



*Yakima Valley  
Metropolitan and Regional Transportation Planning  
Organizations*

# **SFY 2009 ANNUAL REPORT**

July 1, 2008 to June 30, 2009



**Prepared by**

*Yakima Valley Conference of Governments  
Transportation Planning Staff*

**July 20, 2009**

## INTRODUCTION

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The *Annual Report* relates directly to the *YVCOG SFY 2009 Unified Planning Work Program* (UPWP), which was approved by FHWA and FTA on July 1, 2008 and outlines in detail the planning tasks to be completed during each fiscal year. The UPWP also functions as a set of performance measures for the planning activities reported in this document.

This report details how the Yakima Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) and the Yakima Valley Regional Transportation Planning Organization (RTPO) used state and federal transportation planning funds during State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2009. This annual report lists all work completed during SFY 2009, and identifies revenue sources utilized from the state, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), and revenues from required local match amounts.

The Yakima Valley Conference of Governments (YVCOG) is the federally designated MPO for the Yakima Valley region, as well as for the state-designated RTPO, as required in accordance with the Washington State Growth Management Act (RCW 47.80.20). The YVCOG, as the MPO/RTPO for Yakima Valley, is the lead-planning agency for work described in the *UPWP* developed each state fiscal year.

This report on planning activities and expenditures was prepared by the senior transportation planning staff of the YVCOG. A map showing the planning boundaries of the Yakima Valley Metropolitan and Regional Transportation Planning Organizations is found in *Appendix A*.

## SFY 2009 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

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The Yakima Valley Conference of Governments met and exceeded all federal and state transportation planning, programming and administrative requirements. Additionally, the YVCOG met and successfully accomplished all routine tasks set out under the work elements of the *SFY 2009 Unified Planning Work Program* (UPWP). Of special note are the following accomplishments:

- **2009-2012 Metropolitan and Regional Transportation Improvement Programs (MTIP/RTIP)**

The 2009-2012 MTIP/RTIP was developed with input from local jurisdictions and citizens through their elected and appointed officials serving on Yakima Valley Metropolitan and Regional Transportation Planning Organizations (MPO/RTPO) Executive Committee, and the MPO/RTPO Technical Advisory Committee (TAC).

A public review period for the 2009-2012 MTIP/RTIP was held from September 1, 2008 to September 15, 2008. The 2009-2012 MTIP/RTIP met all local, state and federal requirements for its adoption into the Washington State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). The 2009-2012 MTIP/RTIP programmed **\$91,263,000** in federal funds, and **\$97,026,000** in state and local funds to total **\$188,289,000** for the Yakima Valley region.

YVCOG staff also processed amendments to the 2009-2012 MTIP in July 2008, October 2008, January 2009, May 2009 and June 2009 to reflect changes in funding, project phases, and schedules.

▪ **Air Quality Conformity Determinations**

YVCOG transportation planning staff performed air quality modeling and issued air quality conformity determinations for the 2009-2012 MTIP and subsequent MTIP amendments. On December 9, 2008 the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) issued a finding that the Yakima Valley 2009-2012 MTIP conforms with the State Implementation Plan (SIP) to reduce the severity and number of National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) violations. Transportation conformity ensures areas that Federal funding and approval are given to transportation activities that are consistent with air quality goals, and do not worsen air quality or interfere with the purpose of the SIP. A map showing the CO and PM<sub>10</sub> maintenance areas of the Yakima Valley is found in *Appendix A*.

▪ **Yakima Valley Metropolitan and Regional Transportation Plan 2007-2027**

On June 18, 2007 the Yakima Valley MPO/RTPO Executive Committee approved the *Yakima Valley Metropolitan and Regional Transportation Plan 2007-2027*. YVCOG's central focus in SFY 2009 was to ensure that the adopted long-range plan remained viable and provided meaningful policy direction to WSDOT and local agencies to meet their program goals. In SFY 2009 YVCOG worked with WSDOT and local agencies to identify potential necessary amendments to the plan. While no amendments were needed in SFY 2009, keeping the plan up-to-date ensured that it remained relevant and that WSDOT and local agencies were working to implement the plan.

