



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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Highway Trust Fund Fix Passes

By Shawn Conrad, Senior Planner



Congress has continued its Highway Trust Fund (HTF) battle as the August recess looms. On July 15, the House approved the “Highway and Transportation Funding Act” to both preserve existing levels of highway and transit funding, and extend existing transportation programs under MAP-21, through May 2015. On July 29, the Senate approved its version of the bill, which would fund the HTF through mid-December 2014. The evening of July 31, the Senate accepted the House proposal to ensure the continuity of HTF funds before the five-week recess, and the bill went to the White House for signature. The HTF will receive \$11 billion from other areas of the federal budget, and will continue existing levels of federal transportation investment through the end of May 2015, past the “lame duck” session of Congress. The bill also will extend MAP-21 through May 31, 2015.

Upcoming TA Opportunities for the Region

By Shawn Conrad, Senior Planner

Grant-Seeking Webinar: On August 5, 2014, YVCOG will host the webinar “Building a Powerful Grants Strategy” at no cost to attendees, at the YVCOG office. This webinar is intended for beginning, intermediate, and advanced grant seekers and writers. Many funding applications fail because they are put together at the last minute when a funding opportunity arrives in an inbox. Successfully obtaining funding means, instead, first laying the groundwork for the kind of funding needed, and then proactively seeking the funding that meets those needs. The webinar will take participants through the process of doing just that by establishing a grants calendar for the next 12 to 18 months and building a specific grants strategy for each project. All participants will also receive a set of worksheets that they can use to create their own approach to building grants calendars and grants strategies for their organizations. Refreshments will be provided. Registration is limited to 20 participants. Please register here: <http://yvcogwebinar.eventbrite.com>. Enter the password **YVCOG**.

Short Course on Local Planning: On October 8, 2014, YVCOG and the City of Zillah will co-host a Department of Commerce Short Course on Local Planning – Focus on Public Process. Topics will include: Overview of Land Use Decision Making in Washington, Effective Public Hearings, Focus on Quasi-judicial Decision Making, Sunshine Laws in Washington State, and Effective Meetings. This training will meet the requirements of the recently passed Washington State Open Governments Training Act, which requires many public officials and all agency records officers to receive training on open public meetings and open public records laws (visit here to for a Q&A on the Act: <http://tinyurl.com/nrffc9>). Effective public processes decrease cities' liability, increase their effectiveness, and result in a more positive public perception. Planning commissioners, members of other advisory boards, city council members, and support staff are all encouraged to attend. For more information on the Short Course and an agenda, visit <http://tinyurl.com/Zillah-SC> and click on "Zillah Short Course."

Clerk/Treasurer Essentials: On August 12, 2014 in Wenatchee, the Association of Washington Cities (AWC) is offering an intensive six-hour training that will review the required elements of clerk/treasurer positions, with a focus on legal compliance issues. For details, see: <http://tinyurl.com/Clerk-Train>.

Municipal Budgeting and Fiscal Management Workshop: On August 13-15, 2014 in Leavenworth, AWC will offer an extended workshop that will provide in-depth training on budgeting and fiscal management. For details, see: <http://tinyurl.com/Budget-Train>.



AUGUST COMMITTEE MEETINGS

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

MPO/RTPO Executive Committee & Policy Board & YVCOG Executive Committee
Monday, August 18 at 1:30 p.m.

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

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

New Reclaimed Water Rule

By Joseph Calhoun, Planner

The Department of Ecology is working on new rulemaking (WAC 173-219) to establish an efficient, effective and consistent statewide implementation framework, including standards and permit requirements for Reclaimed Water. Also known as water recycling or water reuse, reclaimed water has the potential to benefit local jurisdictions throughout the state, and certainly in the Yakima Valley. The idea is that, instead of dumping treated wastewater into the river system, the water will be processed even further so that it can be re-used elsewhere. Potential re-use of the water include: irrigation, firefighting, wetland restoration, street cleaning, and dust control, to name a few.

This rulemaking effort was initially proposed in 2006, but was suspended by the Governor under two executive orders in 2010 and 2012. The process has now been reinstated and is expected to be implemented by the end of 2016.

If you would like more information or would like to be involved in the rulemaking process, please visit <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/WQ/reclaim/index.html>.



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.

No More Detours: MLK Underpass Open For Business



Senator Curtis King performs the ribbon cutting, accompanied by Mayor Micah Cawley, Representative Bruce Chandler, and former mayor Mary Place.

Yakima's MLK Jr. Blvd railroad underpass project is complete! A ribbon cutting ceremony was held July 23, 2014. The project cost was approximately \$10.6 million, including \$5,500,000 in federal Surface Transportation Program funds that were committed and programmed through YVCOG as the lead agency for the Yakima Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization. The project is expected to reduce delays and increase safety, with environmental and economic benefits for the city, drivers, and freight. The project includes a striped bike lane and a raised sidewalk. This is the second phase of the city's grade separation project; the first was completed on Lincoln Avenue in 2012.



