



MEMBER JURISDICTIONS:

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

**YVCOG EXECUTIVE
COMMITTEE:**

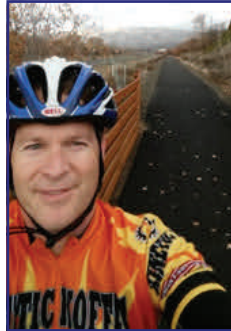
James A. Restucci, Chair
Mayor, City of Sunnyside
Mike Leita
Yakima County Commissioner
Micah Cawley
Mayor, City of Yakima
Area 1 — Dan Olson
Union Gap City Council
Area 2 — Loren Belton,
Mayor, City of Toppenish
Area 3 — Mario Martinez
Mayor, City of Mabton
Member At Large-
John Hodkinson, Jr., Vice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



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Yakima, WA 98901
509-574-1550
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New Year's Greetings, YVCOG Members!!

By Larry Mattson, Executive Director



As your new YVCOG Executive Director, I'm excited to begin working with a dedicated staff and an engaged board of directors. In the coming months I'll work with your Executive Committee to define YVCOG's priorities for this year. I'm also looking forward to hitting the road soon to meet with the mayors and staff of each of our jurisdictions. I'm interested to learn more about the projects and priorities on each of your plates, and how YVCOG can be of service to you.

I'd like to thank Chris Wickenhagen, our Chief Financial Officer, for doing a great job as the interim Executive Director while simultaneously keeping our budget in shape. Chris will also serve as our Deputy Director, so I look forward to having her assistance in that regard. Kudos as well to our Executive Committee for providing the YVCOG staff with consistent direction during this transition period.

Fourteen years ago, I joined the Washington State Department of Transportation to deliver the environmental documents and permits for the I-90 Snoqualmie Pass East mega-project. It was quite a challenge, and it's been a pleasure to drive the first finished section of that project. Now it's on to the next challenge: Working in a region I love, with people equally dedicated to improving our valley and making it the best place to live, work and play.

Safety and Water Grants Open

By Shawn Conrad, Senior Planner

WSTC Annual Traffic Safety Grant

Applications are now available for the Washington State Traffic Safety Commission's Annual Grants for Traffic Safety. State agencies, tribal governments, local governments, nonprofits, public schools, and private nonprofit schools are eligible to apply. Eligible projects address one or more of the top priorities included in Washington State's Strategic Highway Safety Plan 2010 (Target Zero) (see www.tinyurl.com/TargetZero). Proposals are due **January 20, 2015**. For the announcement and application materials, visit www.tinyurl.com/WSTC-Grant. Need assistance? Contact Shawn Conrad at conrads@yvcog.org or 759-7991.

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Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Grants

Applications are available for two Drinking Water State Revolving Fund programs:

- *Preconstruction Grant*: funds small system preconstruction activities for water systems with less than 10,000 connections. Local governments, Group A community water systems, and nonprofit noncommunity water systems are eligible. Deadline: **January 31, 2015**.
- *Consolidation Grant*: funds small system consolidation activities, such as joining two or more water systems. Local governments and Group A community water systems are eligible. Deadline: **February 23, 2015**.

Applications and other information for both grants are available at <http://tinyurl.com/WaterGrants>.

LTAP Classes Coming to Region

By Shawn Conrad, Senior Planner

The WSDOT Local Technical Assistance Program (LTAP) has a host of free training classes ready to go for 2015. Several will be located in this region, including “ADA Transition Plan & Self-Evaluation for Public Right of Way” (Yakima, April 8); “Introduction to Management” (Pasco, February 10); and “Title VI Training Preventing Discrimination in the Federal Aid Program” (Yakima, May 7). For the complete list and to register, visit <http://tinyurl.com/LTAP-2015>.



YVCOG Revisits Title VI

By Deb LaCombe, MPO/RTPO Manager

In January’s Technical Advisory Committee and MPO/RTPO Policy Board meetings, staff will be previewing the update to the Title VI Plan (Plan). This Plan covers the organization’s requirements for many federal regulations. These regulations, some dating back to 1964, have roots that tie fairness laws to agencies that receive federal funding. Yakima Valley Conference of Governments (YVCOG) is the lead for the Metropolitan and Regional Transportation Planning Organization (MPO/RTPO). As such, all of these regulations govern the way YVCOG approaches planning, research, design, education and training, right of way, construction, and maintenance.

The Title VI Plan explains what Title VI is, how considerations are incorporated into our planning processes, and how to file a complaint if staff, a member agency or organization of YVCOG, or any citizen believes that Title VI regulations have been violated. Our Title VI Plan is available on our website, through our Facebook page, and can be accessed in print at our office.

In addition to printed copies being made available in several libraries, three public outreach meetings are being coordinated to occur during the public comment period. At the outreach meetings, staff will be available to educate the public about and encourage feedback for YVCOG’s Plan. The public comment period runs from January 29 through February 12. Meeting notification is customarily made via local newspapers, on the YVCOG website, and on the YVCOG Facebook page. If you’d like to be personally notified of the meeting dates, locations, and times, please feel free to contact Deb LaCombe via email at deborah.lacombe@yvcoq.org or by calling (509) 759-7981.

To view a printed copy of the draft Title VI Plan you may visit the main library in Yakima, Sunnyside, or Naches. Alternatively, you are always welcome to access a printed copy in our office at: 311 North 4th Street, Suite 204, Yakima, WA 98901.

