

Your Trusted Partner Since 1966

2024 Members' Report

































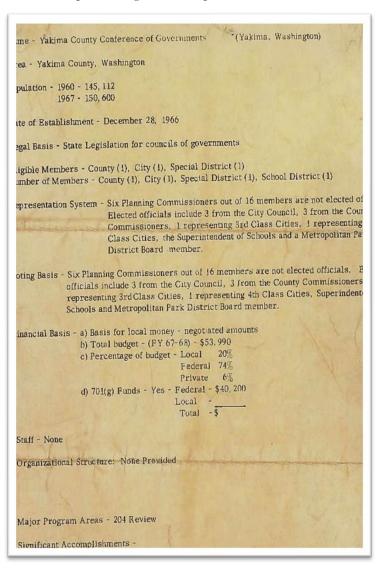
Purpose

Your Trusted Partner since 1966! Yakima County Conference of Governments was born with sixteen members and a budget of \$53,990! Yes... Yakima County Conference of Governments which eventually became Yakima Valley Conference of Governments to recognize the *independence* of the COG representing all municipalities.

Each municipality appoints an elected official to represent their municipality on the YVCOG General Membership. The General Membership then votes on an Executive Committee to govern the day-to-day operations at YVCOG.

At the time of conception, COG was established for elected officials to work on issues together and address concerns in a collaborative manner. This structure allowed them to maintain authority within their own jurisdictional boundaries, cut budget costs, and oversee programs and projects that crossed jurisdictional boundaries.

Yakima Valley Conference of Governments became the designated Federal Transportation Planning Organization in 1972 and the state Transportation Planning Organization in 1990 for the Yakima Valley. Transportation Policy Board was established to the govern transportation program, housed within YVCOG. The Transportation Policy Board the consists of YVCOG





























Contents

Message from Our Chair4
2024 Outstanding Service Award 5
Governing Boards 6
2024 YVCOG Staff 7
Programs and Services
Local Crime Lab8
Strategic Facilitation Services
Multimedia <u>13</u>
Transportation Planning 15
Website <u>19</u>
Land Use
Geographic Information Systems
Community Law Enforcement Partnership 25
Community Outreach & Engagement Services
Emergency Home Repair Services
Housing Services Program27
Emergency Home Repair Services
Health & Housing Services
YVCOG Wellness Program
Future Priories
2024 Revenues & Expenses



Message from Our Chair



On behalf of the Yakima Valley Conference of Governments, it is my honor to submit to you the YVCOG 2024 Annual Report. This report highlights the work accomplished during the year on behalf of our membership and the valley.

This past year was a challenging time for the Yakima Valley and that was true for the YVCOG as well. We saw numerous programs and initiatives advance, including the expansion of our locally owned and operated crime lab with the addition of Rapid DNA and cell phone investigations.

Through our partnerships with our members, county and state agencies, we were able to move our priorities on transportation, housing, and crime prevention forward by investing time, effort, and resources focused on solutions.

As your chairman, I could not be prouder of the work accomplished by our YVCOG staff, they went above and beyond, to ensure that our members received the resources and funding they needed to achieve their goals.

As we continue to work together to strengthen our valley, each member's voice is equally important. What one community does will affect its neighbors. As we share knowledge and resources, we will continue to provide solutions to our members' issues and challenges.

I am looking forward to what we can accomplish together in the new year!

James A. Restucci Executive Chairman, YVCOG

2024 Outstanding Service Award



Senator Curtis King was awarded the YVCOG 2024 Outstanding Service Award.

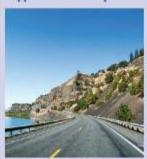
Senator Curtis King represents South Central Washington's 14th Legislative District, comprised of Bickleton, Centerville, Finley, Glenwood, Grandview, Lyle, Pasco, Roosevelt, Sunnyside, Toppenish, Wapato, and Yakima in the Washington State Senate. Since his original appointment to the Legislature in 2007, he has been a member of the Senate Transportation Committee on which he currently serves as the Ranking Minority Member. He is also the Ranking Minority Member on the Senate Labor & Commerce and serves on the Rules Committee.

King served as chair of the Senate Transportation Committee from 2015 through 2017, following two years as a bipartisan co-chair. During that time, he was the

transportation revenue package in more than a decade. The \$16 billion infrastructure package funds six transportation megaprojects, more than 140 regional congestion-relief and road safety projects, and invests \$1.4 billion for the maintenance and preservation of existing roads and bridges.

King is a past president of the Central Washington State Fair Board and has served as an active member for 16 years. He ran a commercial cabinet shop with his father and brother, growing it into a successful company with 40 employees.

Supplemental transportation budget



As ranking Republican on the Senate Transportation Committee, I was involved in developing the supplemental transportation budget, and am pleased the budget was approved unanimously by the Senate and House. The transportation budget provides \$100 million for maintenance and preservation of our state's roads and highways. Another \$31 million is for public safety, including additional Washington State Patrol cadet classes, DUI enforcement grants, wrong-way driver prevention and more. Several projects in the 14th District were added or funding was continued in the

primary sponsor of the first successful

supplemental budger. The most significant project is the Columbia River Bridge replacement between White Salmon and Hood River. Other projects include a new underpass for State Route 14 in Blingen, pedestrian and bicycle paths in West Yakima and White Salmon, repair of the State Route 241 Bridge in Mabton, and Interstate 82 economic development improvements between Yakima and Union Gap.

