



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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Federal Transportation Funding:

*How local transportation projects can help
Washington State win (or lose)*

By Page Scott, Executive Director

Background:

Each year, states receive an allocation of spending authority for federal transportation funding programs through the U.S. Dept. of Transportation. This obligation authority (OA) expires at the end of each federal fiscal year on September 30. Any un-obligated balance is redistributed to other states that have already spent their OA.

In Washington State, a portion of the federal funding (OA) is dedicated to local projects. STP, CMAQ and Transportation Alternatives Program funds are distributed throughout the state to metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs) like YVCOG, and County lead agencies in non-MPO areas. MPOs and County lead agencies are responsible for selecting and programming eligible projects through a competitive process. In our region, that process has typically been conducted annually, but only after we receive notice of the actual regional funding amount.

Over the past few years, local agencies statewide have not fully obligated the federal funds that are authorized. Each year in late summer, the Washington State Dept. of Transportation (WSDOT) will assign un-obligated funds to state projects to insure Washington State does not have any unspent OA that can be passed to another state at the end of the fiscal year. In 2012, WSDOT projects consumed almost \$30 million of local agency OA. Unlike previous years, WSDOT Secretary Paula Hammond has indicated that they will not be able to replace these funds for local projects unless new transportation revenue is available.

Direction from WSDOT Highways and Local Programs Division (H&LP) requires lead agencies to:
Program (schedule) 4 years of federally funded projects;
Identify amounts that are expected to be obligated by September each year and to obligate funds as soon as possible; and

Federal Funding continued on Page 2...

**YVCOG Outstanding Service Award Goes
To: Cus Arteaga!!!**

By Sarah Hyndman, Office Specialist

At the December 12th General Membership meeting, YVCOG Vice-Chairman John Hodkinson presented the 2012 Outstanding Service Award to Grandview City Administrator, Cus Arteaga. Mr. Arteaga has an exemplary and longstanding career at the City of Grandview. Thank you, Cus, for your outstanding service and contributions to our region!



Federal Funding continued from Page 1...

Have a contingency list of projects that can obligate funds if additional OA is available.

WSDOT has initiated a new Local Project Delivery Task Force to develop policies that insure federal funds are being spent (obligated) on schedule and that targets are being met. The Task Force is comprised of representatives from WSDOT, cities, counties and MPOs. YVCOG Executive Director, Page Scott, has been appointed to this new Task Force.

{See related story below on how our region is taking action}

Regional Projects Get a “Green Light” for STP Funds

By Deb LaCombe, Senior Transportation Planner



Eleven projects selected in 2012 that were awarded STP funds for Preliminary Engineering (PE) are cleared to move from paper to pavement. On December 5, 2012 the TAC recommended that these projects be fully funded with STP. The MPO/RTPO Executive Committee agreed at their December 17th meeting which gives project sponsors the green light to proceed to the next phases: acquiring right-of-way and getting construction underway.

Of course, anyone having experience with projects using federal funds knows that there is a whole lot of process involved before you can make progress. In order to ensure timely delivery, project sponsors will need to provide realistic schedules for project delivery including monthly tracking of progress through the numerous procedural steps.

There's no such thing as free money. So the project sponsors also need to commit to the 13.5% non-federal matching funds. In these tight budget times, finding those matching funds is a significant hurdle in the process.



Stay tuned for more news about funding opportunities and our region's efforts to deliver transportation improvements.