Local Safe Routes to School Projects Advance

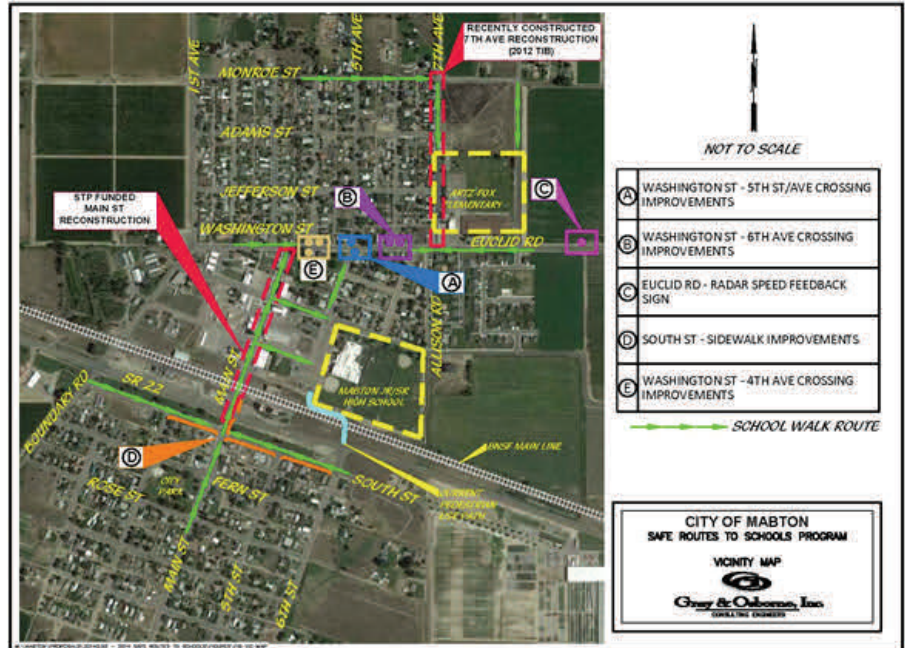
By Shawn Conrad, Senior Planner

As many of you know, YVCOG has been working in partnership with the Yakima Health District (YHD) for several years on “Healthy Communities”-related activities. One of those activities has been assistance to jurisdictions and school districts on Safe Routes to School (SRTS) applications for Washington State SRTS funding. While Yakima County is considered a high-need area for SRTS funding, only two Yakima County applications have been funded in the history of the State funding program.

In hopes of increasing those numbers (and ultimately enabling more kids to walk and bike to school), YVCOG and YHD assisted with several applications for the 2013-2015 call for projects, with no success on the applications assisted. The current 2015-2017 call for projects has been a different story, however. YVCOG/YHD assisted with project development and/or application development/review on five projects, and we were very pleased to learn that four of those projects are on the proposed funding portion of the statewide prioritized list, which will go to the State Legislature for approval. One of these projects, Garfield Elementary in Yakima, was #2 on the statewide list. The legislature could change the order of the funding list and/or funding amounts, though they have never changed the order in the past. The projects proposed for funding are:

- Mabton - Mabton Safe Routes to School (Mabton Jr./Sr. High School and Artz Fox Elementary School)
- Yakima – Adams Elementary/ Washington Middle School Vicinity Sidewalk Improvements
- Yakima - Garfield Elementary Safety Improvements
- Wapato - 9th Street Sidewalk Improvements

Great job to all who participated! If you have any questions or would like to learn about future SRTS assistance from YVCOG, please contact Shawn Conrad at conrads@yvco.org or (509) 759-7991.



Congratulations to November 2014 TIB Selected Projects in Yakima County

Transportation Improvement Board (TIB) Grant recipients were announced at the November 21st TIB Board meeting. Among the fortunate were some of our Yakima Valley Conference of Government members:

- | | | |
|--|-------------|-----------------------------|
| • Mabton – B Street | \$1,311,750 | Small City Arterial Program |
| • Tieton – Summitview Road | \$770,310 | Small City Arterial Program |
| • Toppenish – W 1 st Avenue | \$167,344 | Sidewalk Program |
| • Wapato – Trader Street | \$450,000 | Urban Arterial Program |

Always happy to announce good news! For more information, you can visit the TIB website at www.tib.wa.gov

Wheel Options Grand Prize Winner!!



Congratulations to Bill Preston (Washington State Department of Transportation-SCR) winner of the Wheel Options grand prize — a new Origin 7 speed folding bicycle!

DECEMBER MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

MPO/RTPO TAC — December 11

- Toppenish Functional Reclassification;
- I-82/Yakima Ave./Terrace Heights Boulevard Interchange

MPO/RTPO Policy Board — December 15

- Adoption of M/RTIP Amendment Schedule;
- Approval of support letter for Toppenish Functional Reclassification.

YVCOG Executive Committee — December 15

- Adoption of Resolution 2014-7, 2014-8 and 2014-9;
- Approval of 2015 Meeting Dates Calendar.

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.



JANUARY COMMITTEE MEETINGS

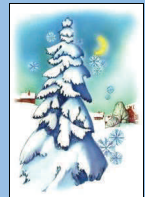
MPO/RTPO Technical Advisory Committee
Thursday, January 8 at 10:00 a.m.

**MPO/RTPO Policy Board &
YVCOG Executive Committee**
Monday, January 12 at 1:30 p.m.

YVCOG General Membership
Wednesday, January 21 at 6:30 p.m.
At Selah Civic Center

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

YVCOG General Membership Meeting



WHERE: Selah Civic Center
WHEN: January 21, 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, January 16, 2015 at noon**. Please RSVP to Tami at (509) 574-1550 or email to haywardt@yvcog.org.

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

