



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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YVCOG's Annual Report

By Chris Wickenhagen, Administrative Finance Officer

During the April 15th regular meeting, YVCOG Executive Committee approved the submission of the 2012 Annual Report to Washington State Auditor's Office. By filing online, YVCOG provides the general public with an immediate review of government spending. We are happy to report state grant assistance of \$180,550 and federal grant assistance in the amount of \$437,298. These funds enhance cities, towns, Yakima County and other governmental subdivisions with community development in our region. Our members and associate members contributed \$141,749 covering the required matching funds and misc. operating expenses shared by our members. Cities and towns working with YVCOG on specific development in their own jurisdiction contributed \$39,138.

YVCOG is pleased to share with our members a healthy and productive COG for their benefit. We are grateful to be able to serve communities and associate members in our region.



Funding & Technical Assistance Survey

By Shawn Conrad, Senior Planner

YVCOG needs your help! If you haven't already received it in your inbox, please follow this link to fill out a short, 10-question survey <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/6WQ39QT>. The purpose of this survey is to determine the priority needs of YVCOG member jurisdictions related to obtaining funding for infrastructure and development, and how those needs can be addressed through technical assistance and training. This survey will help YVCOG and state/federal agencies provide targeted opportunities. Thank you for your input!



Safe Streets Bill Passed

By Shawn Conrad, Senior Planner

The Neighborhood Safe Streets Bill, HB 1045, allows cities and towns to reduce speed limits on non-arterial highways within a residential or business district to 20 miles per hour without conducting an engineering and traffic investigation, when the city or town has developed procedures for establishing such lower speed limits. HB 1045 passed out of the Senate with a 45-2 vote, and is expected to be signed into law. The fiscal note estimates a savings of \$1,000-\$5,000 for each traffic study requirement eliminated when speed limits are reduced. This bill will make it simpler and more cost-effective for cities and towns to reduce speed limits to provide safer routes for children, elderly, pedestrians, bikers in their communities. The 14th District's Senator Curtis King, co-chair of the Senate Transportation Committee, supported the bill.



Changing YVCOG Faces *By Sarah Hyndman, Office Specialist*

We have a "changing of the guard" at YVCOG. Deb LaCombe, our Senior Transportation Planner has accepted a position at the Walla Walla Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization effective May 10. As Transportation Coordinator, she will set up long-term transportation in this brand new MPO in Walla Walla, WA and Milton-Freewater, Oregon. We will greatly miss her, but wish her well in her new position. Be sure connect

"New Faces" continued on Page 3...



Finding Past Reports Online

By Chris Wickenhagen, Admin. Finance Officer

Are you trying to recall the financial condition of your government over the past few years? Are you looking to research the financial condition of other governments similar to yours in Washington? What is the main revenue source from year to year? How about expenditures year to year? You can research this information on the State Auditor's web page. To view your city, town or other local government agencies; log on to: <http://www.sao.wa.gov/EN/Pages/default.aspx>

Locate and click on Reports, then click on Local govt financial reporting. In the middle of their page is a link REPORT MENU. The report menu will allow you to select the government type you are interested in viewing (YVCOG=Regional Planning Council). The next screen allows you to select a specific government. In the drop down menu is a complete list of all governments of that type. After selecting the government you would like to view, select the report type (revenue, expenditures, all) and the fund type (general, capital projects, special revenue, etc.).

This is a great resource allowing you and the public to review previous year's data. You also have the ability to export the information into excel for internal use. You may view government agencies with missing or late filings. Annual Reports are due to the State Auditor within 150 days after the close of each fiscal year.



MAY COMMITTEE MEETINGS



MPO/RTPO Technical Advisory Committee
Thursday, May 9 at 10:00 a.m.

YVCOG MPO/RTPO Executive Committee & Policy Board & YVCOG Executive Committee
Monday, May 20 at 1:30 p.m.

LOCATION: 311 North 4th Street—Yakima
* The 300 Building * 2nd Floor *

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



HUD Planning Grants

By Shawn Conrad, Senior Planner

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Choice Neighborhood Planning Grant applications are due May 28, 2013. This program targets funding to improve severely distressed public and/or HUD-assisted multifamily housing that is located in distressed neighborhoods. Public housing authorities, local governments, tribal entities, nonprofits, and for-profit developers that apply jointly with a public entity are eligible to apply. For more information and an application, visit the grant notice using this short link: <http://tinyurl.com/ca9e88z>.

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.



Commerce GMA Compliance Report

By Shawn Conrad, Senior Planner

The Washington State Department of Commerce (Commerce) has posted a GMA Compliance Status Report on their website. This list shows which local governments Commerce believes are currently in compliance with the Growth Management Act (GMA), and which they believe are not. Commerce has posted this list so that granting agencies and local governments can see what Commerce records show regarding GMA compliance. This list is advisory only. Granting agencies that require GMA compliance prior to awarding funds must still contact Commerce to verify local government compliance.

Commerce is requesting that local governments check the list so see whether the information is correct. If you believe any information is inaccurate or incomplete, please contact Dave Andersen, Commerce representative for Eastern Washington, at (509) 434-4491 or dave.andersen@commerce.wa.gov. Follow this short link to access the list: <http://tinyurl.com/c8bqtqv>.