BikeJournal.com- A Great Cycling Resource

by Brian Curtin, CTR Program Coordinator

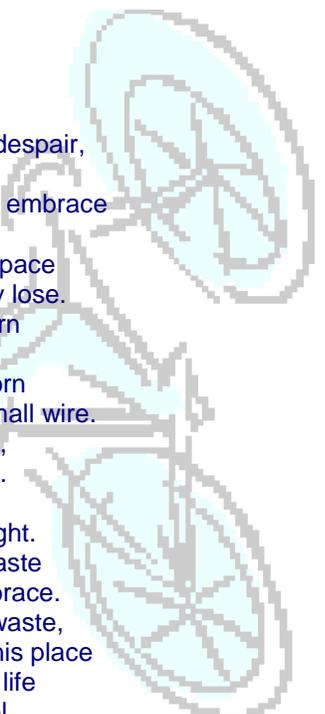
With the weather turning cold and snow in the forecast local bicyclists might be hanging up their wheels for the season. And others, those most devoted wheelmen will just put on another layer of clothing and head for the road or the trail. Whether you are a hard core Ice Biker or a fair weather cyclist there is a place on the web that you need to visit- www.BikeJournal.com : Their logo says it all “Ride. Log. Repeat.” The site allows cyclists throughout the world to log their bicycle trips and share their passion with other cyclists. Basic membership is FREE and within minutes you will be able to access and add rides to your own customizable bike journal. Other features include a thriving member's forum on various biking-related topics, numerous stat comparison tables to see how you stack up against other members, the ability to join clubs and track your club stats, information on upcoming rides, maps to local trails, and various biking links. The Bike Journal site is well worth a visit and the following light hearted reminder of every cyclist's nightmare was gleaned from their pages; enjoy!

Loss of a Friend

author unknown

Don't fail me now, oh ring of aire
For complete, my journey tis not.
This breath released, gives such despair,
A pause not which I had sought.
Release thee wheel, from frame's embrace
Twin tire levers upon thee I use.
One holds fast, the other in quick pace
Rubber and metal, their bond they lose.
Oh Presta tube, for thee I do mourn
I pull your lifeless form from tire
With a gentle caress, I find thy thorn
Your demise caused by such a small wire.
So many miles we once did share,
I miss thee yes, but not distraught.
Think not that I was so unfair
Not a patch, but a spare was bought.
Tire and wheel joined in careful haste
New Presta tube held in their embrace.
Time for my journey shall not be waste,
Oh bronze cartridge bring joy to this place
With cold breath, it brings back to life
This precious ring of aire on wheel,
Delivering me from my momentary strife.
Oh bliss! This rolling motion I do feel.

posted on <http://www.BikeJournal.com>





Get Funded: Free Water/ Sewer Tech Teams in Yakima

By Shawn Conrad, Senior Planner

If you have a drinking water or wastewater improvement project slated but are not sure how to fund it, consider requesting a free water and sewer Tech Team meeting with potential funding agency staff. The Washington Association of Sewer and Water Districts, with the Washington State Department of Commerce, is offering these Tech Teams on Wednesday, April 3 prior to their 2013 Spring Conference and Trade Show at the Yakima Convention Center. These teams will have funding program staff from the Public Works Trust Fund, Drinking Water State Revolving Fund, Department of Ecology funding programs, USDA Rural Development, and other programs as appropriate for your system or project. At the Tech Team meeting, you will present your project needs and funding program staff will discuss how their programs may be able to fund your specific project and help you put together a list of steps needed to pursue a funding package.

Requests for Tech Team meetings are available on a first-come, first-served basis. If you are interested in setting up a Tech Team meeting, please contact Cathi Read by as soon as possible, but no later than March 8, 2013 at 360-725-3016 or cathi.read@commerce.wa.gov.



Land Use and the New Marijuana Law

By Shawn Conrad, Senior Planner

Since the passage of Initiative 502, many jurisdictions are wondering whether and how they can regulate growing and use of marijuana. I-502 allows state-licensed production, processing, and sale of marijuana – similar to the sale of alcohol. Unless it is a collective garden allowed under the existing medical marijuana law, growing marijuana is still illegal until the Liquor Control Board (LCB) develops a process for licensing and regulation of marijuana producers. The LCB is requesting public comment on these proposed rules through February 10, 2013 (for more information visit <http://liq.wa.gov/marijuana/proposed-producer-rules>).

