



MEMBER JURISDICTIONS:

Grandview
Granger
Harrah
Mabton
Moxee
Naches
Selah
Sunnyside
Tieton
Toppenish
Union Gap
Wapato
Yakima
Yakima County
Zillah

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311 North 4th Street, Suite 204
Yakima, WA 98901
509-574-1550
FAX 509-574-1551
Website: www.yvcog.org

Training Workshops and Events Abound in May!

By Shawn Conrad, Senior Planner

The Training and Events Gods decided May 2015 was the month for training opportunities and other events of interest to the Yakima Valley! Coming up throughout May:



Growth Management Act Update

Workshop – Save the Date. Start your GMA Periodic Update off right. This workshop sponsored by YVCOG will cover long-range planning fundamentals, requirements for your update, tips and pitfalls, and how to avoid costly delays to achieve success. For Yakima County jurisdictions, GMA Periodic Updates must be *completed* by June 30, 2017 to remain eligible for various state infrastructure funding sources. **When:** May 5, 2015, time 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. **Where:** Office of Emergency Management Resource Center, 2403 S. 18th Street, Union Gap. **Cost:** Free. **More info:** Contact Shawn Conrad at 759-7991 or shawn.conrad@yvcog.org.

Model User's Workshop. This workshop sponsored by YVCOG will cover the basics of using the VISUM travel demand model. See more information in a full article on page 2 of this newsletter. **When:** May 8, 2015.

Land Use Boot Camp. Planning Association of Washington (PAW) Boot Camps are designed for planners and land use attorneys. Topics for this Boot Camp will include Land Use and Marijuana, Transportation Concurrency, Annual Case Law Update, GMA Update Endgame, Water Rights/Resources, and a mock public hearing. **When:** May 15, 2015, 8:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m. **Where:** Yakima Convention Center, 10 N. 8th Street, Yakima. **Cost:** \$80 for PAW members, \$95 for non-members. **More info:** <http://tinyurl.com/omxp4ay>.

Land Use Case Law Update Webinar. YVCOG will host this Municipal Research and Services Center (MRSC) webinar. Phil Olbrechts will summarize important land use cases of the past year, and provide practical advice and guidance for local government land use regulation and permit review. Designed for local government officials, planners, attorneys, hearing examiners, planning commission and board of adjustment members, and anyone else interested in local planning and land use law. **When:** May 20, 2015, 12:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. **Where:** YVCOG Library Conference Room, 2nd Floor, 311 N. 4th St., Yakima. **Cost:** YVCOG will pay the registration cost and provide this webinar free to member jurisdictions. **More info:** Contact Joseph Calhoun at 759-7982 or joseph.calhoun@yvcog.org.

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Utilities Rate Setting Workshop. The Public Works Board and FCS Group are offering this workshop to help cities and towns understand the complexities of rate setting and set rates that meet their needs. Strategic rate setting is also important to receive infrastructure funding, since in some cases cities and towns must show that they are doing all they can to locally finance projects before they can be awarded grants or loans. **When:** May 21, 2015, 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. **Where:** Big Bend Community College, Moses Lake. **Cost:** Free. **More info:** flyer at <http://tinyurl.com/Worshop-Rates>. **Contact:** Steve Dunk at (360) 725-3157 or stephen.dunk@commerce.wa.gov. CML, CPO, and CRE credits available.

Voices for Our Streets – brought to you by the Yakima Complete Streets Working Group, this forum will aim to spread the word about Complete Streets and also receive input on City of Yakima, YVCOG, and Yakima County long-range transportation plans. Two guests will present on Complete Streets: Marc Schlossberg of University of Oregon and author of *Rethinking Streets: An Evidence-Based Guide to 25 Complete Street Transformations*, and certified national Complete Streets trainer Peter Lagerway of Toole Design Group. Tables with information about various transportation-related organizations will also be available. **When:** May 21, 2015, 6:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m. **Where:** Yakima Convention Center, 10 N. 8th Street, Yakima. **Cost:** Free. **More info:** Contact Shawn Conrad at 759-7991 or shawn.conrad@yvcog.org.



