



*Yakima Valley
Metropolitan and Regional Transportation Planning
Organizations*

SFY2014 ANNUAL REPORT

July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2014



Prepared by

*Yakima Valley Conference of Governments
Planning Staff*

INTRODUCTION

The *Annual Report* relates directly to the first year of the *YVCOG SFY 2014-2015 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)*, which was approved by FHWA and FTA on May 20, 2013 and outlines in detail the planning tasks to be completed during a two-year financial cycle. 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) 2014. This annual report lists work completed during SFY 2014, and identifies revenue sources utilized from the state, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), and revenues from required local match amounts.

The Yakima Valley Conference of Governments (YVCOG) is the lead planning agency for the federally-designated MPO for the Greater Yakima Metropolitan area, 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 is responsible for work described in the *UPWP*.

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

SFY2014 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The Yakima Valley Conference of Governments met or exceeded all federal and state transportation planning, programming and administrative requirements. Additionally, the YVCOG successfully accomplished the routine tasks set out under the work elements of the *SFY 2014-2015 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)*. Of special note are the following accomplishments:

- **2013-2016 Metropolitan and Regional Transportation Improvement Programs (MTIP/RTIP)**

The 2013-2016 MTIP/RTIP and amendments were 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). The 2013-2016 MTIP/RTIP met all local, state and federal requirements for its adoption into the Washington State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). YVCOG staff processed amendments to the 2013-2016 MTIP/RTIP in January 2013, February 2013, March 2013, April 2013, and June 2013, as reported in the SFY 2013 Annual report.

YVCOG staff processed SFY 2014 amendments to the 2013-2016 MTIP/RTIP in August 2013, and October 2013.

- **2014-2017 Metropolitan and Regional Transportation Improvement Programs (MTIP/RTIP)**

The 2014-2017 MTIP and amendments were developed with input from local jurisdictions and citizens through their elected and appointed officials serving on the Yakima Valley Metropolitan and Regional Transportation Planning Organization's (MPO/RTPO) Executive Committee, and the MPO/RTPO Technical Advisory Committee (TAC). The 2014-2017 MTIP met all local, state and federal requirements for its adoption into the Washington State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP).

YVCOG processed SFY 2014 amendments to the 2014-2017 MTIP/RTIP in January 2014, March 2014, and April 2014.

- **Air Quality Conformity Determinations**

YVCOG transportation planning staff performed air quality modeling and issued air quality conformity determinations for the 2014-2017 MTIP and subsequent amendments. On December 10, 2013 the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) issued a finding that the Yakima Valley 2014-2017 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 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 PM₁₀ maintenance areas of the Yakima Valley is found in *Appendix A*.

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

MAP-21 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 and the Yakima County Special Needs Transportation Coalition to lead development of the plan. In SFY 2014, People for People initiated the process of updating the Coordinated Public Transit and Human Services Transportation Plan using a set of comprehensive surveys (plan to be adopted in SFY 2015). YVCOG will continue coordinating with WSDOT, the Agency Council on Coordinated Transportation and People for People to update the plan to identify/prioritize transportation projects and programs for funding consideration.

- **Surface Transportation Program (STP) Regional Distribution Process**

STP funding for local/regionally significant projects is distributed based upon a prioritized list that was developed using a regionally developed application and scoring criteria. The most recent call for projects was issued in January 2013 (SFY 2013), which is used to prioritize regionally significant projects to utilize obligation authority (OA) and meet our region's target. There was no need for an additional call for projects in SFY 2014. The prioritized list has been the basis for advancing projects for STP funds which were reasonably expected to be available in the FFY 2014, ending September 30, 2014.

- **Surface Transportation Program (STP) Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) Distribution Process**

In SFY 2014, a call for projects was issued to cover a four-year TAP funding cycle of 2014-2015-2016-2017. A total amount of \$1,113,735 is available for the funding cycle, with a

minimum of 17% going to projects in rural communities. A ranked list, using a regionally developed application and scoring criteria, was created to distribute TAP funds to urban and rural projects. The maximum amount for a single project was \$275,000. From the ranked list, projects in the communities of Yakima, Selah, Sunnyside, Grandview, and Tieton will be eligible to obligate TAP funds during the four-year funding cycle.