The seven bills he proposed during the 2024 session have been signed into law:

- SSB 5919: Allows public utility districts to sell biogenic carbon dioxide.
- ESB 5997: Adjusts plumbing trainee hours reporting.
- ESB 6087: Increases funding for the fire service training account.
- SSB 6089: Improves electrical inspector requirements and pathways.
- SSB 6108: Modifies prompt payment rules for retainage in construction contracts.
- SSB 6115: Establishes speed safety camera policies.
- SSB 6192: Modifies prompt payment rules for change orders in construction contracts

The 2024 supplemental state capital budget included major funding increases in K-12 school construction, behavioral-health facilities, affordable housing, water infrastructure, parks and more.

- Bringing It Home II 24-Hour Domestic Violence Shelter - \$8.72 million
- Perry Technical Institute Electrical Program - \$5 million
- West Klickitat Assisted Living Facility
 \$3 million
- Triumph Mental Health Treatment Center - \$2.5 million
- Wishram School District Portable Buildings - \$975,000
- Yakama Nation Detox Center -\$900,000
- Yakima Drop-In Center \$800,000
- Kittitas Valley Hospital Hydrogen Storage System - \$300,000

Yakima Valley Crime Lab Facility \$200,000

- Swan Graphics Equipment and Furnishings \$108,000
- Filipino American Community of Yakima Valley Building - \$103,000
- Mountain View Grange Improvements
 \$100,000
- Columbia Grange #87 Improvements - \$25,000
- School Modernization Grants for Glenwood School District (\$35,000), Roosevelt School District (\$35,000) and Goldendale School District (\$32,000)

2024 Executive Committee & Transportation Policy Board



Jim Restucci, Member-At-Large



John Hodkinson, Union Gap



Janice Gonzales, Zillah



LaDon Linde, Yakima County



Bill Moore, Grandview



Patricia Byers, Yakima



Julia Hart, Sunnyside



Madelyn Carlson, PFP



Jon Smith, YCDA



Brian White, WSDOT

2024 General Membership

Grandview: Bill Moore, Council Member Granger: Ryan Stonemetz, Council Member Harrah: Pat Krueger, Mayor

Mabton: Rachel Ruelas, Mayor Moxee: Rob Layman, Council Member Naches: Denny Carroll, Council Member Selah: David Monaghan, Council Member Sunnyside: Vicki Ripley, Council Member Tieton: Ed Marquand, Council Member Toppenish: Naila Duval, Council Member Union Gap: Jack Galloway, Council Member Wapato: Margaret Estrada, Mayor Yakima: Patricia Byers, Mayor

Yakima County: LaDon Linde, Commissioner Zillah: Janice Gonzales, Council Member

Meet Your 2024 Staff



The Yakima Valley Local Crime Laboratory



FIRST FULL OPERATIONAL YEAR!! The team at the local crime laboratory as well as our colleagues and administrators at the YVCOG are honored to be a part of this great endeavor to bring forensic technology to our rural law enforcement agencies.

Crime lab staff toured multiple interested parties through the local facility. The interest

for how the Yakima Valley has collaborated to fight crime continues to increase. Governor Inslee was impressed with the ability for the lab to process

evidence rapidly for the valley and the results this lab producing. The discussion for reducing gun violence and other crimes in the valley was high on his list for needing solutions like this. He was enthralled with the collaboration between the local communities to embark on an endeavor like this.



Federal, State and local elected officials toured the lab to learn about the results being produced.

Representative Chris Corry and Representative Steve Bergquist sat down with Kathy, Vicki, and Kristen after the tour to ask how they could help the lab to be a success. Our needs in 2024 consisted of funding for a new facility

and funding to support three projects: analysis and data collection of firearms crimes, support for investigations for deaths related to fentanyl, and to support the rapid DNA work group. With the support of Representative Corry, the LCL received \$200,000 capital funding to help with design and remodel costs for a new facility located in Zillah. We also received \$375,250 to fund the three additional projects listed above.



Since October 2024, the YVLCL has been using a paperless laboratory management system (xBit) full-time, and staff will be training user agencies to access the online portal for laboratory requests in Japuary of 2025. The laboratory management

the online portal for laboratory requests in January of 2025. The laboratory management system will allow member agencies to submit and track evidence while it is being processed.



Current Size of Local Crime Lab

The laboratory team has also developed an online training platform to host training videos related to collection of evidence, packaging evidence to be submitted to the lab, Spillman coding, and other various trainings relevant to law enforcement needs. Videos will be released in 2025.

Forensics at Work

In 2024, officers responded to the local hospital in response to a shooting victim that had just arrived.

The victim provided a

statement, and officers recovered physical evidence at the reported scene location and video evidence to corroborate statements. Additionally, the Flock system was used to identify the suspect vehicle providing vital investigative information for follow up. Probable cause was established and a warrant for the suspect vehicle was granted. The suspect vehicle was located and involved in a pursuit. The vehicle fled through a hop field and officers lost visual of it.