A full update to the plan will be required in 2011 to maintain the region's eligibility to receive federal and state funding for transportation improvement projects. The plan includes an extensive list of fiscally constrained transportation improvements for the region. These include both improvements on state highways and regionally significant improvements that will be implemented by local jurisdictions.

▪ **American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009**

One major accomplishment for the Yakima Valley MPO/RTPO that occurred in SFY 2009 was successfully coordinating with WSDOT and local agencies within the Yakima Valley to conduct an expedited regional process to prioritize economic stimulus projects. On March 5, 2009 the ARRA Local Oversight and Accountability Panel affirmed the Yakima Valley MPO/RTPO's priority project listing and local agencies were authorized to begin the process of implementing critical transportation investments that had the potential to quickly stimulate the economy. The Yakima Valley MPO/RTPO prioritized 11 projects totaling \$5,638,289 in federal ARRA funds based on regional equity and the confidence of readiness to go. One additional Tier II project prioritized by the Yakima Valley MPO/RTPO also has the high potential to be funded with \$2,030,000 in ARRA funds in SFY 2010. YVCOG worked diligently to ensure that all ARRA funded projects were included in the current STIP and eligible to receive federal ARRA funds. YVCOG transportation planning staff will continue tracking the timely progress of ARRA projects

in SFY 2010 and work to ensure all required obligation and construction deadlines are met.

▪ **Coordinated Public Transit and Human Services Transportation Plan**

SAFETEA-LU requires communities to prepare a coordinated public transit and human services transportation plan to be eligible for certain FTA funding programs. In the Yakima Valley region, YVCOG has coordinated with People for People to lead development of the plan. The plan was developed based on extensive input from stakeholders and special needs population groups throughout the Yakima County region. In SFY 2009, YVCOG led the process to reevaluate identified needs and priority projects listed in the plan to ensure new projects submitted to the RTPO during the WSDOT Consolidated 2009 -2011 Public Transportation Grant process were consistent with the plan. Through the 2009-2011 Public Transportation Grant in SFY 2009, 10 projects were selected for funding from the Yakima Valley totaling \$3,644,939. Coordinated Public Transit and Human Services Transportation Plans are required to be updated every 4 years. In SFY 2010 YVCOG will continue coordinating with WSDOT, the Agency Council on Coordinated Transportation and People for People to fully implement new planning requirements and develop strategies for successfully completing the required plan update.

▪ **Competitive Surface Transportation Program (STP) Regional Distribution Funding Process**

The Yakima Valley RTPO's process of distributing STP Regional funds changed in response to actions by the Washington State Legislature and Governor in 2006. RTPOs that receive federal STP funding must now distribute funds based on regional priorities rather than by formula. The MPO/RTPO Executive Committee approved Yakima Valley's new STP competitive application and money distribution process in February 2007.

In 2007, the Yakima Valley MPO/RTPO Executive Committee selected three urban projects and one rural project to receive STP Regional funding. Funding was distributed based on their priority rankings which were established using a competitive application. In FFY 2007 the four projects selected for STP Regional funding received a portion of the STP funds requested in their original project applications. On April 19, 2008 the Yakima Valley MPO/RTPO Executive Committee authorized the obligation of the remaining STP Regional funds requested to the four projects selected in 2007. Because all four funded Yakima Valley STP Regional projects were ready to proceed, all could receive STP Regional funding up to the amount of the original STP request.

