!**

**Trip to Vancouver, BC-Pamela Wilson, City of Yakima**

**Apple iPad-Julie Eggebeen, YVFWC**

**Hiking/Biking Head Lamp-Jeremy Howard, WSDOT**

**Hydration Backpack-Randy Brown-Memorial Hospital**

**Camping Popcorn Popper-Miguel Cortez, Alexandria Moulding**

**Inklings Bookstore Coupons (\$15)-Erin Gutierrez, Ecology; Mike Nugent, City of Yakima; Sergio Garcia, Alexandria Moulding; Jason Goetz, WSDOT; Ellan Baker, Yakima Regional; Patricia Crane, WSDOT; John Weldon, DSHS; James Davis, Yakima County; Josie Chase, YVFWC; Leonardo Garcia, Alexandria Moulding;**

**Movie Bucks (\$10)-Samantha Ware, Tree Top; George Lopez, Alexandria Moulding; Eric Hartwig, Ecology; Logan Dodd, Perry Tech; Maria Foisy, WSDOT; Misty Martinez, DSHS; Dorraine Kilgore, YVFWC; Ray Latham, Ecology; Phil Rosenkranz, Yakima County; Jim Ellis, YVFWC; Melinda Giles, WSDOT; Laura Klasner, Ecology; Jason Smith, WSDOT; Terry Brown, WSDOT; David Masengale, WSDOT; Carla Adringa, Yakima Regional; Clarissa Leos-Lopez, YVFWC; Walt Hoffman, WSDOT, Darlene Terry, YVFWC; Debbie Byrd, GE Aviation.**

**CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OF OUR WINNERS!**