▪ **Yakima Valley Regional ITS Architecture**

Throughout SFY 2014, YVCOG staff, representatives from a national ITS Architecture team, and a group of local stakeholders created the first local Yakima Valley Regional ITS Architecture. Several meetings were held between YVCOG staff and the national ITS Architecture team. Monthly progress updates were given to both the MPO/RTPO Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and the MPO/RTPO Executive Committee and Policy Board. YVCOG staff, the national team, and local stakeholders held an all-day workshop to review the draft ITS Architecture on January 24, 2014. Additional edits and review was made following the workshop. Ultimately, the final draft was presented to the TAC on April 10, 2014, where it was recommended for approval. On May 19, 2014, the MPO/RTPO Executive Committee and Policy Board adopted the Yakima Valley Regional ITS Architecture.

▪ **Partnership Building**

YVCOG staff and members participated in the interagency consultation process, and collaborated with citizen and jurisdictional interests throughout the year. The following are notable instances that occurred in SFY 2014:

1. Collaborated with the WSDOT South Central Region Office, the transit providers, and DRYVE/TRANS-ACTION Committees to coordinate transportation planning and economic development in the Yakima Valley region. These efforts included participation in the DRYVE/TRANS-ACTION information booth at the Central Washington State Fair (September 20-29, 2013).
2. Participated in quarterly Special Needs Transportation Coalition meetings with human services / transportation stakeholders in the region to assess the needs and gaps in human services transportation services and opportunities for better coordination.
3. Assured consistent regional evaluation of transportation facilities and recognized regional corridors with WSDOT and local agencies to comply with RCW 36.70A.
4. Reviewed the transportation elements of local comprehensive plans to ensure compliance and consistency with state law and the adopted regional transportation plan as required by RCW 36.70A.070.
5. Attended TTPO, Tribal consultation, and regional travel demand model development meetings with the Yakama Nation Engineering staff.

• **Coordination with national, state, and regional planning organizations**

Participation in national and statewide committees and ad hoc work groups in SFY 2014:

1. MPO/RTPO/WSDOT Coordinating Committee – quarterly meetings (Page Scott, Shawn Conrad)
2. TRANS-ACTION/DRYVE – bi-monthly meetings (Page Scott, Shawn Conrad, Joseph Calhoun)
3. Agency Council on Coordinated Transportation – membership on the council that meets bi-monthly (Page Scott)
4. Participation in CTR Technical Advisory Group (TAG) (Brian Curtin)

5. Washington State Commute Trip Reduction (CTR) Board representing affected RTPOs (Page Scott)
6. Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations (AMPO) Policy Committee (Page Scott)
7. Coordinated with other Washington State MPOs to assess federal and state policy (Page Scott, Christina Wickenhagen, Shawn Conrad, Joseph Calhoun)
8. Coordinated with other Washington State MPOs , Washington Tribes, FHWA, FTA, Eastern Washington University and WSDOT to assess federal and state tribal transportation policies meeting as the Tribal Transportation Planning Organization (TTPO) (Joseph Calhoun)

▪ **Staff Development**

Below is a list of work-related training sessions and professional conferences attended by the YVCOG's transportation planning staff during SFY 2014:

1. *Title VI training*, July 18, 2013, Spokane WA (Joseph Calhoun)
2. *WSDOT Public Transportation Conference*, August 26-29, 2013, Bellevue WA (Brian Curtin)
3. *WFOA*, September 17-20, 2013, Marysville WA (Christina Wickenhagen)
4. *2013 WSRO Fall Conference*, October 21-22, 2013, Winthrop WA (Brian Curtin)
5. *IACC Conference*, October 22-24, 2013, Wenatchee WA (Shawn Conrad)
6. *Yakima Valley Regional ITS Workshop*, January 24, 2014, Yakima WA (Joseph Calhoun)
7. *Visum Training*, February 24-25, Yakima WA (Shawn Conrad, John Rohrbaugh, Joseph Calhoun)
8. *ACCT Meeting*, March 14, 2014, Olympia WA (Page Scott)
9. *Records Retention*, April 4, 2014, Ellensburg WA (Christina Wickenhagen)
10. *2014 WSRO Spring Conference*, March 31-April 1, 2014, Olympia WA (Brian Curtin)
11. *Planning Association of Washington Conference*, April 9-11, 2014, Lynnwood WA (Shawn Conrad)
12. *COG Director Retreat*, April 27-29, Hood River OR, (Page Scott)
13. *WAPRO*, April 30-May 1, 2014, Lynnwood WA (Christina Wickenhagen)
14. *TTPO Quarterly Meeting*, June 3, 2014, Airway Heights, WA (Joseph Calhoun)
15. *NARC 48th Annual Conference and Exhibition*, June 8-11, 2014, Louisville, KY (Christina Wickenhagen)

SFY 2014 EXPENDITURE SUMMARY

STP Regional Planning funds

Regional transportation planning projects requesting STP Regional funds must be presented, prioritized and selected for funding. These funds are to be made available only for special regional planning projects which are endorsed by the MPO/RTPO Technical Advisory Committee and/or to cover MPO/RTPO expenses when all other funding sources have been exhausted. Local match requirement for STP funds is 13.5%.