Vintage fire truck and police car drive toward MLK Underpass following ribbon-cutting ceremony.

Yakima County FEMA Update

By Joseph W. Calhoun, Planner



There are two upcoming opportunities to learn more about how the FEMA mapping changes will affect us here in the Yakima Valley:

1. NFIP Insurance Basics and Reform Update meeting:

August 14, 2014, 10:00 am – Noon
OEM WSU Training Room
2403 South 18th Street, Ste 200, Union Gap

This free presentation by Deborah Farmer – FEMA Region 10 Insurance Program Specialist - will cover the basics of flood insurance and discuss recent changes to the program. Please RSVP with Dianna Woods (dianna.woods@co.yakima.wa.us).

2. Public Open House for Ahtanum revised preliminary flood maps:

Same location – get maps of your property with the flood maps starting at 5:30, and open house

6:00 - 8:00 p.m. Short discussion by FEMA on revised maps for Ahtanum North and South Forks, Spring, Hatton, and Bachelor Creeks, and the rest of the time will be available for people to ask questions specific to their property.

See meeting details and map link at <http://www.yakimacounty.us/surfacewater/UpcomingEvents.htm>.

JULY MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

MPO/RTPO TAC — July 10

- STP Programming Discussion

MPO/RTPO Executive Committee & Policy Board — July 21

- Gary Ekstedt, MPO/RTPO TAC Chair, reviewed the 2015-2018 STP Book Balance spreadsheet;
- Authorization to pay a portion of the 2015 DRYVE-TRANS-Action fair booth.

YVCOG Executive Committee — July 21

- Executive Director Search Committee update;
- Adoption of 2015 Budget Schedule;
- Presentation on the Homeless Network of Yakima County, by Yakima County Commissioner Kevin Bouchey.

Walk Your Commute!

By Brian Curtin, CTR Program Coordinator

We talk extensively about commuting options that are available; most often focusing on transit, carpools and bicycles but sometimes we forget the most obvious of all commute options-WALKING. For short commutes (usually less than two miles) walking makes a lot of sense. But it is important to be prepared. Here are 10 tips for the walking commuter.

1. Plan Your Route

The best route to walk to work may be different from what you prefer for driving. The use of quieter side streets or greenway paths might provide a more relaxing walk. Consult your local parks department web site for the location of greenway paths. You might also like to skip crossing major streets to avoid the noise and delay. You can use the [Google Map Pedometer](#) to find, draw, and measure a local walking route.

2. Predict Your Walking Time

Don't be late for work. How long will it take you to walk to work? For your first walking commute, plan on a pace of 20 minutes per mile. Time your first couple of walks so you can better predict your walking pace.

3. Wear the Right Shoes and Socks



It is recommended to wear athletic shoes for any walk of over 10 minutes. You may need to change to shoes more appropriate for your work environment when you arrive. Wear athletic shoes to

prevent foot pain and problems. Socks that wick away sweat will help prevent foot blisters.

4. Wear the Right Walking Clothes

Can you walk to work in your usual work clothes? This will depend on the weather, the length of your walk, and whether you wear casual clothes or suits. Your walking clothing should allow a proper walking stride. For walks of more than 20 minutes, you may want to consider wearing proper walking clothing and changing when you get to work.

5. Protect Your Head and Skin

Hats are a good idea for walking for more than 10 minutes. You will need to keep your head warm in winter and shielded from the sun in summer. Wear sunscreen in all weather to prevent wrinkles, aging skin, and skin cancer.

6. Carrying Your Stuff

Your usual briefcase or shoulder bag is likely to be uncomfortable to carry for more than 10 minutes. Switching to a backpack or messenger bag will allow you to carry the load while maintaining good walking posture. Avoid carrying anything in your hands, which can lead to repetitive strain for your neck, shoulder, elbow or wrist. Lighten the load -- papers and books weigh a lot. Aim for a load of five pounds or less (including the weight of the bag) for the best walking comfort.



7. Be Prepared for Bad Weather

Carry along a cheap folded plastic rain poncho, or umbrella, in case of an unplanned downpour. Dressing in layers can help you prepare for unexpected heat or cold.

8. Sweat Happens - Sprucing Up at Work

Even in cool weather, you may work up a lather on your walk. Give yourself an extra few minutes after arrival to cool down and dry off. You may want to choose work shirts that are wrinkle-resistant so you can bring them with you. Some athletic shirts are adding an anti-microbial finish that helps prevent body odor.

9. Replenish Your Body

If your walk will take more than 20 minutes, plan for a cup of water every 20 minutes by carrying it with you or locating water fountains. After arrival, have a glass of water.

10. Plan B

Those used to car commuting may feel uneasy in not having a car to use for errands or emergencies. Planning ahead will relieve stress and make you a more confident walking commuter.

Your YVCOG Staff:

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