YVCOG General Membership Meeting

WHERE: Naches

WHEN: May 20, 2015 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, May 15, 2015 at noon**. Please RSVP to Tami at (509) 574-1550 or email to tamara.hayward@yvcog.org.

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 or call (509) 574-1550.

YVCOG Prepares to Host a Basic Model User's Workshop

By Deb LaCombe, Transportation Manager



Beginning with Basics

YVCOG uses the VISUM modeling platform for travel demand modeling. This regional model is rich in data and modeling results but has its strengths and limitations. Mr. Robert (Bob) Shull from Eco Resource Management Systems, Inc. will begin the workshop with some enlightening discussion about what a travel demand model can do well and why.

At YVCOG, we use our travel demand model to evaluate some types of proposed transportation projects, programs, and strategies.

We'll Show You How

Model users can learn easy procedures to data mine, print model results, and even do some simple analysis without becoming experts on computer modeling. We designed a one-day workshop using our regional VISUM travel demand model to demonstrate how a staff member may open a model, use filters to display information in the model, and print the information to share with her or his planning team.

Seating is Limited

The one-day workshop is scheduled in Yakima, WA on May 8, 2015 from 8:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Seating available for 20 participants. Agenda and other materials will be provided to participants upon registration. Contact Deb LaCombe at (509) 759.7981, or email deborah.lacombe@yvcog.org to register or for more information.

Your YVCOG Staff:

Larry Mattson, Executive Director
Chris Wickenhagen, Deputy 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



“Tell Them What You’re Going to Tell Them”

Public Participation Plan Outreach

By Deb LaCombe, Transportation Manager

Greetings from the Metropolitan and Regional Transportation Organization (MPO/RTPO) desk! I’ll be out and around the region for the next 45 days to facilitate a few public outreach meetings focusing on YVCOG’s Public Participation Plan. What is that you ask?

A Kick-off to Developing the Long-range Plan

As the first step to developing the MPO/RTPO’s Long-range Transportation Plan, YVCOG builds a Public Participation Plan (Plan). The Plan describes our MPO/RTPO purpose, structure, and what regulations we follow to perform our functions. The development of the Long-range Plan involves multiple opportunities for public input over a long period of time (this cycle’s timeline spans over a year to develop the next Long-range Plan).

To inform the public about the “who, what, when, where, and why” of our public involvement processes, we publish the Public Participation Plan with descriptions of when the Plan benefits from reaching out to our region’s citizens for input and/or concurrence.

For example, on page six of the Plan you’ll find a table that looks like this, only with more rows:

Table 1. Illustrative List of Generic Long-range Transportation Plan Sections and Associated Public Outreach Efforts

Long-range Plan Section	Deliverable	Type of Public Participation
Evaluation Criteria, Methods and Measures	Evaluation criteria created by which to evaluate individual future scenarios	Open workshops, stakeholder solicitation, charrettes, electronic/radio/television media events...

The first row of the table is included here and shows that YVCOG will be sharing and seeking public input on the evaluation criteria, evaluation methods and measures the MPO/RTPO will be using when determining future transportation assumptions. YVCOG will reach out to the public through any one or combination of some of the events in the third column.

Highlighting More Outreach Opportunities

YVCOG has enhanced the Plan with more than just the details of the Long-range Plan. Since there are recurring processes that the MPO/RTPO manages for its membership cities, towns, and agencies, the Plan also includes anticipated public outreach efforts for the Metropolitan and Regional Transportation Improvement Programs and the Human Services Transportation Plan.

The Technical Advisory Committee and the MPO/RTPO Board both meet once a month. Those meetings are open to the public and the 2015 meeting schedule is in the Plan, as well.