**Yakima Valley MPO/RTPO
SFY 2014 Unified Planning Work Program Financial Report
July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2014**

SFY2014	FEDERAL FUNDS		STATE FUNDS		TOTAL
	FHWA PL	FTA Section 5303	RTPO	STP Regional Planning Funds	
	<i>13.5% match</i>	<i>13.5% match</i>	<i>No Match Required</i>	<i>13.5% match</i>	
Funds AVAILABLE	\$394,534.09	\$80,131.47	\$97,191.00	\$78,912.49	\$650,769.05
EXPENDITURES (Billed)	\$251,041.66	\$46,019.31	\$88,167.14	\$21,625.00	\$406,853.11
CARRY FORWARD to SFY2015	\$143,492.43	\$34,112.16	\$9,023.86	\$57,287.49	\$243,915.94

SFY 2014-2015 WORK Plan

The YVCOG will continue to enhance interaction with our membership, agencies, organizations, and civic representatives such as the area Chambers of Commerce, the Yakima Regional Clean Air Authority, Yakima City Transit, and WSDOT South Central Region.

The YVCOG will do this by implementing the Transportation Planning Responsibilities outlined in the *SFY 2014-2015 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)*, as follows:

Planning Level

- Participate in the implementation of the WTP and other statewide planning efforts when there is opportunity to add local value to this process.
- Ensure environmental considerations are incorporated, where appropriate, early in the planning process and with anticipation of emerging Greenhouse Gas (GHG) policies and PM2.5 regulations and thresholds.
- Ensure issues of safety and related concerns are addressed early in the planning process especially with regard to safety in school zones and at-grade railroad crossings.
- Ensure equity and environmental justice issues are addressed early in the planning process.

- Promote efficient system management and operations.
- Enhance the efficiency, integration, and connectivity of the transportation system, across and between modes, for people and freight to promote livability and sustainability principles.
- Increase the safety and security of the transportation system for motorized and non-motorized users.
- Emphasize preservation of the existing transportation system.
- Address limited English proficiency (LEP) concerns as part of all public participation plans.
- Ensure the Yakima Valley Metropolitan and Regional Transportation Plan 2010-2035, and member jurisdictions' GMA plans are consistent with each other, as required in RCW 47.80.023 and RCW 47.80.030.
- Ensure comprehensive multimodal and non-motorized transportation planning is integrated throughout the planning and programming process.
- Actively promote public transit and other Transportation Demand Management (TDM) transportation options.

Programming Level

- Encourage strategic thinking among the membership by actively incorporating the values embodied within our strategic planning emphasis areas (outlined above) into programmed transportation projects.
- Provide a venue and policy context for collaborative policy formation and needs identification with local officials and partnering agencies to meld interdisciplinary interests.
- Actively seek partnership opportunities with WSDOT's SCR.
- Support the integration of environmental streamlining and the programming activities of the YVCOG on behalf of its member jurisdictions.
- Ensure that Title VI considerations such as access, environmental justice, and LEP concerns are addressed at the program level.
- Ensure consistent regional evaluation of transportation facilities and recognized regional corridors, RCW 36.70A.
- Ensure state and tribal government-to-government guidelines are incorporated into both planning and programming activities.
- Ensure safety and security issues relevant to regional transportation facilities are addressed early during the planning phase and implemented on a project-by-project basis where applicable, especially with regard to safety in school zones, and railroad at-grade crossings.
- Ensure LOS methodologies and other performance measures are developed and used and coordinated by cities and the county to provide regional consistency.
- Monitor impacts to state highways and local roadway systems resulting from land use changes initiated by member jurisdictions.
- Use best available data and methodology to identify mobile deficiencies on our transportation network.

Appendix A
MPO AND RTPD PLANNING AREA MAPS





Yakima Valley Regional Transportation Planning Organization (RTPO) Planning Area

- US / State Route
- Primary Hydro
- MPO Boundary
- Yakima County
- WA County