When licenses are proposed, cities will have the opportunity to object to the LCB. According to the Association of Washington Cities, local land use and zoning regulations are expected to still apply to the siting of growing, processing, and retail outlets. I-502 already specifies that the LCB cannot issue a license for any premises within 1,000 feet of the grounds of any elementary or secondary school, playground, recreation center or facility, child care center, public park, public transit center, or library, or any game arcade admission which is not restricted to persons aged 21 years or older. In addition, licensed marijuana producers, processors, or retailers cannot advertise marijuana or marijuana products within 1,000 feet of the uses listed above, on public transit vehicles, or in or on a publicly owned or operated property.



Charting a Course for Your YVCOG: Strategic Plan 2013

By Christina Wickenhagen, Admin Finance Officer

In 2012, the Washington State Auditor's Office provided workshops focusing on the performance measure of government. One of the key components of how performance is measured originates from a strategic plan. This means government needs to be specific about what it does and why it does it. Many of our members have already developed their plans, or updated existing ones to meet this audit focus.

The strategic plan is a tool used to guide an organization. A strategic plan will offer a vision and helps link future budget decisions to clearly stated goals and objectives. To achieve the goals in a strategic plan, the State Auditor recommends consistent measurement of progress to determine if objectives are being met. The ability to measure the accomplishments and services is an on-going component of a strategic plan.



YVCOG Executive Committee will begin the process in early 2013 to have a strategic plan in place by June. The plan will include outlining the purpose and major goals of Yakima Valley Conference of Governments. As the Executive Committee develops a strategic plan, the focus will be on our members' needs for the future and YVCOG's ability to meet those needs. The plan will be used to guide our annual budgets starting with 2014.

Send us your plans

Strategic plan, business plan, or whatever your agency calls it, we want to ensure YVCOG understands and is aligning with the goals of our members. If you know of specific needs we may be able to assist you with in the future, please feel free to contact Page Scott at (509)574-1550 or your YVCOG Executive Committee representative.



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





Selah Showcased!

By Sarah Hyndman, Office Specialist

Our December General Membership meeting was hosted by Selah's Mayor John Gawlick and Jeff Hagler, Tourism Director and Parks & Recreation Director at the Sweet Beez Café. They reviewed a TV tourism spotlight, their growing economy, and recent public works projects. Airing in six to eight weeks, the City's notable highlights will be featured by "Today in America" on CNN, the Discovery Channel, and on regional television. They'll receive a 1-week notice prior to the airing from the production company and will pass this information on from local networks.

To see sample videos and get more information, please see: todayinamericatv.com. For more information about Selah: <http://www.discoverselah.com/>.

Grant/Loan Opportunities

By Shawn Conrad, Planner



Applications for Drinking Water State Revolving Fund low-interest loans will be available **January 1, 2013** and are due **March 1, 2013**. No local match is required. For more information, contact Karen Klocke, (360) 236-3116, karen.klocke@doh.wa.gov or visit the DWSRF home page (short link: <http://tinyurl.com/9s7zwad>).

USDA-RD Community Facilities grants and loans fund a wide range of community facilities. During the last funding cycle, Cornucopia, a project to build a community garden to help feed residents and a local homeless shelter in Wapato, was awarded \$19,185. Awards are typically less than \$20,000. Applications are considered on continuous basis but more funds are available at the beginning of the fiscal year, which starts **October 1**. 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, (509) 454-5740 x138 to discuss your project, or visit http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/wa/cfggrant_3.htm.