The last section of the Plan is a report with the results of our Limited English Proficiency Four-Factor Analysis. The analysis is required so that YVCOG can identify what languages in our region need to be addressed during our outreach efforts. This analysis allows YVCOG to comply with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 by ensuring that the organization is not discriminating on the grounds of national origin.

The Yakima Valley Conference of Governments (YVCOG) hereby gives public notice that it is the Organization’s policy to assure full compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Civil Rights Restoration Act of 1987, and related statutes and regulations in all programs and activities. Title VI requires that no person shall, on the grounds of race, color, sex, or national origin be excluded from the participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination under any Federal Aid Highway

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program or other activity for which YVCOG receives Federal financial assistance.

Public Participation Plan Copies Available

Public comments will be gathered from March 23, 2015 through May 29, 2015. Copies of the Plan will be made available with comment forms starting March 23, 2015 online at www.yvcog.org and in hard copy format at the following locations:

- YVCOG Office @ 311 N. 4th Street, Suite 204, in Yakima, WA
- Yakima Library @ 102 N. 3rd Street in Yakima, WA
- Sunnyside Library @ 621 Grant Avenue in Sunnyside, WA

Public Meeting Locations to Explore the Plan Will be Announced Soon

I hope to see you at one of the eight public meetings being scheduled throughout the Yakima Valley. Please check our Facebook page, visit our website at www.yvcog.org, or email me at deborah.lacombe@yvcog.org to be notified of all the public outreach meeting locations, dates, and times to explore the Plan.

Unified Planning Work Program (Fiscal Year 2016)

By Deb LaCombe, Transportation Manager

In March, the Metropolitan and Regional Transportation Organization (MPO/RTPO) received a recommendation from the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and approval from the Policy Board to send Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) our DRAFT work plan for the next State Fiscal Year.

Although the next State Fiscal Year (SFY 2016) covers the time frame of July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016, scheduling the work to be done during that time happens in March and April for most MPOs and RTPOs across Washington State. Early planning is required because YVCOG uses state and federal funding to complete tasks under MPO/RTPO requirements. Since federal and State funds are used, YVCOG receives a review of its proposed work plan by the Federal Highway Administration, Federal Transit Administration, and WSDOT. This year, the review team will come to YVCOG for our review meeting on April 30th.

The review meeting is open to YVCOG members wanting to participate. If you are interested in attending the meeting or wish to receive more information about the UPWP, please contact Deb LaCombe at deborah.lacombe@yvcog.org or call Deb at (509) 759-7981. The agenda will be released in early April.

APRIL

COMMITTEE MEETINGS



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

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

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

MARCH MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

MPO/RTPO TAC — March 12

- 2014 Obligation/Closure Report
- Public Participation Plan
- Unified Planning Work Program

MPO/RTPO Policy Board — March 16

- Draft UPWP approved
- M/RTIP 2016-2019 Development Schedule approved
- 2014 Obligation Report (comment version) approved
- Public Participation Plan (comment version) approved

YVCOG Executive Committee — March 16

- Homeless Network update
- Review of proposed Telecommuting Policy



“Just Wondering?” Tour the Valley’s Wineries by Bike

By Brian Curtin, CTR Program Coordinator

Wind, rain, snow or sleet of night will not deter me from my chosen means of transportation — my bicycle. Day in and day out I face the challenges of bicycle commuting. I am one with my bicycle and my wardrobe shows it; I have more cycling jerseys than work shirts and my nicest pair of shoes has cleats in the soles. So, I was just wondering, Mr. CTR Guy, if you could recommend any recreational rides that would allow me to decompress from the rigors of commuting and still enjoy my passion for cycling?



