



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



311 North 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 202  
Yakima, WA 98901  
509-574-1550  
FAX 509-574-1551  
Website: [www.yvcog.org](http://www.yvcog.org)

**Debbie Double-Take**

*By Deb LaCombe, MPO/RTPO Manager*

Season's Greetings Yakima! What an exciting time for the Yakima Valley Conference of Governments - I just *had* to return to be a part of the transformation happening at the COG! I hit the ground running here by participating in a meeting on my second day, with WSDOT Headquarters and South Central Region staff to discuss YVCOG's Self-Certification review and Unified Planning Work Program.

I learned a lot while I was in Walla Walla over the last 1½ years, and I am ready to share all with our members in the Yakima Valley region. I took advantage of the opportunity to assist Walla Walla with getting its foundation documents and programs in place and, in doing so, have returned with some fresh ideas for updating the MPO/RTPO programs and plans at YVCOG.

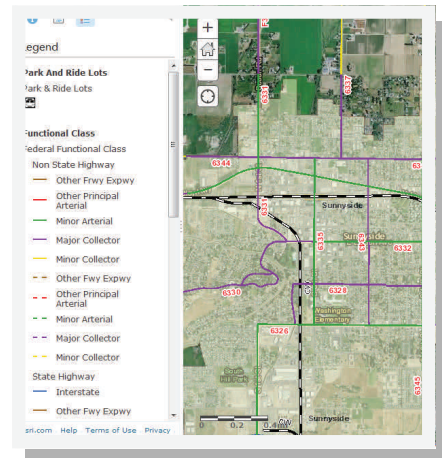
I just love transportation planning. It can be a catalyst for so many related opportunities. By being an advisor to a new MPO Director, a new TAC, and a new Policy Board in Walla Walla, I learned how to better communicate about what an MPO/RTPO is and does, and why it is so valuable.

I am working through a master schedule at YVCOG that I plan to share with everyone, so there will be a clear understanding about those topics in one place. Whew! It'll be a good review for some and a comprehensive introduction for others. We will be incorporating a lot of changes in SFY 2016. I can't wait to share an example with you of how that looks.

I have missed you all, and I'll be out and about soon to visit with all of you and catch-up over coffee. Who knows, perhaps I'll even bring a cookie or two!

**Easy, Free Transportation Mapping**

WSDOT has launched the Community Planning Portal, which provides online access to state transportation data for planning purposes. The basic data set can help local governments complete their Growth Management Act comprehensive plan transportation element updates. Even if you don't have Geographic Information Systems software, you can use this platform to create custom maps for your jurisdiction using data available through other agencies. You can also access ready-made fact sheets about each jurisdiction. To access the portal and learn more, go to [www.wsdot.wa.gov/planning/community](http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/planning/community).



## There Went My Bike...

By Brian Curtin, CTR Program Coordinator

To paraphrase Shakespeare, (I guarantee you won't find one other reference to the Bard in this newsletter), "parting is such sweet sorrow." As I see Washington State Department of Transportation employee Bill Preston wheeling away on his new Origin 7 speed folding bike (complements of YVCOG and the Wheel Options contest), all I can think of is, "where the heck am I going to hang my jacket now?" Not to say that my office here at the Conference Of Governments is small, but when you have to move the bike to open the file cabinet you're talking economy of space. That said, it was with great pleasure that we were able to award the Grand Prize for this fall's edition of Washington State Rideshare Association's (WSRO) Wheel Options contest to Bill. (For a list of all prize winners, please see the insert in this newsletter and visit the WSRO website at <http://www.wheeloptions.org/> for statewide prize winners).

You might be *Just Wondering...*"what exactly is Wheel Options and how can I participate and win wonderful prizes like Bill did." Well, all Bill had to do was to use an alternative mode of



transportation (other than drive alone) to work. He chose to carpool; but you might choose to ride transit or a bicycle or perhaps walk to work. You might even compress your work

week or choose to work from home. It's all about choice! And you only have to use your preferred alternative mode six times during the month of the contest. Of course we would like to see you use an alternative mode to work every day. Wheel Options is held once a year, in the fall. So you can look forward to another opportunity to participate in the fall of 2015.

I take pride and pleasure in congratulating all of the 247 employees from 20 local employers who participated in this year's Wheel Options campaign. During the month of October, they chose to exercise their right to use an alternative transportation mode 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 the "most efficient of all commute modes." There were a few that 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 daunting 82 miles followed by an 80 and 81 mile trek (they were all full-time carpoolers so I suspect they ride together).

Just imagine if Wheel Options weeks were every week of the year! Well, guess what, they are! You have the option of using an alternative transportation mode every day of your life; you just have to make the choice. And guess what else — believe it or not, 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, carpool 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.