The recovered fired cartridge cases from the crime scene were entered into NIBIN and had multiple associations with shooting events. One of the shooting incidents was significant in the number of casings recovered totaled 46 and were of different calibers. Technology used for this case included but is not limited to: NIBIN, DRONE, and FLOCK, combined with the *timely response and processing of this data provided* the needed probable cause for the vehicle warrant as well as the investigative lead for follow up for the officers and detectives involved.

The direct congressional funding received to support the rapid DNA work group allowed staff to continue to coordinate a state-wide Rapid DNA work group. With Rapid DNA being a new tool in Washington State, writing policies and procedures that align with state and federal best practices is imperative. Rapid DNA testing has been successfully used for years in other states, and Washington state is engaging in this space. The Yakima Valley LCL was the first to have the equipment running and verified, statewide.

The Yakima Valley LCL successfully receiving(ed) the Local Heroes Grant from GESA Credit Union. The funding received was used to help purchase lab supplies, DNA kit supplies, and web-based applications. Through the award and recognition from GESA, the LCL members were able to save \$8,000 in costs for supplies. The Yakima Valley LCL was also successful in being awarded the Yakama Cares grant for \$3,000. The award assisted in operation expenses including the cost of trainings, lab supplies, and online web applications.



Working with YACORPS, lab staff is currently facilitating a work group to review Spillman coding for gun crimes. The working group is coordinating and working to establish a universal coding system to pull accurate data and reporting to ensure data collection is efficient and reported accurately.

Since the local crime lab opened its doors, measuring success and accurately reporting data is a top priority. The 2023 and 2024 statistics for the Yakima Valley are:

2023 STATISTICS

of firearms/test fires: 96 # of cartridge cases: 465 # of NIBIN entries: 173 # of NIBIN leads: 107 NIBIN Lead rate: 62% Cell phone analysis: 18 Investigative assistance: 16 Case Investigative Assistance: 16

2024 STATISTICS

of firearms/test fires: 279 # of cartridge cases: 1181 # of NIBIN entries: 469 # of NIBIN leads: 176 38% NIBIN Lead rate: Cell phone analysis: 86 44 Investigative assistance: Case Investigative Assistance: 16 Rapid DNA samples: 16

What is "# of firearms/test fires"?

If a firearm is in law enforcement custody, trained staff shoots the firearm, in a controlled setting. The test fires provide a cartridge case to enter into the NIBIN instrument at the Lab. Agencies may submit test fires from a firearm or the firearm.

What is "# of cartridge cases"?

Evidence cartridge cases submitted from shooting scenes are screened into groups. A representative from the group is entered into the NIBIN.

What is "# of NIBIN entries"?

NIBIN is the National Integrated Ballistic Information Network controlled by Alcohol, Tobacco & Firearms (ATF). Trained staff insert the evidence or test fired cartridge case into the lab's NIBIN instrument. The NIBIN instrument takes high-resolution images exposing the markings stamped (like a fingerprint) on the cartridge case. These images are uploaded into the national database to cross reference similar images to reveal investigative leads.

What is a NIBIN lead?

Leads are unconfirmed associations between two or more cartridge case entries. Leads assist law enforcement to work together to investigate other gun crimes that could be associated with the same gun used in the investigation they are working on. NIBIN offers ballistic evidence giving law enforcement information they can then follow up during their investigation. This forensic evidence allows law enforcement to quickly piece evidence together when working on a crime involving a gun.

What does the "NIBIN Lead rate" mean?

The lead rate determines the number of unconfirmed associations divided by the number of NIBIN entries. This indicates the possibility of multiple crimes connected in the Yakima Valley. The national average for NIBIN lead rates is 28%. Yakima Valley is 62% which could mean the same gun is used during different gun related crimes.

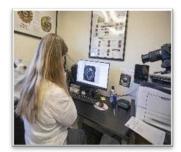
What is "cell phone analysis"?

Cell phone analysis assists law enforcement with extracting data from a phone, which is then given to law enforcement to assist them with gathering additional evidence.

What does "investigative assistance" mean?

Investigative assistance is the leg work provided to gather information, data, and forensic evidence for law enforcement with cases they are working on. Law enforcement can review information provided to them to determine if they would like to follow up on this information.









Strategic Facilitation



YVCOG assisted Selah by facilitating their Board Retreat in 2024. Selah had a new City Administrator and Councilmembers eager to learn about the direction Selah was heading. This process allowed discussions of the history of Selah's achievements, key people who made were instrumental



in successes, major projects completed, education of projects, resources available to them, how decisions they make impact the people they serve, and an opportunity to determine priorities. Through the process, the council did identify their goals and priorities. By envisioning what success would look like, the council outlined projects with timelines and how they would measure success.



The process permitted the administrator to have a greater understanding of the council's expectations. The council was able to share with their new administrator the preferred communication and processes they expect when they are asked to make decisions for the city.



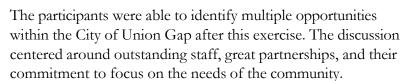
It was an honor to serve **Selah** in this capacity. We look forward to watching their achievements in the future!

