



**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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John Hodkinson, Jr., Vice Chair



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**Emergency Drought Funding Available Now!**

*By Shawn Conrad, Senior Planner*

The Washington State Legislature has appropriated \$16 million to help relieve drought hardships Statewide. The 2015 Drought Emergency Grant Program is administered by the Department of Ecology and a call for projects is open now.

Eligible applicants: public entity, such as a city, town, county, special purpose district, or Tribal entity.

Eligible uses:

- Modify an existing water source or deepen an existing groundwater well.
- Develop an emergency or alternate water source.
- Purchase or lease water or water rights to be used during the drought.
- Construct an emergency intertie or connection to another approved public water supply.
- Build transmission pipelines, diversion structures, or storage devices, and acquire pumps and accessories for moving water.
- Detect and repair leaks, and line water canals.
- Implement emergency water conservation programs and education programs to alleviate hardships from water shortages

Match: 50 percent funding match, except for those public water suppliers that meet the fiscally disadvantaged standard in Chapter 173 -167-040(2) WAC. Deadline: January 1, 2016.

More info: <http://tinyurl.com/EcolDrought-15>

**Transportation Model and Long-range Plan  
Data Gathering**

**Updating Model Data – 1-on-1 Visits Scheduled**

*By Deb LaCombe, MPO/RTPO Manager*

In whirl-wind fashion, I am meeting with each city and town to gather data for the travel demand model. It has been several years since I last did this, and I plan to take about 45 minutes during each visit to explain what information I have represented in the current dataset and provide an opportunity to refresh that data. This direct input into the travel demand model is both valuable and appreciated since the results of the model can influence regional funding decisions.

Almost every city and town has signed up for the personal visits between July 24<sup>th</sup> and August 11<sup>th</sup>. If you haven't signed up for a 1-on-1 visit yet, there are a few more openings before mid-August. Email me at [deborah.lacombe@yvcog.org](mailto:deborah.lacombe@yvcog.org) or call 509-574-1550.

I look forward to driving the valley and seeing you soon!

# Application Accepted YVCOG and Partners Will Receive Some Specialized Outreach Assistance

*By Deb LaCombe, MPO/RTPO Manager*



In June, MPO's across the state were informed of a technical assistance opportunity through a Federal Highways Administration (FHWA) contract by a group called Community Transportation Association of America. On the announcement for their Call for Applications they noted that their "...assistance is focused on helping these [rural or small-urbanized] planners with their identified issues of stakeholder involvement in planning processes, whether it's reaching out to low-income and minority communities as part of compliance with federal EJ guidance, carrying out public involvement as part of the more routine work of smaller MPOs, helping states with strategies of local officials' cooperation in statewide transportation planning, or simply helping build specific capacities in regional planning organizations in those states where these exist." Whew!

So, of course, what immediately came to mind was one of the projects that will be in the upcoming MPO/RTPO Long-range Transportation Plan – the East-West Corridor connecting Terrace Heights (County) to the City of Yakima (City) over I-82 (WSDOT) and the Yakima River.

On July 1<sup>st</sup>, YVCOG received a "you've been selected" letter from CTAA for assistance with public outreach to Terrace Heights on one end of the East-West Corridor and the City of Yakima neighborhood north of Lincoln and east of 1<sup>st</sup> St. on the other end. The CTAA team will provide assistance on how to coordinate all the partners not only involved with the project itself but including those responsible for regional planning. And, we will be able to build the skills of those receiving the training to use throughout the Yakima region. What a wonderful opportunity!

## ***"Guaranteed Ride Home to the Rescue."***

*By Brian Curtin, CTR Coordinator*

I hate to imagine how often this scenario takes place: the carpool/vanpool is loading up for the ride home and poor old Bob runs out and announces, "The boss just told me I have to work overtime; now, how the heck will I get home?" Or Julie, who religiously rides the bus to work, is informed that "Little Suzie" had to come home from school because she is sick and mommy needs to be home with her. Unfortunately, Julie has no idea how she will get home.