In SFY 2009 the Yakima Valley MPO/RTPO Executive Committee continued to authorize STP Urban funds up to the amount of the original STP request to the three urban projects originally selected in 2007. Currently there is still a shortfall of \$688,475 that will need to be made up in FFY 2010 to fully fund all three remaining urban projects. The one STP Rural project selected in 2007 was fully funded in FFY 2008. A portion of the remaining FFY 2008 rural funds and the entire FFY 2009 STP Rural allocation to the Yakima Valley were used in a new STP Rural call for projects in SFY 2009. YVCOG released the approved STP competitive application and four local agencies submitted projects for the \$683,223 in STP Rural funding available. Two projects were fully funded up to their original STP Rural request and a third project was partially funded

that is anticipated to be fully funded when the Yakima Valley MPO/RTPO receives its FFY 2010 STP Rural funding allocation.

▪ **Competitive Surface Transportation Program (STP) Enhancement Distribution Funding Process**

The last statewide call for STP Enhancement projects occurred in the fall of 2007 when WSDOT coordinated with all Washington State RTPO's and released an expedited STP Enhancement call for projects. Only \$14.8 million was available statewide for the Enhancement call for projects, and to save time a more streamlined approach was developed, with RTPO's limited to which projects could be selected. It was requested that all RTPO's submit a prioritized list of three projects with accompanying applications to WSDOT by September 4, 2007. The top three projects prioritized and submitted for funding by the Yakima Valley RTPO were recommended for full funding by the Statewide Enhancement Advisory Committee and on November 19, 2007 approved for funding by the WSDOT Secretary of Transportation.

The one STP Enhancement funding opportunity that occurred in SFY 2009 was through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. One project met the required ARRA criteria and was selected and approved by the ARRA Local Oversight and Accountability Panel to receive \$158,643 in federal ARRA funds for STP Enhancement uses. YVCOG transportation planning staff will continue tracking the timely progress of this ARRA projects in SFY 2010 and work to ensure all required obligation and construction deadlines are met.

▪ **Competitive Congestion Mitigation/Air Quality (CMAQ) Grant Distribution Funding Process**

One primary task of the SFY 2009 UPWP was to continue to make coordinated investments to train staff in data forecasting and to capitalize on previous investments made to update the travel demand model for the long-range transportation plan. YVCOG transportation planning staff tracked developments of US DOT and EPA efforts to release the new MOVES emission factor model. YVCOG staff attended hands-on MOVES model training in Portland, OR on June 11-12, 2009. The benefit of these investments can most clearly be seen by YVCOG's successful solicitation and administration of one CMAQ grant call for projects in SFY 2009. On June 18, 2009 the Yakima Valley MPO/RTPO Technical Advisory Committee recommended approval of two projects to receive \$267,744 in FFY 2009 CMAQ funding. Selection of these two projects follows up on successful efforts in SFY 2008 to allocate CMAQ funds. On September 15, 2007 the Yakima Valley MPO/RTPO Executive Committee approved the City of Selah's request for \$377,463 in FFY 2007 CMAQ funding for the Selah Road & Alley Improvement Program. On June 16, 2008 the Executive Committee approved the City of Yakima's request for \$389,460 in FFY 2008 CMAQ funding for the Coolidge Road Widening and Paving Project.

▪ **Partnership Building**

Participated in the interagency consultation process, and collaborated with citizen and jurisdictional interests whenever the opportunity presented itself. The following are notable instances that occurred in SFY 2009:

1. Assisted the City of Union Gap on a RFP for transit service and state and federal transit reporting requirements, including steps needed to access federal 5307 funds. In SFY 2007 YVCOG awarded the City of Union Gap a CMAQ grant to fund a demonstration circulator transit route. The CMAQ grant provided transit service through the successful City of Union Gap sales tax increase vote in November 2007 to secure long-term funding. YVCOG will continue to facilitate and offer support to the City of Union Gap in their effort to provide multi-modal transportation options in SFY 2010.
  2. Participate regularly with the City of Yakima Bike/Pedestrian Advisory Committee meetings. The committee serves an important role in advising the Yakima City Council on bike and pedestrian issues. The group is also working with Yakima County and YVCOG in creating a Bike/Pedestrian Advisory Committee for the whole county.
  3. Collaborated with the WSDOT South Central Region Office and the TRANS-ACTION Committee to coordinate transportation planning and economic development in the upper Yakima Valley region. These efforts included participation in the TRANS-ACTION information booth at the Central Washington State Fair and making a transportation video in cooperation with Yakima County to air during the Fair and on local public television (September 26 - Oct. 5, 2008).
  4. Participated in meetings of the new transportation coalition for the lower Yakima Valley (D.R.Y.V.E.). Attendance and participation at meetings will continue as this fledgling organization develops. Provided mapping services to identify priority project locations.
  5. Participated in monthly Special Needs Transportation Coalition meetings with human services / transportation stakeholders in the region to assess the needs and gaps in human services transportation services.
  6. Ensured consistent regional evaluation of transportation facilities and recognized regional corridors with WSDOT and local agencies to comply with RCW 36.70A.
  7. Took steps to ensure the transportation elements of comprehensive plans adopted by Yakima County and the cities within Yakima County were in conformity with state law and the adopted regional transportation plan as required by RCW 36.70A.070.
  8. Performed traffic counts for 3 financially constrained local agencies within the RTPO for purposes of preparing their long range GMA comprehensive plans and 6-year Transportation Improvement Programs.
- **Coordination with national, state, and regional planning organizations**  
Participation in national and statewide committees and ad hoc work groups in SFY 2009:
    1. MPO/RTPO/WSDOT Coordinating Committee – quarterly meetings (Page Scott, Drew Miller);
    2. TRANS-ACTION/D.R.Y.V.E. Transit Subcommittee – monthly meetings to develop strategy for expanding public transportation options throughout Yakima County (Page Scott, Drew Miller);
    3. Participation in the all-weather roads coordination to study RTPO funding needs and possible legislative requests. Attended all-weather roads roundtable

- organized by BFCG on October 9, 2009 in Moses Lake, WA (Page Scott, Drew Miller);
4. Agency Council on Coordinated Transportation – ex-officio membership on the council that meets bi-monthly (Page Scott);
  5. Participation in CTR Technical Advisory Group (TAG) to CTR Board, meeting as required by the CTR Board. (Brian Curtin);
  6. Washington State Commute Trip Reduction (CTR) Board representing affected RTPOs (Page Scott);
  7. Washington State Ridesharing Organization Board Member Vice-Chairman (Brian Curtin);
  8. Participated in Air Quality Conformity Team meetings to review conformity requirements and findings related to the long-range plan update and the 2009-2012 MTIP. (Page Scott, Drew Miller).
  9. Participation and membership on the U.S. 12/16th Avenue Interchange Revitalization subcommittee of TRANS-ACTION – monthly meetings (Drew Miller);
  10. Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations (AMPO) Policy Committee appointment for 2009. (Page Scott);
  11. Coordinated with other Washington State MPO's to assess federal and state policy concerning mandatory annual appropriations rescissions and develop a preferred policy statement (Page Scott, Drew Miller);
  12. Coordination with the Yakima Regional Clean Air Agency to assess future transportation planning impacts related to new federal regulations concerning PM<sub>2.5</sub> and CO<sub>2</sub> (Page Scott, Drew Miller);
  13. Coordination with WSDOT, Yakima County, the City of Yakima, private developers and PTV America to create long-range transportation planning studies and data necessary to redevelop the old Boise Cascade sawmill adjacent to I-82 in the City of Yakima (Page Scott, Drew Miller);
  14. Participation in the SR 12/Allen Road study in coordination with WSDOT, Yakima County, the City of Naches and Huibregtse, Louman Associates, Inc. to develop future interchange options to accommodate increased growth and traffic volume in the project vicinity (Page Scott, Drew Miller).