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. **No Parking Fee**



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@yvcog.org.



How Organized are Your Records?

By Chris Wickenhagen, Administrative Finance Officer

When we receive a public records request, we learn together just how important those records retention schedules and organized file systems are!

While the government's goal is to provide all requested records in a timely manner, locating all of these records can end up monopolizing an employee's time and escalate administrative costs quickly. Local governments can actually be penalized or fined for not providing all records requested or not providing them in a timely manner. How do we make sure we don't end up scrambling to find and provide the appropriate records? Most importantly, how can your records be organized in a manner that would assist in locating and providing public records quickly and efficiently.

Organizing email and documents is a challenge we all face together. We'd certainly like to hear from you if you're using a filing system by various employees to address these issues! Please email wickenhagenc@yvcog.org with your ideas and we'll share them in the next newsletter.





Strong Passwords: Your First Line of Cyber Defense

By John Rohrbaugh, GISP/IT

"Your password must contain an uppercase letter, a number, a special character, a haiku, a gang sign, a hieroglyph, and the blood of a yak." Have you ever tried to register for an online service of some kind and received this message? That might be a bit exaggerated, but it's pretty close, right? This begs the question: *what makes a strong password?*

The easy answer is the age-old adage: "Size matters". It doesn't matter how goofy, a shorter password is an easier to break password and hackers have seemingly endless amounts of time to try breaking it. How is it done? A new breed of hacker, called a "script kiddie" uses a piece of software to do the automatically hack in instead of trying to manually attempt hacking it themselves. They also have many types of software available to him or her to accomplish the task of breaking into a system. If they can get to a login prompt of any kind (i.e. your bank, cloud email account, social media site, etc), they can assault the system with a barrage of usernames and passwords in a "brute force" attack. These attacks use various scripts (dictionaries) to attempt access using common words and even common incorrect spellings of words! This style of "dictionary attack" is the single most effective form of password breaching. So then how can one protect oneself? Create a '**STRONG PASSWORD**'. A strong password is not only a mess of characters such as is always required by online services, but is also a LONG password.

I was recently combing through a favorite computer security website when I came across a new tool for users to test the "hackability" of passwords. Just for fun, go to this website: <https://www.grc.com/haystack.htm>, and type in your password into the search box provided. *This site has been vetted by the NSA and the programmer is totally legitimate. Gibson Research even contracts security on occasion to the federal government. So, when he says that nothing you type goes anywhere...he's telling the truth.*

For example, I tested the COG password used when I first arrived that gave anyone FULL ADMIN server access from OUTSIDE AND INSIDE. The Gibson Research tool at the above website stated: in a scenario where hackers had access to the COG server or the part of the system which stores the password, they could have it cracked in **0.806 SECONDS**. If they attempted an outside intrusion from over the internet, it would take 2.56 years. While this may

"Passwords" continued above...

MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

MPO/RTPO Executive Committee & Policy Board—April 15

- April MTIP Amendments approved.

YVCOG Executive Committee—April 15

- 2012 Annual Financial Report Approved for Submission to Washington State Auditor
- Approved YVCOG Code of Conduct circulated.

"Passwords" continued from left...

seem like a long time to us, a curious hacker doesn't care how long it takes to crack your system, your email account, your social media account, or your bank account. Now, let's look at the outcome for the current admin password I now use. This newer password IS ALSO "hackable", but read on: A good attacker who is patient could attack and crack the new password in 1.57 THOUSAND TRILLION CENTURIES over the internet or a paltry 15.67 thousand centuries if they had direct access to the password hash. Remember, it's never IF your password can be compromised...it's WHEN. I challenge you all to visit this site and test out your passwords for the various services you use. Are they really THAT strong?

Finally, here is a simple bulleted list of "Do's and Don'ts" for created and using passwords:

DO:

- Make a password over 10 characters (ex: cybersecurity)
- At least 2 special characters and or numbers, or both! (ex: cyb3rsecur1ty!!)
- Suggested use of one capital letter (ex: Cyb3rSecur1ty)

DON'T

- Don't use your birthdate
- Don't use "common" words that are found in the dictionary
- Don't use the same password for multiple sites (such as using "myD0gSp0t" for your social media, banking, and cloud email account. It's a good password, but if someone knows you and found this password, you are COMPLETELY compromised)
- Don't use commonly misspelled words (such as: passwrod)
- Don't use simple "easy to remember passwords" (such as: ! dog!)

Your passwords are you primary key to your online security. Create strong passwords and practice safe computing!

My son, Eion, deserves partial credit for this article. As a high school freshman, he is competing at the Washington State FBLA competitions in the area of cyber security.

"New Faces" continued from Page 1...

with her before May 9th!

After 5 short years, I will be moving on from COG, as well. My new position will be with Memory Lane Museum of Greater Yakima. This also is a brand new endeavor in Yakima County. They will soon showcase the rich and diverse transportation history like a vintage local race car, a record-holding hydroplane and classic muscle cars. It has been quite a privilege getting to know all of you. I sincerely appreciate the connections we've established and look forward to catching up soon.

Don't be surprised when you seeing these new people or hear a new voice on the phone. You'll be meeting our replacements and our new Junior Planner shortly.

Your YVCOG Staff:

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



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 7th 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.