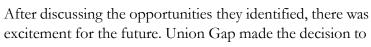


YVCOG was grateful to facilitate **Union Gap's Board Retreat.** Council members identified the required needs of the community and listed some of the wants they believed the residents have. They discussed the current climate in Union Gap. By identifying current political factors, and regulatory trends, they were able to discuss how this can play a part in their ability to perform their role.

The council members then discussed and identified the actual role and responsibilities for a governing body. This allowed them the opportunity to understand what the community and staff need from the elected officials to perform their duties.

The council members and senior staff discussed the strengths of staff, community groups, leadership, and assets. They acknowledged ways to improve Union Gap by viewing the problems identified as opportunities in the future.





identify two long-term goals and two short-term goals. As they agreed to these terms, they took time to envision the future once their goals were met.

It is a pleasure to work with **Union Gap** to achieve their identified goals and priorities for years to come!











YVCOG has had to honor to facilitate **Grandview's Board Retreat** for the past three years. Watching Grandview to achieve the goals they set for staff has been exciting! Grandview has continued to demonstrate a clear focus on the goals and direction of the city. The council began the retreat by reviewing accomplishments from the past year.

Revisiting the previous year's decisions and goals identified during the 2023 retreat provided accountability for the past year's actions taken by Council.

Department heads completed a SPOT (strengths, problems, opportunities, and threats) with their staff and provided this information upfront to the City Manager and for the retreat.

The retreat allowed each department to share strengths with the Council before beginning to discuss their budget requests for 2025.

All the departments mentioned dedicated staff and partnerships as a strength.

The problems and threats identified for each department became opportunities for growth. By recognizing these issues, Grandview will have an opportunity to continue to move forward as a sought-after and desirable city to live in.

The council took the time to discuss the opportunities staff presented for each department and continued to discuss other opportunities they may have. The council recognizes the growth for the city will require an investment in staffing, services, equipment, water, sewer services, roads, infrastructure, recreation, public safety, emergency services, housing, and economic development opportunities.





Council discussed *Community Education* vs. *Community Engagement*. Wanting to be transparent and informing the community about events is important to those who were in attendance.

The council had a presentation regarding the American Rescue Plan Act projects, funds that needed to be spent, and how to spend the remaining ARPA funds within the final guidance eligibility rules. and for the final guidance.

Once the retreat was finished, they had set their 2025 priorities. Working with Grandview is always a pleasure!







YVCOG structures facilitations to fit the needs of each municipality. Depending on the desired outcomes for the meeting, YVCOG brings in different exercises for the group to participate in. By the end of the meeting, the group will have actionable steps to accomplish their priorities or goals determined by the group participating.

Multimedia

YVCOG created a means for members to engage the public using media. Knowing the importance of keeping the public current on the projects or priorities in government, we knew we could assist by sharing many of the incredible things that we do in our communities. Ranging from Land Use Planning to Transportation to Housing to Community Engagement and so on!

YVCOG was able to offer many types of media coverage.

Photography/Videography

Shane, Media Specialist, was able to travel to most outreach events that YVCOG participated in, capturing footage. Our focus is to spotlight what is happening in your communities and how people can participate.

Shane also has the task of taking professional headshots for our staff. If this is something you would be interested in having him perform for your elected officials and or staff, please reach out to me.

CogCast

Chris has been hosting CogCast. We have produced 6 episodes. Averaging 65 views per episode, we expect the views to increase as people learn they can learn about what is going on in the City/Town/County.

Our first 4 guests were COG employees:



Our last 2 CogCasts are from outside of our organization:

- Edica Esqueda, Impaired Driving Program Manager
- Commissioner Kyle Curtis, Yakima County





Social Media

Shane managed our Facebook and YouTube accounts. He has attended government based social media trainings/webinars. We made daily/weekly posts on our platforms. Our focus was to continue growing an online presence for YVCOG and to engage with our communities using this modern form of outreach.







YVCOG Website



YVCOG YouTube



YVCOG Facebook

Transportation Planning

20-YEAR REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN ADOPTED!

YVCOG adopted its new 2024-2045 Metropolitan & Regional Long Range Transportation Plan (M/R LRTP). The LRTP document addressed our region's jurisdictions and transportation agencies' current and future planning opportunities over the next 20 years. In a myriad of transportation areas including

- Road/Bridge Maintenance, Preservation, Construction and Expansion
- Airport Facilities and Services
- "Potential" return of Passenger Rail Services lost in 1981.
- Trails, Pathways and Bicycle Facilities
- Environmental and Wildlife Mitigation and Protection
- Local/Regional/National/International Freight Movement
- Public Transportation (Regional and Intercity Transit Services / Micro-Transit / Active Transportation
- Electric/Hydrogen Vehicles and Fueling infrastructure / Automation Technologies.



The document anticipates over \$2.937 Billion in needed transportation investments over the planning period to keep the region's comprehensive (multi-jurisdictional) transportation system(s) in a "state of good repair", accessible to all users, and sustainable.

YVCOG ENGAGED IN STATEWIDE AND MULTI-STATE TRANSPORTATION PLANNING

2024 was in very active year for YVCOG Staff in participating in Local, State, and Multi-State Transportation issues with significant impact to our member jurisdictions.

SR12 / Naches Active Transportation Corridor Study:

YVCOG sponsored this WSDOT/Naches/YVCOG partnership effort that identifies performance gaps in active transportation, access management, mobility, and safety along and across US 12 in and adjacent to the Town of Naches.