▪ **Staff Development**

Below is a list of work-related training sessions and professional conferences attended by the YVCOG's transportation planning staff during SFY 2009:

1. *Public Transportation Conference and Expo*, Washington State Department of Transportation, September 7-10, 2008, Kennewick, WA (Page Scott, Brian Curtin)
2. *Integrating Land Use and Transportation Workshop*, September 11-12, 2008, Chicago, IL (Page Scott);
3. *TRB Transportation Law Workshop*, July 6-9, 2008, San Diego, CA (Page Scott);
4. *TRB Tools of the Trade Conference*, September 17-19, 2008, Portland, OR (Page Scott, Drew Miller);
5. *AMPO Annual Conference and Policy Committee Meeting*, October 28-30, 2008, Seattle, WA (Page Scott);
6. *TRB Annual Meeting*, January 11-15, 2009, Washington D.C. (Page Scott);
7. *AMPO Policy Committee Meeting*, February 19-20, 2009, Washington D.C. (Page Scott);

8. *NARC Conference of Regions and Transportation Committee Meetings*, February 22-25, 2009, Washington D.C. (Page Scott);
9. *CTED State Energy Summit*, May 4, 2009, Seattle, WA (Page Scott);
10. *NTI Coordinated Mobility Training*, May 4-6, 2009, Seattle, WA (Page Scott);
11. *NARC Annual Conference and Transportation Committee Meeting*, May 31-June 3, 2009, Denver, CO (Page Scott);
12. *Washington State Boundary Review Board Annual Meeting*, October 2, 2008, LaConner, WA (Drew Miller);
13. *CTED Short Course on Local Planning*, October 27, 2008, Wapato, WA (Drew Miller);
14. *National Business Institute, Land Use Law Training*, November 3, 2008, Seattle, WA (Drew Miller);
15. *NTI Introduction to Air Quality Conformity Training*, November 5-7, 2008, Seattle, WA (Drew Miller);
16. *Federal Funding Symposium Presented by Washington State Senators Patty Murray and Maria Cantwell*, November 14, 2008, Yakima, WA (Drew Miller);
17. *FHWA and EPA MOVES Emission Model Training*, June 11-12, 2009, Portland, OR (Drew Miller).

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## SFY 2009 EXPENDITURE SUMMARY

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It has been customary in the past to use local matching funds and regionally approved STP planning funds (i.e. 5% planning set-aside funds) to cover unfunded program expenditures in the transportation budget. These STP funds are no longer automatically set-aside by the RTPO because the Yakima Valley region has moved to a competitive process to receive STP Regional funds. Any additional STP Regional planning funds received by the RTPO in the future will have to be approved by the MPO/RTPO Executive Committee and be designated for a specific planning project and funding amount. In SFY 2008, a small amount of STP Regional planning funds (\$13,069) were used to cover consultant costs related to finishing the update of the Metropolitan and Regional Transportation Plan. In SFY 2009, a small amount of STP Regional planning funds (\$18,000) was awarded to the Yakima County GIS Department to work in conjunction with WSDOT and conduct an aerial photo fly-over of Yakima County. With the aerial photos recently available to local agencies for planning purposes, this project is already having a positive benefit on our region's transportation planning activities.

There was **\$92,312.26** carry forward of STP Regional planning funds into SFY 2010. Additionally, **\$49,460.77** in FHWA PL – Group 01 funds from FFY 2008, **\$173,602.00** in FHWA PL – Group 03 funds from FFY 2008, **\$57,867.00** in FHWA PL – Group 03 funds from FFY 2009, **\$99,529.00** in FHWA PL – Group 05 funds from FFY 2009 and **\$76,036.00** in FHWA PL – Group 05 funds from FFY 2009 will also carry forward into SFY 2010. All federal FTA, state RTPO, and state CTR funds and grants have been spent and there will be no carry forward of any of these funds into SFY 2010. These adjustments have been made and the final SFY 2009 financial summary is found in *Appendix B*.