Great question Cycling Guy! I can recommend an excellent book called *Great Bike Rides in Eastern Washington and Oregon* by Sally O’Neal Coates, published by Wilderness Press. This

month’s featured ride is “Gateway to Wine Country.” It begins and ends in Zillah, WA. Coming from Yakima on I-82, take exit 54, turn left off of Highway 82 onto Yakima Valley Highway and look for the Severino Cellars sign on 1st Avenue — that’s where our ride begins. After visiting with the friendly folks at Severino Cellars, head back towards the stop sign on 1st Avenue and Yakima Valley Highway. Take a left, being cautious of highway traffic. Proceed one-half mile on Yakima Valley Highway and take a right on East Zillah Road. At this point the road has changed from paved to chip seal. Continue straight on E. Zillah Drive, rolling into your first one-quarter mile downhill, followed by a one-quarter mile uphill, characteristic of the rollers throughout the ride.

You are surrounded by vineyards and orchards as you leave town on this two lane, shoulderless, well-paved road. You will soon cross the Sunnyside Irrigation canal, a critical irrigation source for the wine and orchard region. Turn left on Lucy Lane and continue on for two miles. Turn left on Highland Drive, travel about one-half mile, then turn right on Vintage Road. The book tells us that we will be heading towards Covey Run winery, but a lot has changed in the Rattlesnake Hills Appellation since the book was published. At the end of Vintage Road you will now find Silver Lake Winery and a spectacular view of the Valley’s orchards and vineyards. Leaving Silver Lake, reverse course and return to Highland Drive. The next four wineries are also not in the book. Turn right and ride about one-quarter mile and you will find Cultura Winery on the right and Paradisos Del Sol on the left.

Another one-half mile finds you at Roza Drive and another new winery, Maison de Padgett. Take a moment to enjoy their lovely English gardens and view of Mt Adams. Continue west on Highland Drive about three-quarters of a mile and turn right on Cheyne Road. About a quarter mile on your right you will find Two Mountains Winery. One of the newer wineries to the Rattlesnake Hills Appellation, their label features Mt. Adams and Mt. Rainier, both of which are spectacularly visible throughout the ride.

Continue north on Cheyne Road, just over one mile, until you reach Gilbert Road. Turn left and ride about one-half mile and you will find the paved drive through the gates of Hyatt Vineyards. Here you will find the most spectacular view of both mountains while nestled within the vineyards. Their pristine, park-like grounds provide a perfect opportunity to take a break and enjoy a well-deserved picnic. Departing Hyatt Vineyards, turn left on Gilbert road and ride one-half mile to N. Bonair Road and turn left. Travel about three-quarters of a mile and you will find Tanjuli Winery on your left. Continuing south on Bonair Road you will cross Highland Drive onto a hard packed dirt road. A somewhat bumpy, yet beautiful ride through mature orchards and newly planted vineyards takes you back a century or two to the unique European style setting of Bonair Winery. This is another great place to enjoy your picnic lunch. Leaving Bonair, you will take a right onto Highland drive and ride just over one mile and turn right on Cheyne Road. Remain on Cheyne Road, crossing Yakima Valley Highway, about two miles back into Zillah. At the intersection with 1st Avenue, turn left and continue through the quaint town of Zillah. Another two miles along 1st Avenue brings you back to Severino Cellars.

I offer a few words of caution regarding this bike tour. The ride is rated easy with rolling hills and beautiful views, and a length of about 20 miles. You might experience a local phenomenon called “goat’s heads,” or puncture vines, which are little seeds with deadly (to tires) spines. Be sure to bring along a patch kit and extra tubes. If you are riding with a large group, call ahead to the wineries and let them know you are coming; they appreciate the heads up. Also, you’ll visit eight wineries along the way, and there is no such thing as a designated driver when you’re riding a bicycle, so seriously consider the effects of too much tasting. And of course, wear your bright colors and head gear. Enjoy the ride and until next time, we’re still, “Just wondering...?”

Regional Funders Forum a Success

By Shawn Conrad, Senior Planner

The first Yakima Regional Funders' Forum was a success! On March 13, 10 state and one local funding programs/agencies convened on the Yakima Museum, discussed their programs, and held one-on-one meetings with jurisdictions to further discuss their programs and jurisdictions' specific projects. A huge **THANK YOU** to the presenters, participants, and all those behind the scenes who helped make this event a success. Feedback has been very positive, with interest in holding this forum again next year and possibly every one to two years.