Well, the solution to their problems is here, in the form of the Guaranteed Ride Home (GRH) program. The GRH program ensures that participants that utilize an alternative commute mode to the single occupancy vehicle (SOV) such as carpool/vanpool, public transit, walking or bicycle are covered in the case of an emergency. The Commute Trip Reduction (CTR) program, here at the YVCOG, funds a program that guarantees a ride home for those participating employees of employers affected by the CTR program. We are announcing the award of the GRH contract to a new provider, MEDSTAR Transportation, beginning this month. In fact, MEDSTAR Transportation is the same company that provides Dial-A-Ride and the Guaranteed Ride Home program for Yakima Transit.

It is ironic that survey after survey indicates that employees rank the availability of GRH as the most important influencing factor in their choice to participate in using a commute alternative. The ironic thing is that GRH is so under-utilized. It is rarely, if ever used, yet it is considered an important safety net that allows a comfort zone for those participating in the CTR program. This is a reminder to all of our Employee Transportation Coordinators (ETCs), you need to make your employees aware of this **opportunity** (gosh, I love that word). Posters, brochures and informational flyers, as well as the ride vouchers for the program will be distributed to your worksites shortly. If you are an ETC and you need more vouchers or additional information about Guaranteed Ride Home, call me, e-mail me, and hound me. This is an important program that encourages your employees to use commute alternatives and it costs them nothing. So the next time an employee says "Now, how am I going to get home?" You can respond, "Not to worry, GRH to the rescue."

## Upcoming Grants and Loans

By Shawn Conrad, Senior Planner



### Department of Ecology Combined Funding Cycle:

The Washington State Department of Ecology FY 2017 Combined Funding Cycle opens **August 17, 2015** and closes **October 16, 2015**. This funding cycle includes the Centennial Clean Water grant program, the Clean Water Act Section 319 grant program, the Revolving Fund loan program, and the Stormwater Financial Assistance grant program. A **Water Quality Program workshop will be held in Ellensburg on August 19, 2015** (details: <http://tinyurl.com/WQ-Workshop-Ellensburg>). More information on the Combined Funding Cycle at <http://tinyurl.com/WQ-Grants-15>.

### Department of Health Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF)

**Emergency Loan:** Effective **July 8, 2015**, water systems are able to apply for emergency funding of up to \$100,000 to cover emergency recovery activities. More information: <http://tinyurl.com/EmergLoan-15>

**Construction Loans:** For the 2015 loan cycle, loan applications will be accepted from **September 1-30, 2015**. Applicants need an approved water system plan, a small water system management program, or plan amendment containing the proposed DWSRF project, to be eligible

**Preconstruction Grant:** Preconstruction grants help small public water systems (serve 10,000 or less) evaluate the feasibility of seeking a DWSRF infrastructure loan. The next preconstruction grant cycle will be **January 2-31, 2016**.

For more information on all DWSRF grants and loans, visit: <http://tinyurl.com/DWSRF-Funds-15>

## Complete Streets Grant Program Funded

The Complete Streets Grant Program, created in 2011, has now been funded. The program has received \$106 million statewide and will be administered by the Transportation Improvement Board. According to the 2011 legislation, the Complete Streets Grant Program will fund street retrofit projects that include “the addition of, or significant repair to, facilities that provide street access with all users in mind, including pedestrians, bicyclists, and public transportation users.”

To be eligible, **local governments must have adopted a jurisdiction-wide complete streets ordinance** “that plans for the needs of all users and is consistent with sound engineering principles.”

YVCOG has been working with jurisdictions across Yakima County to adopt just those types of ordinances. So far, Grandview, Sunnyside, and Union Gap have adopted complete streets ordinances, and other jurisdictions are considering them. Our assistance is available until **September 30, 2015** to assist any Yakima County city or town with developing and adopting a complete streets ordinance, at no cost to the jurisdiction. For more info, contact Shawn Conrad at [shawn.conrad@yvco.org](mailto:shawn.conrad@yvco.org) or (509) 759-7991.



