



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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**Don't Miss the Regional Funders' Forum
March 13, 2015**

By Shawn Conrad, Senior Planner

The **Yakima County Regional Funders' Forum** will be held Friday, March 13, 2015, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Yakima Valley Museum. Representatives of 11 state and local programs funding infrastructure, economic development, housing, parks and more will be HERE to talk with you about their programs and your projects. It will be fast paced! In the morning, funders will briefly present and take your questions during four panels: Comprehensive Funding Programs, Water/Sewer Funding Programs, Transportation Funding Programs, and Economic Development Funding Programs. We'll have a working lunch with a presentation on funding application preparation, and in the afternoon jurisdictions and agencies will have the chance to meet one-on-one with the funder(s) of their choice. Feel free to come and go during the forum to target the funders you're most interested in.

This is a valuable opportunity to connect face-to-face with funders, learn which funding sources work best for your needs, and promote your projects! For more information and an agenda, visit <http://tinyurl.com/YakFundForum>. Please register online at <http://tinyurl.com/YakFundForum-Reg>. Registrants will receive instructions prior to the forum on signing up for on-on-one meetings with funders.

Questions or comments? Contact Shawn Conrad at 759-7991 or conrads@yvcog.org.

Grant Opportunity — Legends Casino

By Joseph Calhoun, Planner



The Yakima Nation Legends Casino is accepting applications for their 2015 Community Impact Fund grant cycle. Each year, a percentage of the Casino's Class III table games revenue are put into the fund, which is distributed by a committee made up of local governmental representatives. The grant dollars have been used in the past to purchase fire trucks, ambulances, and police vehicles; and also to fund road improvements, pool improvements and other community projects.

The application is due on March 31, 2015, and can be found by clicking on the Community Tab at www.legendscasino.com.

Homeless Network – Update on Transition Plan

By Larry Mattson, Executive Director

During our September General Membership meeting, you heard from Commissioner Kevin Bouchey and Program Manager Tim Sullivan about the Yakima County Homeless Network. Yakima County does not directly receive funding for the program but does have oversight responsibility.

At that meeting, Commissioners Bouchey and Leita asked you to consider the possibility of YVCOG assuming the oversight of the Homeless Network. At the following Executive Committee meeting in October, the committee recommended bringing this program under YVCOG's purview, subject to "acceptable financial transition terms."

Chris Wickenhagen and I are working diligently on the details of this transition. We are meeting with Mr. Sullivan every week to iron out the details of how we can bring the staff and programs of the Homeless Network on board successfully.

The primary challenge at this point is to ensure a smooth meshing of the Homeless Network budget into the overall YVCOG budget. We will present an amended budget to the General Membership for approval to reflect our new budget, including the Homeless Network program through 2015, and then begin the 2016 budget process with our Budget Subcommittee this summer. We'll present you with the amended budget no later than the May General Membership meeting.

Upon successful navigation of the budget issues, I see no major barriers to bringing the Homeless Network within YVCOG's suite of services. The program aligns with our mission statement. As several people have mentioned, our homeless issue does seem to be more urban than rural. In that regard, it makes sense to bring it under our 'umbrella' of services.

Bringing the staff of the Homeless Network under the YVCOG umbrella will create additional opportunities for us to better meet your needs, including:



- Greater city and town involvement in addressing homeless issues
- Grants and other funding opportunities to reduce homelessness in our communities
- Regular updates regarding the homeless program
- Stronger communication with city and town councils regarding legislative updates on homelessness
- Opportunities outside of the Homeless Network or traditional YVCOG programs that we have not yet identified

Saint Patrick's Day Fun Facts

St. Patrick's Day began as a religious holiday to honor St. Patrick, who brought Christianity to Ireland in the fifth century.

The first parade for the holiday occurred in New York City on March 17, 1762. It featured Irish soldiers who served in the English military.

36.3 million U.S. residents claimed Irish ancestry in 2008, more than eight times the 4.4 million-person population of Ireland itself. The only ancestry reported more often was German.



CDBG Call for Projects Upcoming!

By Shawn Conrad, Senior Planner

It's almost time again for the Community Development Block Grant – General Purpose Grant (CDBG-GP) call for projects. Applications will be available in March 2015 and due in June 2015. The CDBG-GP provides funding for public facilities, community facilities, economic development and housing projects that principally benefit low- and moderate-income persons. Non-CDBG entitlement cities and towns with less than 50,000 in population or counties with less than 200,000 in population are eligible to apply.

