



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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## Transportation Alternatives Program Call for Projects

*By Shawn Conrad, Senior Planner*



YVCOG has issued a 2013 Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) call for projects. The TAP program was created under the current federal transportation bill, Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP-21), and replaces the former Transportation Enhancements (TE) program. 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. \$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/tapapp2013>. **Applications are due December 13, 2013.** Award letters will be mailed to funded project applicants by January 31, 2014. If you have questions about the application or call for projects, please contact Shawn Conrad at 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 577-1780.

## Record Amount of STP Funds Obligated in 2013

*By Page Scott, Executive Director*

Our region has obligated nearly \$8.4 million in STP funds (including turn-back funds from projects that were completed under budget) as of September 30. Another \$5.9 million will be obligated by the end of December. Of the \$14.3 million in STP funds, 81% was obligated for construction phases. There are going to be a lot of construction projects delivered over the next few years, so mark your calendars for ribbon cutting ceremonies all around the Yakima Valley region.

**Great job everyone!!!**



**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.

# Ecology Releases Draft SEPA Rules

By Shawn Conrad, Senior Planner



The Department of Ecology has been working to update State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) rules to streamline regulatory processes while maintaining environmental protection. Among other things, the first round of rules raised the flexible exemption thresholds that jurisdictions can adopt.

During the current second round of rulemaking, Ecology has been considering other rules that could affect local adoption of increased flexible thresholds, including how jurisdictions would make sufficient consideration of cultural resources for projects that are exempt under the flexible thresholds. Ecology is now proposing that, prior to increasing their flexible thresholds, local governments must ensure that cultural and historic resources are adequately addressed by having the following in place:

- A Cultural Resource Management Plan in the local GMA comprehensive plan; **or**
- Development regulations that require, at a minimum, pre-project cultural resource review and standard inadvertent discovery language (SIDL); **and**
- A data-sharing agreement between the Department of Archeology and Historic Preservation and the local government.

Ecology has proposed other important draft rules related to mixed-use development, subdivisions, noise ordinances, agricultural lands, the SEPA checklist, and more. See the September 17, 2013 SEPA Rule Advisory Committee documents for the complete draft at <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/sea/sepa/rulemaking/AdvisoryCommittee.html>.

## Marijuana in Yakima County

By Joseph W. Calhoun, Planner

The date for issuing state licenses for marijuana production, processing, and retail sales is just around the corner. Is your jurisdiction ready? Several cities in Yakima County have moratoria in place as they decide on how to locally regulate marijuana. In looking throughout the state, it appears that most jurisdictions are working at drafting new regulations through updating their zoning code.

As allocated by the state, there will be 14 retail sales licenses issued within Yakima County. The breakdown includes: five in Yakima; one each in Grandview, Selah, and Sunnyside; and six at large. It is important to note that the six at-large licenses can go anywhere in Yakima County. That means they can locate in the



unincorporated County, within a UGA, in any of the cities listed above, or in any other city. So, the fact that your jurisdiction isn't allotted a license from the State does not mean one cannot locate within your city limits.

As you consider how your jurisdiction will deal with marijuana, be sure to consult the extensive library of information available on the MRSC, AWC, and State Liquor Control Board websites. There you can not only find the full text of I-502, but links to what other jurisdictions in the State are doing; implementation timelines; FAQs and much more. There is also an upcoming webinar on the licensing process, scheduled for 10:00-11:30 on November 12. You can register here: <http://www.awcnet.org/TrainingEducation/Calendar/marijuanawebinar.aspx>.

Other helpful links:

<http://liq.wa.gov/marijuana/I-502>

<http://www.mrsc.org/subjects/legal/502/recmarijuana.aspx>

<http://www.awcnet.org/LegislativeAdvocacy/Legislativeissues/Legalizationofmarijuana.aspx>



## AWC Provides Series of GMA Comp Plan Videos

By Joseph W. Calhoun, Planner

The Association of Washington Cities (AWC) has created twelve short videos titled "GMA Comprehensive Plan Conversation Starters," which are available for public viewing online. With the earliest updates for Growth Management Act (GMA) Comprehensive Plans due in 2015 for some Western Washington Cities and Counties, the videos include a variety of talking points to help councils, staff, and commissions to start with their updates. Even though Yakima jurisdictions are not required to have their their comprehensive plan updates completed until June 2017, it is never too early to begin thinking about the process. With topics such as "Why your comp plan matters," "Your GMA choices: What's mandatory, what's optional?" and "How do council, staff and commission work together?", this series of videos is an excellent starting point for jurisdictions wishing to get a jump start on their process. Each video is five to eight minutes long and comes with a set of discussion questions that help you relate the video to your community.

Visit <http://www.awcnet.org/ResourcesResearch/GMACompPlanConversationStarters.aspx> for more information, and be sure to click the link to sign up for email updates so you will know when new videos are released.

# Community Planning Assistance Teams Offered

By Shawn Conrad, Senior Planner



Community Planning Assistance Teams (CPATs) are offered through a partnership of the Washington Chapter of the American Planning Association with the Washington State Department of Commerce. CPATs provide the assistance of professional planners and other

specialists to small cities lacking planning resources, to solve problems, resolve issues, and articulate visions. CPAT members include planners with expertise in land use, transportation, economic development, urban design, natural resources, parks and recreation, historic preservation, and other areas. A regional example is the City of Zillah, which participated in the CPAT program in 2007 to address key issues facing the community, ranging from historic preservation and economic development to connectivity.