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

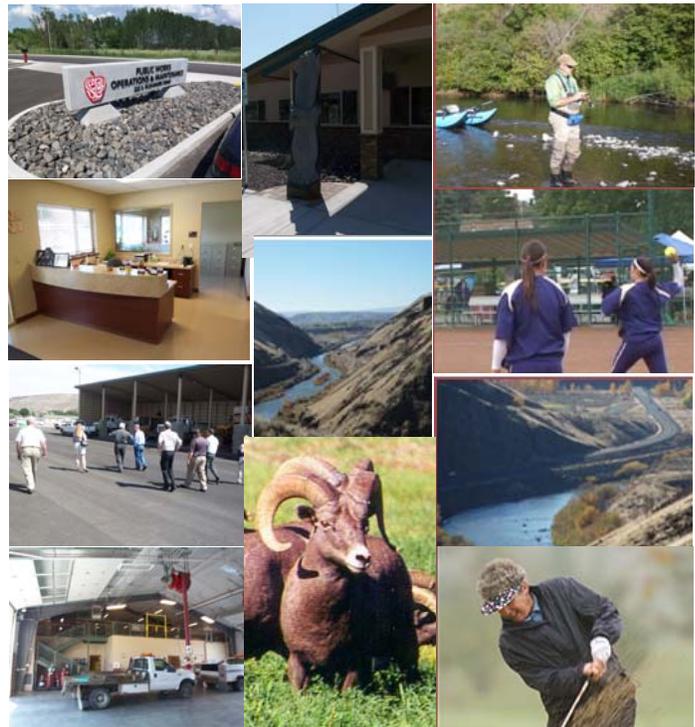
WHERE: Toppenish Eagles Club
515 S. Division St, Toppenish, WA 98948

PROGRAM: IT Report
by George Helton, Yakima Co.
Tech Services Director

WHEN: Jan. 18, 2012
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, Jan. 11, 2012 at noon.**
Please RSVP to Sarah or Tami at (509) 574-1550 or email to haywardt@yvcog.org.

SELAH HIGHLIGHTS



Left side: Selah's New Public Works Building **Middle:** PW Building Entry, Yakima Canyon & Canyon Wildlife **Right side:** Activities include Flyfishing in Yakima Canyon, Softball Tournaments, and Golf both at River Ridge & Elks Country Club. Photos from www.discoverselah.com

JANUARY COMMITTEE MEETINGS

MPO/RTPO Technical Advisory Committee

Thursday, Jan. 10 at 10:00 a.m.

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

Monday, Jan. 14 at 1:30 p.m.

The 300 Bldg* 2nd Flr * 311 North 4th St * Yakima
For more info, call (509) 574-1550.



2013 YAKIMA VALLEY CONFERENCE OF GOVERNMENTS MEETING DATES

*MPO/RTPO & POLICY BOARD & YVCOG EXECUTIVE COMMITTEES	**YVCOG GENERAL MEMBERSHIP	***MPO/RTPO TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
****JANUARY 14 - Monday	JANUARY 16	JANUARY 10
FEBRUARY 20- Wednesday	MARCH 20	FEBRUARY 14
MARCH 18	MAY 15	MARCH 14
APRIL 15	SEPTEMBER 18	APRIL 11
MAY 20	OCTOBER 16	MAY 9
JUNE 17	DECEMBER 11	JUNE 13
JULY 15		JULY 11
AUGUST 19		AUGUST 8
SEPTEMBER 16		SEPTEMBER 12
OCTOBER 21		OCTOBER 10
NOVEMBER 18		NOVEMBER 14
DECEMBER 16		DECEMBER 12

*The Metropolitan and Regional Transportation Planning Organization (MPO/RTPO) & Policy Board and YVCOG Executive Committee meet at 1:30 p.m. at the YVCOG office, 311 North 4th Street, Suite 202, in Yakima on the **3rd Wednesday** of February and on the **3rd Monday** of each month thereafter.

** The YVCOG General Membership meets at 6:30 p.m. on the **3rd Wednesday** of January, March, May, September, and October. The December meeting is held on the **2nd Wednesday**. These meetings are held at alternating locations throughout the county.

***The MPO/RTPO Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) meets at 10:00 a.m. at the YVCOG office, 311 North 4th Street, Suite 202, in Yakima on the **2nd Thursday** of each month (unless notified otherwise).

****January YVCOG Executive Committee meeting date changed to **2nd Monday** instead of Wednesday.