WSDOT Intercity Bus Plan Update:

YVCOG's Transportation Manager was a steering committee member of the update of 2019 document, the IBP evaluated existing intercity transit services statewide, revisited potential route expansion alternatives that came out of the 2019 update, explored how to restore meaningful service3 across the state, and examined the feasibility of adding service in the Yakima Valley and along the 1-90 corridor.

Federal Rail Administration's (FRA) Long Distance Route Study.

YVCOG's Transportation Manager was a participant in the (7-state) NW Regional Wo evaluated the restoration of daily intercity passenger rail service and the potential for new Amtrak long distance routes. With a long-term vision for long-distance passenger rail service and identify capital projects and funding needed to implement that vision. The former "Stampede Pass" rail corridor between Auburn and Pasco (via the Kittitas and Yakima Valley's) was identified as one of 15 corridors nationwide that will be further considered for planning and future funding opportunities.

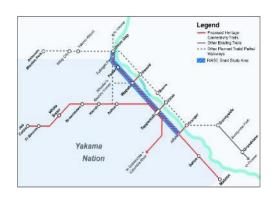


Commercial Aviation Coordination Commission (CACC):

The CCAC was created by the state legislature in 2019 to solve a forecasted shortage of capacity for commercial air passenger service, air cargo, and general aviation, including recommending an ideal location for a new international airport. YVCOG is providing regional multimodal transportation planning support to the City of Yakima's efforts as a potential candidate airport for CCAC consideration. YVCOG's Transportation Manager is in consideration as a metropolitan planning organization representative on the committee.

Yakama Nation Heritage Connectivity Trail (HCT):

The HCT is a multi-agency cooperative effort of the Yakama Nation along with WSDOT, Washington Traffic Safety Commission, National Park Service, Yakima County, Yakima Health District, Eastern Washington University, and YVCOG focusing on addressing priorities reducing potential for vehicle and pedestrian crashes in support of reconnecting cultural, spatial, and recreation areas within the Yakama Nation boundaries and neighboring communities. YVCOG staff provides technical and regional planning assistance to member jurisdictions and is a member of the HCT Steering Committee.



Yakima Greenway Master Plan Update:

The 2024 Greenway Master Plan Update addresses historic mission goals of preserving and enhancing the Yakima River, its tributaries, and surrounding landscapes since 1980. The Greenways master plan was last updated in 1995 and is addressing an expansion of the greenway's service area, capital & land use needs, and impacts/strategies caused by to environment, ecological and user issues. YVCOG Transportation Program is an ex-officio member of the Yakima Greenway Board of Directors. Staff provides technical and regional planning assistance to the Greenway staff and board

\$7.75 Million in Federal Funding Awards in 2024

Member jurisdictions were awarded \$7,748,335 in Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG), Congestion Mitigation & Air Quality (CMAQ) and Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) in 2024. Funding awarded included:

STBG – Surface Transportation Block Grant

CMAQ – Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality

City of Union Gap – Regional Beltway Phase 2 Stage 2b – Right of Way

•	City of Grandview - Old Inland Empire Hwy - Construction		
	(Augmentation Award)	\$	
	63,000		
•	Town of Naches - Naches Trail Improvements - Construction		
	(Augmentation Award)	 \$ 225,000	
•	City of Selah – First Street Resurfacing	 \$ 714,012	
•	City of Sunnyside – 1st Street & YHV Intersection Improvements	 \$1,221,478	
	(partial)		
•	City of Tieton – Wisconsin Ave Reconstruction	 \$1,717,950	
•	City of Union Gap – Regional Beltway Phase 2 Stage 2b – Right of Way	 \$1,623,705	
•	City of Yakima – E Nob Hill & Fair Ave Intersection		
	(Augmentation of 2013 Award)	-\$1,000,000	

\$ 696,225

TAP - Transportation Alternatives Program

•	Town of Naches – Naches Trail Improvements – Construction		
	(Augmentation Award)	 \$	65,000
•	City of Yakima - Bicycle Traffic Markings (aka "Green Paint") Project	 \$	46,965
•	City of Yakima – Yakima Valley Trolley Bridge Rehabilitation	 \$	375,000

In December 2024, YVCOG announced a new call for projects for the CMAQ program that would award Federal Fiscal Year 2025 and 2026 funds. YVCOG's MPO jurisdictions are eligible for CMAQ funding.

Also, the new [Federal] **Carbon Reduction Program (CRP)** grant was announced in December. The CRP Grant provides funding for transportation projects designed to reduce carbon dioxide emissions. The CRP is the first federal funding programs in which metropolitan **and rural** jurisdictions are eligible for carbon emissions funding.

YVCOG Member Jurisdictions Moving Transportation Forward

Six Projects Obligated

\$ 2,021,535 in YVCOG administered federal funds in 2024

- > \$861,435 Jurisdictional sidewalks, pathways, and trail improvements
- > \$600,000 Regional Planning (traffic modeling, count, various studies, multimodal workgroups)
- ➤ \$450,000 Air Quality (dust abatement) paving
- > \$110,100 Pedestrian (crossing) Safety

TRAFFIC COUNTS:



YVCOG again contracted with a traffic counting firm to provide regional traffic counts for our members. In 2024, the Regional Traffic Count Program performed **242** tube counts, turning movements, and pathway video counts for all 14 municipalities.