Examples of the types of assistance CPAT can offer include:

- Consultation. Assistance is provided through a telephone or in-person conference between your community's representative(s) and CPAT team members. This is the simplest and quickest CPAT assistance level.
- Community-based Events. An example of a community-based event is a one- to two-day planning charrette (an intensive, interactive planning/design workshop addressing a specific project or issue). This requires between four to six months of planning and coordination. Afterward, follow-up contacts from CPAT may provide support for implementation.

To participate in CPAT, communities must submit a Request for Assistance. More information about the program, the application, and examples of past assistance can be found at [www.washington-apa.org/programs/cpat/](http://www.washington-apa.org/programs/cpat/).

# YVCOG's 2014 Budget Approved

By Christina Wickenhagen, Administrative Finance Officer

The YVCOG General Membership unanimously approved the 2014 YVCOG Budget on October 17, 2013. The adopted budget of \$948,373 enables the coordination of multiple programs for the member jurisdictions. The estimated revenue for 2014 is comprised of 58% federal funds, 18% state funds, 16% local funds and 8% member contracts.



YVCOG is able to maintain a \$0.40 per capita membership assessment for 2014. Overall, general assessments grew by \$500 as a result of population growth. MPO/RTPO assessments varied for individual members based on the percentage share of STP regional funding in 2013 for transportation projects.

## OCTOBER MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

### MPO/RTPO TAC — October 10

- Discussion on reconsideration of Tieton's Summitview Road Improvement Project in 2014-2017 M/RTIP.

### MPO/RTPO Executive Committee & Policy Board — October 21

- Discussion of TAC's recommendation on Summitview Road Improvement Project.
- 2014-2017 M/RTIP Final Draft was accepted as recommended by TAC. Resolutions 2013-11 and 2013-12 were approved.

### YVCOG General Membership Meeting — October 17

- 2014 Preliminary Budget was approved by the Executive Committee.

### YVCOG Executive Committee — October 21

- 2013 YVCOG Budget Amendment #4 was approved — no changes to total budget figures.

## NOVEMBER COMMITTEE MEETINGS

**MPO/RTPO Technical Advisory Committee**  
Thursday, November 14 at 10:00 a.m.

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

Monday, November 18 at 1:30 p.m.  
LOCATION: 311 North 4th Street—Yakima  
\* The 300 Building \* 2nd Floor \*

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

## YVCOG General Membership Meeting

**WHERE:** Sunnyside—Location to be determined  
**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).

## 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 (509) 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.

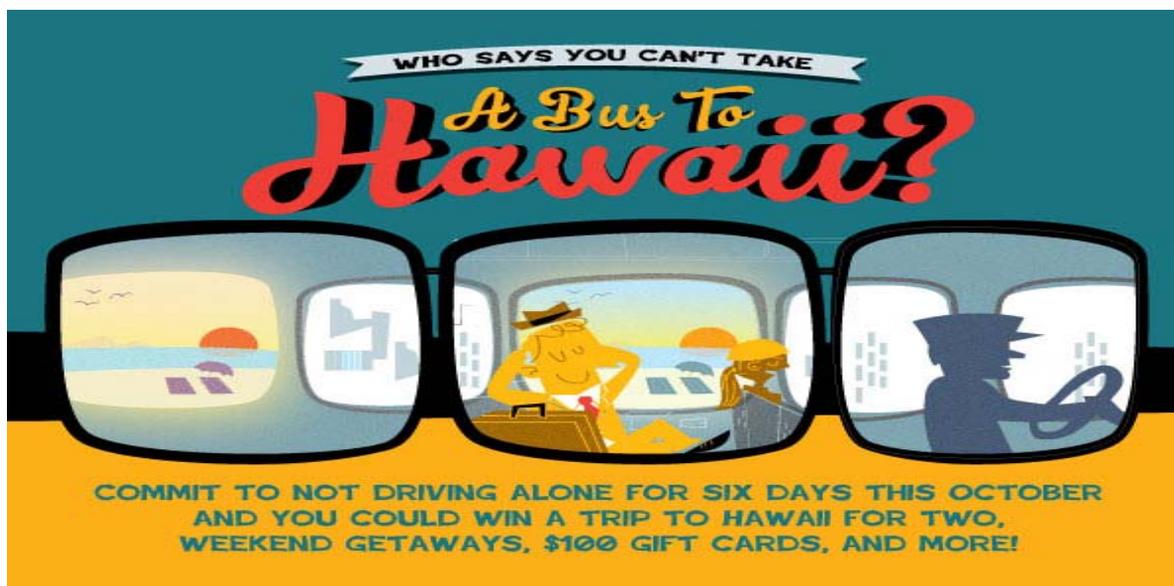


### Your YVCOG Staff:

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



## You Can Still Sign Up Through November 8th!



**ENTER ONLINE AT:**

**[WWW.WHEELOPTIONS.ORG](http://WWW.WHEELOPTIONS.ORG)**

**For more information, contact your Employee Transportation Coordinator (ETC) or contact Brian Curtin, YVCOG CTR program coordinator-Phone 759-7992 or email at: [curtinb@yvcog.org](mailto:curtinb@yvcog.org).**

# DISCOVERING THE WORLD THROUGH GIS

Join in the worldwide celebration of GIS Day, the annual salute to geospatial technology and its power to transform and better our lives.

## GISday

Wednesday, November 20th 2013

9 am to 3 pm

Capitol Rotunda  
416 Sid Snyder Avenue SW  
Olympia, WA 98504



Find out today how the YVCOG can support you with analysis and mapping using our state of the art GIS!