In the Yakima Valley, non-CDBG entitlement jurisdictions are all jurisdictions except the City of Yakima. To meet thresholds for principally benefiting low- and moderate-income persons, at least 51% of a jurisdiction's population must be low- to moderate-income, based on Census data. Qualifying jurisdictions in the Yakima Valley include Grandview, Granger, Mabton, Sunnyside, Tieton, Toppenish, Union Gap, and Wapato. Jurisdictions may also conduct their own income surveys if they do not agree with the Census results.

The maximum grant amount is \$750,000 or \$1 million if higher funding criteria are met.



The CDBG will be holding application workshops in Moses Lake March 31, 2015 from 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Big Bend Community College, and in Olympia on March 25. The workshops include the opportunity for a half-hour meeting with CDBG staff to discuss proposed projects. For more information, go to <http://tinyurl.com/CDBG-Grant>. Click "2015 CDBG Application Workshops" on the right for workshop registration.

If you have questions or need assistance with the grant process or application development, please contact Shawn Conrad, Senior Planner, at shawn.conrad@yvcog.org or 759-7991.

FEBRUARY MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

MPO/RTPO TAC — February 12

- February M/RTIP Amendment
- Title VI Plan
- Unmet Needs Projects/Programs/Plans

MPO/RTPO Policy Board — February 18

- Title VI Plan approved
- Resolutions 2015-1 and 2015-2 adopted
- List of Unfunded Needs approved to be added to SFY 16 UPWP

YVCOG Executive Committee — February 18

- 2015 Indirect Cost Rate and Certification approved
- Procurement Card Policy approved

YVCOG General Membership Meeting



WHERE: Union Gap-Youth Barn
WHEN: March 18, 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, March 13, 2015 at noon**. Please RSVP to Tami at (509) 574-1550 or email to haywardt@yvcog.org.

Cold Starts ... Not Just a Winter Thing!

By Brian Curtin, CTR Program Coordinator

The long, cold days of winter are already upon us — or are they? It seems like we've had a pretty mild winter so far but who knows what the near future will bring. Regardless of the weather outside, this time of year always starts me thinking about the effects of "cold starting" my car engine.



The term "cold start" does not necessarily have anything to do with the outside temperature, but this is a great time to talk about it anyway. These days some starts are far colder than others. What the term refers to is when a vehicle is started with a completely cold engine. This typically occurs when you start your car each morning or at the end of the day as you leave from work for home. Different levels of pollutants are emitted at different times during vehicle operation. The greatest levels of pollutants occur when the catalytic converter is cool. According to the Federal Laboratory Consortium for Technology Transfer (FLC), it takes a car at least two minutes to reach the working temperature of the catalytic converter (527 degrees F). During this two minute period, 60-80% of your engines pollutants are emitted. In addition, a cold start creates 80% more unhealthy hydrocarbons than when the car engine is warm.

What can you do to limit your cold starts? One simple solution is to plan your schedule to combine trips. For example, on your way home from work try to run a few errands before you arrive home. Or when meeting for lunch, offer to pick up your lunch mate on the way rather than going in separate cars (or better yet, walk). The most effective solution to this problem is quite simple; **don't start your engine at all!** Choose an alternative to driving your car: carpool, vanpool, or ride transit. For your shorter commutes, use a healthy alternative like walking or the most efficient transportation of all, the bicycle. And don't forget: if you participate in an approved CTR activity such as carpooling, vanpooling or transit, you can rely on a Guaranteed Ride Home (GRH) in the event you are stranded at work or need an emergency ride home. Just remember — winter, spring summer or fall, warm or cold, do your part to avoid unnecessary cold starts and the pollutants that they cause.



MARCH COMMITTEE MEETINGS



MPO/RTPO Technical Advisory Committee
Thursday, March 12 at 10:00 a.m.

**MPO/RTPO Policy Board &
YVCOG Executive Committee**
Wednesday, March 16 at 1:30 p.m.

YVCOG General Membership
Wednesday, March 18 at 6:30 p.m.
at Ahtanum Youth Barn in Union Gap

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

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



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.