Member jurisdictions use this data to determine traffic volumes on street systems, project effects of land use changes, and measure mobility impacts. They then use this data to help determine different future project needs for roads, sidewalks, trails, and transit corridors.

The Traffic Count Program will be extended through 2025 to assist members with their needs.

Other Highlights:

- YVCOG updated and adopted its [Federal] Title VI Plan in September
- Performed Request for Proposals (RFPs) and selected consultant (TranspoGroup) for both:
 - The Yakima Valley Regional Safety Action Plan developing federal funding eligible safety projects and programs benefitting all member jurisdictions, Yakama Nation, WSDOT, and other transportation stakeholders (to be completed by Summer 2026)
 - Update the 2015 Commute Trip Reduction Regional (YVCOG) and Jurisdictional (Yakima, Selah, Union Gap, Moxee, Yakima County, and Toppenish) Plans for adoption in Spring 2025
- Develop and submitted a WSDOT Public Transportation Consolidated Grant to fund the Yakima Valley Regional Transit Feasibility Study Phase III, that will look at opportunities and strategies in developing new public transportation revenues and operations.
- Continued participation in numerous transportation stakeholder and jurisdictional transportation groups addressing multiple multimodal transportation topics including:
 - o City of Yakima Pedestrian & Bicycle Advisory Committee
 - o City of Yakima (Transit) Citizen's Advisory Committee
 - WSDOT Commute Trip Reduction / Transportation Demand Management (CTR/TDM)
 Executive Committee, Technical Committee (member), and Implementer Committee (member)
 - Yakama Nation Tribal Transportation Safety Committee
 - o Statewide MPO Committee and RTPO Committee
 - Washington State Courts "Transportation Access to Services" Workgroup (Yakima County Area)
 - o Yakima County Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC)
 - Yakima Bikes and Walks Citizens committee
 - o Statewide Wheel Options "Switch Your Trips" Committee
 - O DRYVE & TRANS-Action Transportation Advocacy Committees

Switch your Trips Activity October 1 – 31, 2024

FY 2024 Budget vs. Actual Expenditure Comparison Table											
	Task	FY 2024 Planning Budget	Actual Expended	Budget vs. Expended Variance							
1	Program Administration	\$ 588,187.00	\$ 642,048.26	\$ (53,861.26							
2	Data Collection and Analysis	\$ 432,705.00	\$ 205,354.36	\$ 227,350.64							
3	Develop SFY 2024 UPWP / Annual Reports & Updates	\$ 25,511.00	\$ 83,235.36	\$ (57,724.36							
4	SRTS/CS/PM Jurisdictional Assistance Activities	\$ 66,189.00	s 90,598.96	S (24,409.96							
5	HSTP Activities & Planning / Consolidated Grant	\$ 21,260.00	\$ 5,452.45	\$ 15,807.55							
6	Yakima County Transit Feasibility Study – Ph 2	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 6,159.91	\$ (1,159.91)							
7	Commute Trip Reduction (CTR)	\$ 162,899.00	\$ 57,055.92	\$ 105,843.08							
8	Regional Corridor Studies / Multi-model Activities	\$ 374,645.00	\$ 23,771.27	\$ 350,873.73							
Totals		\$ 2,079,869.00	\$ 1,113,676.49	\$ 966,192.51							





YVCOG Website

yvcog.us

YVCOG went through a complete overhaul of our website. This was one of our goals for 2024 and the site launched mid-2024. We believe it to be more user friendly and easier on the eye. While we are constantly making improvements, we would like to hear from you.

What would you like to see on our website? Are you having any issues navigating the page? Can't find something? Do you have any suggestions?



Website Maintenance & Development

Jodi, our Communications Specialist, has played the biggest part in the development of our refined YVCOG website. It was a long process that took much time and effort focusing on developing something fresh and appealing to our viewers!

Jodi continues to make webpage updates daily, keeping our links up to date, agendas posted, information cycling, fun images to bring life to our page, and so much more!

This year we were able to get several employees cross-trained to also update the webpage as needed.





Programs

All our programs are featured on the website:

- Crime Lab
- Transportation
- Community Services
- Land Use Planning



Services

Similarly to programs, we also choose to feature each of the services that YVCOG provides to members. Within each of these services you will find a

linked page that has an overview.

- Media Services
- GIS
- Community Outreach
- Members & Partnerships
- Strategic Facilitation



Boards & Committees

Each of these boards has their own page, with an overview highlighting the Members, Agendas and Minutes.

- Executive Committee
- General Membership
- Transportation Boards & Committees
- Agendas & Minutes
- Meeting Dates



About Us

Here is where you will find everything else. Each link taking you to a page of its own!

- Members & Partners
- Governing Documents
- History
- Archive Center
- Public Documents & Request
- Contact Us

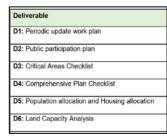


Land Use Planning

Planning for anticipated population growth under the Washington State Growth Management Act (GMA).