## Short Courses on Local Planning Online

By Shawn Conrad, Senior Planner

Have you found the two Short Courses on Local Planning that YVCOG has hosted in the region during the past two years to be beneficial for your jurisdiction? If so, you might appreciate the opportunity to peruse more Short Courses at your convenience. The Department of Commerce now has Short Course videos online for a variety of topics. They include:

- A Basic Short Course on Local Planning
- Infill Development for Small Cities
- Sustainable Development
- Economic Development
- Urban Forestry

Access the videos at: <http://tinyurl.com/ShortCourse-Videos>.

If you're interested in seeing these or other topics in the region as part of future Short Course customized for this region, or as part of other training opportunities, please contact Shawn Conrad at 759-7991 or [shawn.conrad@yvco.org](mailto:shawn.conrad@yvco.org), and we will work to bring those opportunities to the region.

## Your Project on Facebook

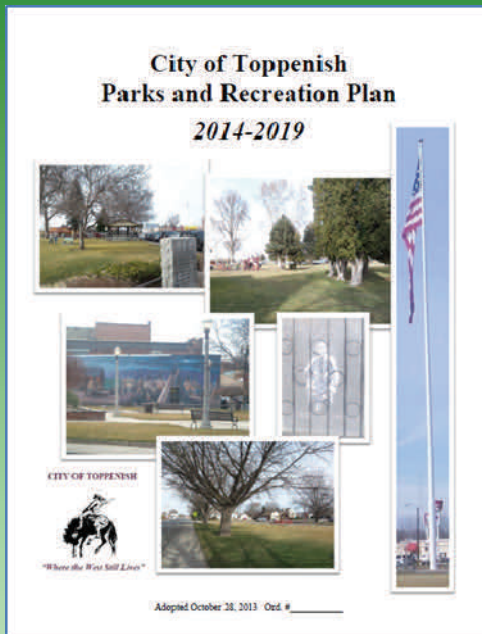
Promote your projects on the YVCOG Facebook page! Everyone loves success stories. Send us images of your latest projects, and we'll highlight them as the cover image on the YVCOG Facebook page with a caption describing the project. Currently, we have featured the recent paving of 4.2 miles of the Yakima Greenway Naches path. Send images and project descriptions to Shawn Conrad at [shawn.conrad@yvcoq.org](mailto:shawn.conrad@yvcoq.org).

And remember, you do not need a Facebook account to view all of the timely updates posted to the YVCOG Facebook page. Don't miss out — go to [www.facebook.com/YVCOG](http://www.facebook.com/YVCOG)!



## Parks and Recreation Comprehensive Plans

*By Joseph Calhoun, Planner*

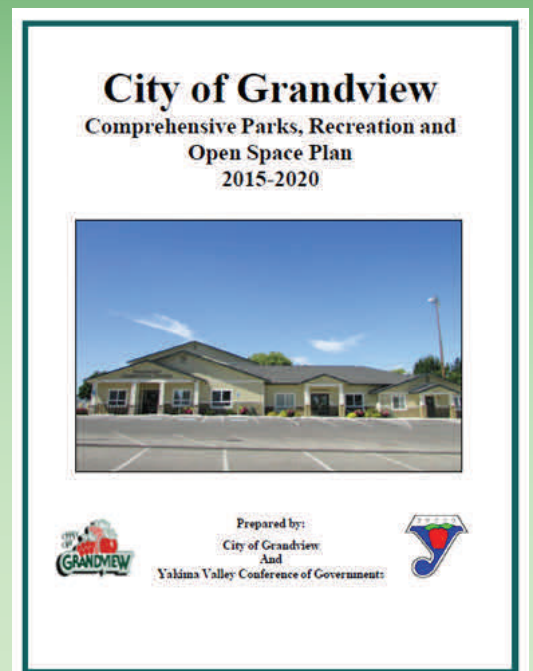


As many of you are probably aware, the State Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) held its bi-annual grant cycle this year for a number of different grant programs. There are no offerings during the 2015 calendar year, so this is the perfect time to update your Parks and Recreation Comprehensive Plans if they are coming due. In order to be eligible to submit for RCO grants in 2016, your planning documents (i.e. your Parks and Recreation Comprehensive Plans) need to be approved by RCO on or before March 1, 2016. If your plan will expire before this date, the sooner you can get started, the better.

Over the last two years, YVCOG planners have assisted the cities of Toppenish and Grandview in updates to their Parks and Recreation

Comprehensive Plans. Please feel free to contact me if you would like us to work with you on your update, and we can provide an estimate. Also, be sure to visit the RCO Planning page to review all of the requirements for comprehensive plans at <http://tinyurl.com/luuoxnq>.

Contact Information:  
Joseph Calhoun  
[calhounj@yvcoq.org](mailto:calhounj@yvcoq.org)  
509-759-7982





# GIS DAY 2014



The Washington State Department of Natural Resources recently sponsored GIS Day 2014

(November 19, 2014) on the Capitol Campus in Olympia in the O'Brian Building.