## “So long, Don; Good luck, Dave”

By Larry Mattson, Executive Director

July brought some major changes to our local leadership landscape. WSDOT Regional Administrator Don Whitehouse retired after more than 30 years of public service. Don was instrumental in creating the DRYVE and TRANS-Action groups that advocate for projects of benefit to our valley. He brought a regional vision to our MPO/RTPO Policy Board. We'll miss his presence. Enjoy your retirement, Don!

Also in July, Dave McFadden departed NewVision for a new position within the Port of Seattle. In his role as CEO of NewVision, Dave worked with both the private and public sectors to retain and increase jobs, and the infrastructure needed to secure those jobs. Dave served on our MPO/RTPO Policy Board as well, and we'll miss him. Knowing that he will continue to be an advocate for our region in his new role makes this bitter pill a bit easier to swallow. Thanks for your service, Dave!

## Emergency Management Briefs

Thank you to the City of Yakima and Yakima County

By Deb LaCombe, MPO/RTPO Manager



A big thanks goes out to the City of Yakima's Charles Erwin and Yakima County's Scott Miller both from their respective Office of Emergency Management. Both offices delivered presentations to the Metropolitan/Regional Transportation Planning Organization (MPO/RTPO) Technical Advisory Committee, the MPO/RTPO Policy Board, and the Yakima County Special Needs Transportation Coalition in June and July. The focus for our discussions was transportation and we heard about the latest efforts for inventorying shelters and ADA related tasking from both.

We appreciate bringing regional information and discussions to our TAC and Policy Board. If your organization or group has timely information and needs a regional forum to provide outreach, please consider contacting us. We'll discuss your needs to see if reaching out to our members through our monthly meetings is a good fit for you.



### It's Almost Fair Time

Have You Signed Up for a Fair Booth Volunteer Slot Yet?

Personal public outreach while talking transportation at the Central Washington State Fair is unique and ever changing! This year we are in the Sundome at our usual spot for the DRYVE/TRANS-Action/Transits/Greenway set of booths. Gracie Sexton at People for People will be contacting the different reps for the booth sponsors to work out details on the setup and theme for this year's combination triple booth. Alan Adolf at Yakima County is the gatekeeper for the sign-up sheet. Please contact him to find out available slots for volunteer opportunities at: (509) 574-2344 or [alan.adolf@co.yakima.wa.us](mailto:alan.adolf@co.yakima.wa.us)

**WSDOT TITLE VI training in Yakima, September 10th**

### JULY MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

#### AUGUST

#### COMMITTEE MEETINGS



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

**MPO/RTPO Policy Board & YVCOG Executive Committee**  
Monday, August 17 at 1:30 p.m.

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

#### MPO/RTPO TAC — July 9

- Presentations by Charles Erwin re City of Yakima Emergency Management Plan, and by Marla Powers re Yakima County GMA Updates
- Transportation Element Certification Checklist
- July M/RTIP Amendment (Yakima Transit)

#### MPO/RTPO Policy Board — July 20

- Adoption of 2015-2018 M/RTIP July Amendment
- Adoption of Agreement GCB 2150—continuing CTR pilot program for an additional two years
- Presentations by Charles Erwin and Scott Miller re City and County Emergency Management Plans

#### YVCOG Executive Committee — July 20

- Review Homeless Assistance Program draft bylaws and operating procedures;
- 2015 Adjusted Cost Allocation Plan & Certification
- 2016 Budget Subcommittee appointed; adoption of 2016 Budget Schedule

#### Your YVCOG Staff:

Larry Mattson, Executive Director  
Christina Wickenhagen, Deputy Director  
Deborah LaCombe, MPO/RTPO Manager  
Brian Curtin, CTR Coordinator  
Tim Sullivan, Homeless Housing Program Manager  
Shawn Conrad, Senior Planner  
Joseph Calhoun, Planner  
John R. Rohrbaugh, GIS Analyst/Systems Administrator  
Avery Zoglman, Homeless Housing Program Analyst  
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/title\\_vi.htm](http://www.yvcog.org/title_vi.htm) or call (509) 574-1550.