Sheila Lee-Johnston (CDBG), Steve Dunk (PWB), Marti Canatsey (USDA-RD), and Marguerite Austin (RCO) discuss their programs and take questions.



Participants meet with funders for 1:1 meetings to get into the nitty gritty of projects and funds.

Traffic Counters — Coming to a Street Near You!

By Joseph Calhoun, Planner

Have you ever driven over those little black tubes on the road – thump-thump, thump-thump? Those are traffic counters. If you ever wondered how that works, well read on, for I will tell you a tale. The tubes are made of rubber and closed at one end. The open end plugs into a digital counter. When you drive over the tube, the pressure from your tires sends a gust of air to the counter and it is recorded. After a few days, the counter is plugged into a computer and the data is available to analyze.

Did you know that YVCOG can perform small-scale traffic counts that can be used to update your transportation plan? With the 2017 deadline for GMA updates looming in the not-so-distant future, obtaining some new traffic count data is something to consider.

We recently set up five traffic counters in the town of Harrah. They were up for three days, and the count data we received will be used to update the town's Transportation Element. Here you can see Deb chaining a traffic counter to a power pole.

If you need us to perform a small-scale traffic count in your community, please let us know!



Transportation Manager Deb LaCombe sets traffic counters in the Town of Harrah.

YVCOG 1st Quarter 2015 Activities

What has YVCOG done for you lately? Here are some highlights for the first quarter of 2015:

Transportation & MPO/RTPO Activities

Meetings: MPO/RTPO Technical Advisory Committee, YVCOG Executive Committee, MPO/RTPO Policy Board, MPO/RTPO Coordinating Committee, DRYVE, TRANS-Action, Yakima Bikes and Walks!, Complete Streets Working Group, Tribal Transportation Planning Organization, Washington Indian Transportation Policy Advisory Committee, and Yakima County Special Needs Transportation Coalition

Conferences: Northwest Tribal Technical Assistance Program Symposium, Washington Bike Summit, Walkable Washington Symposium

Training: MAP-21 Performance Measures trainings/webinars, Engineering for Climate Change, Livability Principals, Disaster Preparedness Planning, Connecting Transportation and the Global Economy

Assistance: Regional modeling assistance and training with Yakima County, Harrah traffic counts, Statewide model, MPO/RTPO peer assistance

Administration: drafted the Unified Planning Work Program; completed Obligation/Closure report and Self-Certification; completed Transportation Improvement Program amendments and schedules; completed CTR Employers Annual Reports; updated the Title VI Plan and held public outreach meetings; tracked Surface Transportation Program and projects; planning for Metropolitan/Regional Transportation Plan update

Community Planning

Grandview: provided land use planning technical assistance

Granger: provided land use planning technical assistance; completed comprehensive plan

amendment/rezone

Harrah: assisted with development of comprehensive plan update elements

Wapato: provided land use planning technical assistance

Tieton: provided land use planning technical assistance; completed comprehensive plan amendment/rezone

Tracked land use/community planning legislation

Regional Activities

HOME Consortium: developed NEPA environmental reviews for housing rehabilitation projects; assisted with development of Consolidated Plan and Analysis of Impediments

Safe Routes to School: worked with Yakima schools on development of Safe Routes to School walking school busses

Complete Streets: Worked with Mabton, Sunnyside, and Union Gap on development of complete streets ordinances; facilitated Yakima Complete Streets Working Group and May complete streets event planning

Yakima County: Participated in discussions with Yakima County regarding urban growth area update and tracked progress, reviewed draft population allocations

Technical Assistance: sponsored Regional Funders' Forum, worked with Department of Commerce on development of Growth Management Act Workshop for May, pursued other TA opportunities

Welcome Spring!!!