In 2024, two major Land Use Planning efforts began: the Periodic Update and the Climate Element. These

projects started in 2024 and will continue into 2026. The Periodic Update is mandated by the Washington State Growth Management Act (GMA) to make sure that all of the changes to the law over the last 8 years are reflected and are within each jurisdiction's Comprehensive Plan, Critical Areas Ordinance, Subdivision Ordinance, and Zoning Ordinance. YCVOG is assisting Grandview, Granger, Harrah, Mabton, Naches, Tieton, Union Gap, and Wapato with this update effort.





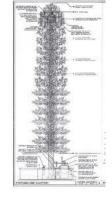
The Climate Element is a new element within each jurisdiction's Comprehensive Plan. The purpose of the Climate Element is to identify ways in which each city or town can be resilient when reacting to impacts from changing weather and climate. A community survey was conducted in 9 of our cities and towns to identify what impacts the citizens are experiencing firsthand. YVCOG is assisting Grandview, Granger, Harrah, Mabton, Naches, Selah, Tieton, Union Gap, and Wapato with their Climate Elements. Wildfire, drought, flooding, and extreme temperatures are some of the impacts that have being identified so far.

YVCOG provided land use planning for many of our communities throughout 2024 to ensure that they remained compliant with the Growth Management Act (GMA), their Comprehensive Plans, and their development regulations. Some of the services we provided included processing conditional use permits, subdivisions, annexations, rezones, and text amendments to Comprehensive Plans and development regulations.

Some of the specific projects we worked on are listed below:



In **Grandview**, we updated development standards for the R-1P Zoning District to allow for residential development on existing lots, we rezoned 180 acres for future residential development, permitted a 100-foot communication tower, and processed a 32-lot subdivision. We also saw several inquiries into multifamily development and local retail and service businesses.





Granger had a busy 2024, with six subdivisions creating 15 lots being processed, permitting a residential mini-storage facility, assisting with boundary line adjustments, and permitting a new brew pub near the city center. There were several inquiries into retail development, such as a flea market and a strip mall, as well.

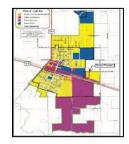


YVCOG's planning team worked with **Harrah** in 2024 on the Periodic Update and Climate Element.



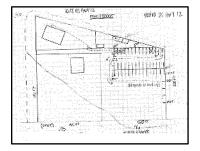


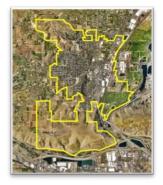
Mabton projects this past year varied, they included: boundary line adjustments to annexations and subdivisions. The city annexed 5 acres of land that will be subdivided into 21 new lots. Mabton is also working with a property owner to create 31 lots for residential development. There have also been several requests for assistance with development on existing lots, including single-family residences and accessory dwelling units.





Naches requested assistance with a proposal to repurpose a service station into a café. We assisted with a review of parking requirements and potential issues with Shoreline jurisdiction of the Naches River.



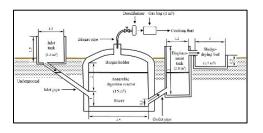


YVCOG is assisting **Selah** with the creation of their Climate Element.



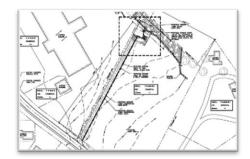


YVCOG's Land Use Planning assistance for **Sunnyside** was related to a review of environmental documents for an anaerobic digester to be located within the city, as well as providing guidance on a multifamily development application and potential wetland issues for development of a property within the city.





YVCOG worked with **Tieton** to obtain a grant to update its Zoning Ordinance to allow Middle Housing within the city. We also processed an application to place a 120-foot communication tower within the city.





Union Gap saw a lot of development in 2024, including new warehouses and shipping and receiving facilities for new and expanding businesses, several RV and boat storage facilities, a carwash, new restaurants, the expansion of a manufacturing plant, and a clinic. There were four subdivisions approved that created 8 new lots for industrial and manufacturing uses. We also assisted with updating the Flood Hazard Ordinance and updating development regulations within the Airport Safety Overlay.



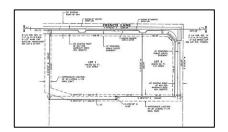




YVCOG worked with **Wapato** throughout 2024 to update its Parks and Recreation Comprehensive Plan. We also permitted a new daycare facility and the expansion of another daycare, processed a rezone to allow residential development, and approved a subdivision for the construction of homes.



Yakima requested that YVCOG staff present training at a Planning Commission meeting.

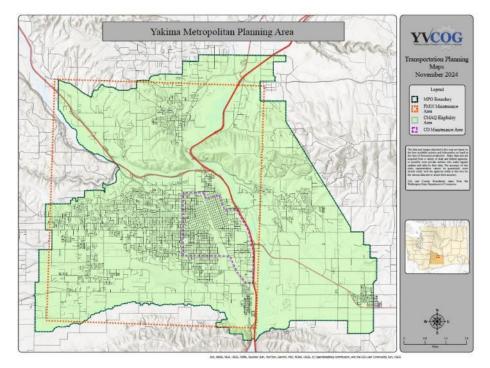


GIS - Geographic Information Systems

YVCOG took 2024 as an opportunity to migrate to an enterprise account that will allow our members to create different scenarios with their data. 2024 was between the new Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) for transportation and the Periodic Updates (Comprehensive Plans). Moving into this new environment provides our members more access to their data and our hope is, to make mapping more convenient.