Their release stated:

“GIS stands for ‘Geographic Information Systems,’ and GIS Day provides an opportunity for professionals, employees, students of all ages, and the general public to learn about and see the impact that GIS technology has had on their lives. The Joint-Agency GIS Day event opens at 8:30 am, with the Keynote presentation at 9:00 am. Presentations will continue until 4 pm. We will have a variety of presenters from state agencies and local GIS. The GIS poster and interactive map displays are available starting at 8:30 am and will be accessible throughout the day until 4 pm.”

Event Highlights included:

- Keynote Address by COL Gent Welsh, Washington State Emergency Management Department
- 25 GIS Presentations covering Field Collection, Web Mapping, Mobile, Emergency Response, ArcGIS Online, Open Source GIS and more!
- Interactive Maps and Applications
- Maps and poster displays and GIS Day Souvenirs

## NOVEMBER MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

**MPO/RTPO TAC — *Cancelled***

**MPO/RTPO Policy Board — November 17**

- Approval of Metropolitan Planning Organization Self-Certification.

**YVCOG Executive Committee — November 17**

- YVCOG Executive Director Candidate presentations;
- Appointment of new YVCOG Executive Director.

# Christmas Word Search

K A F W Y G A M L T O W D Y A  
 E O T E L T S I M R R R J T L  
 J V T I N E D G N T O E E I T  
 H U G A H O C A N S E A E V N  
 G Z S O P J M A T I N T E I U  
 D R L Q N E O N E K K H M T H  
 T L R L N H E G U P O C B A Y  
 Y G W T A S R C K K N S O N S  
 P D S W E R U D O L P H R T N  
 W H B R Z A F A Y O I G I P S  
 R M P S N O W O Y C K Q Q S L  
 S U S E J W E C N Z H I B T X  
 D B K B P E Y O C O E F E T S  
 U J J Q U N Y C K K D X J S D  
 C Q G Q W B D V S H I Q L Z W

- |           |           |          |
|-----------|-----------|----------|
| SNOW      | HOLLY     | COCOA    |
| ORNAMENTS | MISTLETOE | NATIVITY |
| JESUS     | PEACE     | PRESENTS |
| RUDOLPH   | SANTA     | COOKIES  |
| STOCKINGS | TREE      | WREATH   |



## YVCOG General Membership Meeting

**WHERE:** Yakima—Harman Center  
**WHEN:** December 10, 2014 6:30-9:30 p.m.  
**DINNER:** \$20 at 7 p.m.

Reservations and cancellations for a voting quorum and the caterer are appreciated no later than **Friday, December 5, 2014 at noon**. Please RSVP to Tami at (509) 574-1550 or email to [haywardt@yvcog.org](mailto:haywardt@yvcog.org).



## LOCAL PRIZE WINNERS!!!

**Folding Bicycle** - Bill Preston, WSDOT

**Five-\$100 Gift Cards** - Greg Weedin, DSHS; Elisabeth Dodd, Perry Tech; Paul Gonseth, WSDOT; Wally Morrison, Yakima County; Janette Robb, YVFWC

**Inklings Gift Cards** - Phil Hoge, Yakima County; Jon Auve, DSHS; Jennifer Hoff, WSDOT; Kevin McGuirk, WSDOT; Michelle McNamara, WSDOT; Katherine Smalley, YVFWC; Maria Marquez, YVFWC; Frosti Smith, ECY; Jeanne Moore, WSDOT; James Moberly, WSDOT

**Movie Bucks** - Rod Farabee, Triumph Group; Terri Brown, WSDOT; Roger Alden, Alexandria Moulding; Ryan Sandefur, Yakima County; Kevin Shepherd, YVFWC; Greg Barrett, WSDOT; Quatandra Jarvis, YRCAA; Sarah Hovig, Town of Harrah; Andrea Ely, Yakima County; Anne Knapp, Dept. of Financial Management; Jesse DeLeon, Alexandria Moulding; Jennifer Lind, ECY; Greg Caron, ECY; Mark Benedict, ECY; Angela Golob, YVFWC; Walt Hoffman, WSDOT; Elida Leonard, YVFWC; Carol Kautzman, YVFWC; Jacob Prilucik, WSDOT; Elvira Loranz, WSDOT

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).



### DECEMBER COMMITTEE MEETINGS

**MPO/RTPO Technical Advisory Committee**  
Thursday, December 11 at 10:00 a.m.

**MPO/RTPO Policy Board & YVCOG Executive Committee**  
Monday, December 15 at 1:30 p.m.

**YVCOG General Membership**  
Wednesday, December 10 at 6:30 p.m.

LOCATION: 311 North 4th Street, Yakima  
\* The 300 Building \* 2nd Floor \*  
For more info, call (509) 574-1550.

#### Your YVCOG Staff:



Chris Wickenhagen, Interim Executive Director  
Deborah LaCombe, MPO/RTPO Manager  
Brian Curtin, CTR Coordinator  
Shawn Conrad, Senior Planner  
Joseph Calhoun, Planner  
John R. Rohrbaugh, GIS Analyst/Systems Administrator  
Tamara Hayward, Office Specialist

**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.