## SFY 2010 WORK EXPECTATIONS

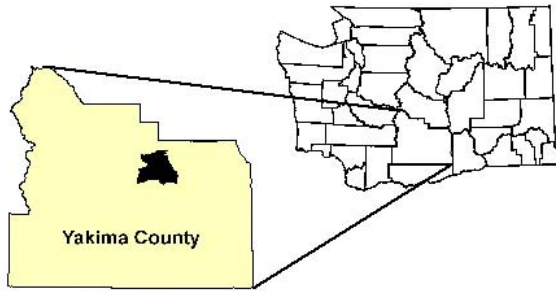
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The YVCOG will meet all required elements of the 2010 UPWP. The YVCOG will continue to enrich interaction with our membership, agencies, organizations, and civic representatives such as the Greater Yakima Chamber of Commerce, the Yakima Regional Clean Air Authority, Yakima Community Development Association, Yakima City Transit, and WSDOT South Central Region.

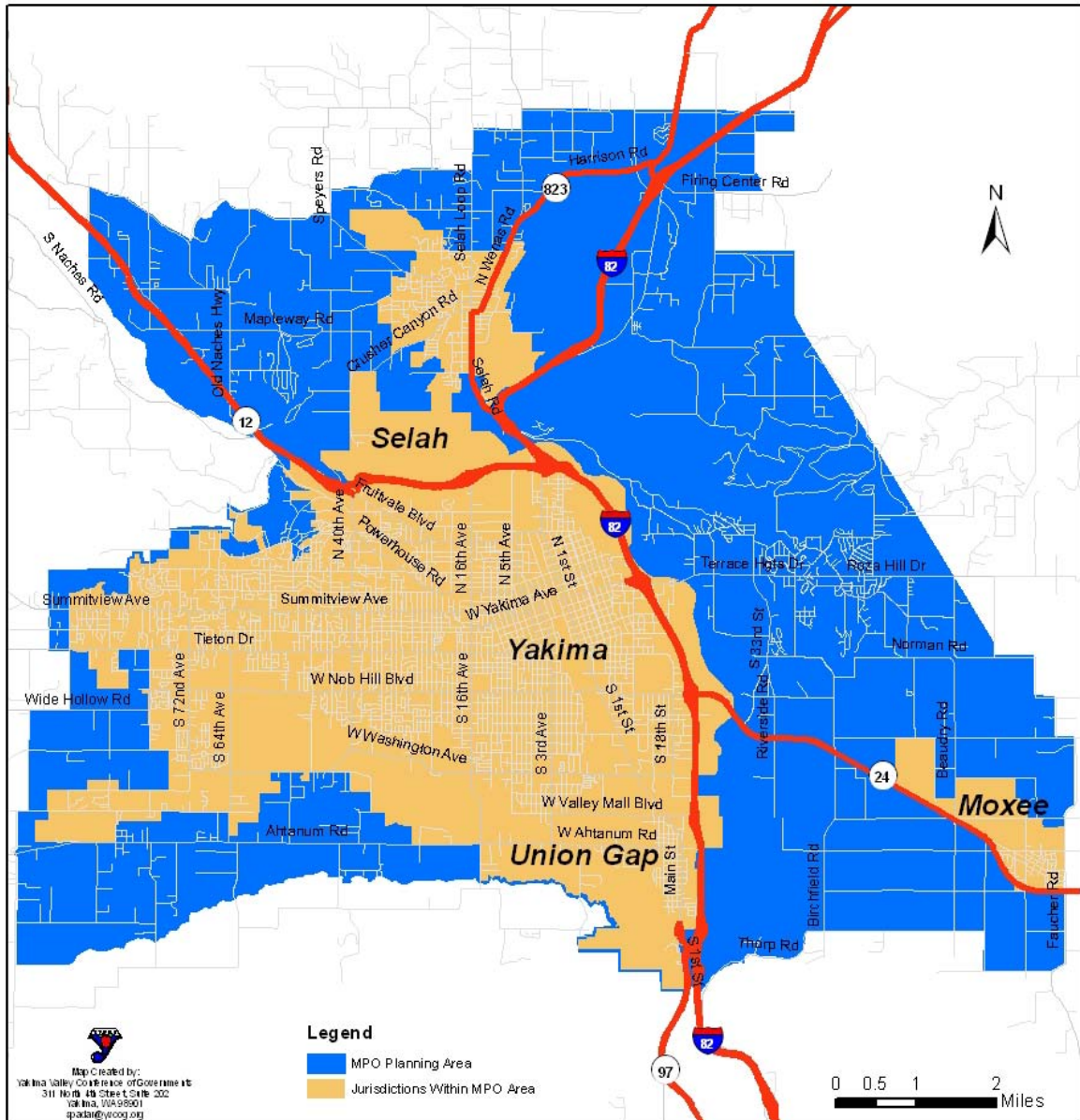
The YVCOG will do this by meeting the goals, and completing the tasks outlined in the *SFY 2010 Unified Planning Work Program* (UPWP). Particular attention will be paid to the following:

1. Implementing the adopted *Yakima Valley Metropolitan and Regional Transportation Plan 2007-2027*.
2. Actively participating in the implementation and update of the WTP by adding local value to the process.
3. Ensuring environmental considerations are incorporated, where appropriate, early in the transportation planning process.
4. Ensuring equity and environmental justice issues are addressed early in the transportation planning process.
5. Enhancing the efficiency, integration, and connectivity of the transportation system, across and between modes, for people and freight.
6. Ensuring the *Yakima Valley Metropolitan and Regional Transportation Plan 2007-2027*, and member jurisdictions' GMA plans are consistent with each other, as required in RCW 47.80.023 and 47.80.030.
7. Leading development of the required four year update to the Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan and amending the adopted MTP/RTP as appropriate,
8. Coordinating with WSDOT to update the Highway System Plan and incorporating economic vitality criteria into the prioritization process to ensure that it is consistent with the adopted Yakima Valley M/RTP,
9. Utilizing the inter-agency consultation process to develop a process and accompanying evaluation criteria to meet planning, programming, and project level transportation conformity requirements for CO and PM<sub>10</sub>. In addition to complying with existing conformity requirements, continue to coordinate with the Yakima Regional Clean Air Agency concerning new transportation planning requirements related to PM<sub>2.5</sub> and CO<sub>2</sub>,
10. Using the best available data and methodology to identify mobile deficiencies on our transportation network.
11. Continuing to Support the professional development of staff.

**Appendix A**  
**MPO AND RTPD PLANNING AREA MAPS**



**Yakima Valley**   
**Metropolitan Planning  
Organization  
Planning Area**



**SFY 2009 FINANCIAL SUMMARY TABLE**



**Yakima Valley MPO/RTPO  
SFY 2009 Unified Planning Work Program Financial Report  
July 1, 2008 to June 30, 2009**

SFY2009	FEDERAL FUNDS		STATE FUNDS			STP Regional Planning Set-aside	TOTAL
	FHWA PL *	FTA Section 5303	CTR Grant	RTPO	RTPO Carryover		
	<i>13.5% match</i>	<i>20% match</i>	<i>No Match Required</i>			<i>13.5% match</i>	
<b>REVENUE AVAILABLE</b>	\$323,899	\$92,882	\$80,000	\$97,750	\$12,760	\$110,312	\$717,603
<b>EXPENDITURES (Billed)</b>	\$42,969	\$92,882	\$80,000	\$97,750	\$12,760	\$18,000	\$344,361
<b>CARRY FORWARD</b>	\$456,494	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$92,312	\$548,806

\* Yakima Valley MPO/RTPO received additional FFY 2009 FHWA PL appropriations during SFY 2009.