As we transitioned to this new platform, we continued to produce maps needed by our members or within the specific programs here at the COG.

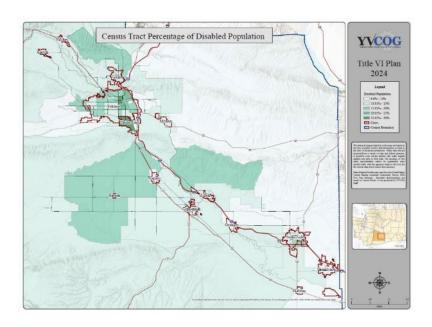


The map to the left shows the metropolitan planning area (MPO) in the Yakima Valley. The jurisdictions in the MPO includes Moxee, Naches, Yakima, Selah, Union Gap, and Yakima County.

The map below is a visual of the census track identifying the disabled population living in the Yakima Valley. This information is important as we look at being able to support our members who provide services to these individuals.

GIS responsibilities include analyzing, planning, organizing and managing databases; writing and maintaining application programs; and creating maps, graphs, charts, and/or web-based applications and interfaces used in meeting the needs of the YVCOG/YVLCL (Yakima Valley Local Crime Lab) programs.

We create maps and dashboards, while maintaining an orderly GIS database with our members most current information



CLEP - Community Law Enforcement Partnership

In 2024 YVCOG's mission remained steadfast in fostering stronger, safer communities through direct engagement with local communities and law enforcement. Our focus was on building partnerships, improving community resilience and ensuring a safer environment for communities. Our key activities included facilitating community block watch groups, coordinating neighborhood cleanups, community engagement activities and addressing graffiti abatement beautification areas.



• Block Watch- We worked closely with law enforcement and community members to create community block watch groups. These groups have empowered residents to take an active role in their own safety and learned the importance of collaboration with law enforcement.

• Community Cleanups- We worked closely with the City of Sunnyside and collaborated with various partners to host a community cleanup this past fall. It was a successful event that allowed community members to have a sense of community pride.



- Community engagement- We attended an estimate of 26 community engagement activities throughout 2024 and engaged with an estimate of 2,000 community members.
- Graffiti Abatement and Prevention-We have been working with various communities in identifying hotspot areas for graffiti. We continue to work with law enforcement community members and local artists to collaborate on prevention and abatement efforts.



The collective efforts of community members, local businesses, law enforcement and YVCOG have led to significant improvements in neighborhood safety, community pride and unity. We look forward to building on this success in 2025, expanding our efforts and continuing to create safer vibrant communities.

Community Outreach and Engagement

YVCOG provides "Outreach Services" for all programs and services throughout the Yakima Valley. Throughout 2024 outreach services were provided for many of our programs and services. Outreach was provided throughout the valley for our Transportation, Planning, Housing and CLEP programs.

For Planning, outreach was provided for the Climate Element. YVCOG is working with 9 jurisdictions throughout the valley to anticipate challenges that may arise from extreme temperature events, wildfire, wildfire smoke, precipitation patterns and other potential climate related hazards. A survey was provided so communities can express their opinions on these issues.





Through the CLEP grant, outreach was done to inform and educate communities on the importance of collaborating and building relationships with local law enforcement agencies. Our efforts have significantly strengthened relationships between community members and law enforcement. It has been a rewarding experience to collaborate and contribute to a positive change.





For the Housing program we were able to support events to network and share our housing programs here are YVCOG. Through collaboration we can achieve the needs of our community by building and strengthening partnerships throughout our communities.

The importance of "Outreach" is to connect with our community, build trusting relationships and give the community a voice regarding their community.

Housing Services Programs

YVCOG administers two housing rehabilitation programs. These programs provide essential home repairs for senior and or disabled individuals. These programs have been able to support 30 homeowners with needed emergency and health related home repairs.

The impact that these programs have provided is instrumental. These programs reduce financial stress, enhance the quality of life, preserve homes and most importantly the safety and wellbeing of individuals. These programs provide a safe, stable living environment while empowering participants to maintain their independence.

CDBG Emergency Repair Program

Eligible Repairs: no heating or air conditioning, no water, plumbing, roofing, no electricity or electrical problems, ADA accessibility, and other repairs for hazardous conditions as determined by the housing manager.

Program requirements consist of the following: Applicants must be Age 55 or older, disabled, or parent of disabled person, be the homeowner, reside in the home all year round and meet the income limits as established by HUD (US Department of Housing and Urban Development).



Kresge Healthy Homes Program

Eligible Repairs: Wheelchair ramps, widening of doorways, mold and asbestos remediation, ventilation, water quality, handrails and grab bars, other repairs for hazards that are detrimental to your health will be determined by the program Housing Manager.

Program requirements consist of the following: Be the legal homeowner, reside in the home all year and be at or below 60% of the Federal Median Income.



Success Stories and before and after....

Mold window replacement, the applicants window casing and windowsills where literally crumbling....







This applicant had gone without hot water for more than a year. This application was referred by a local agency, we had shared our resources with. Our program was able to assist the applicant with a new efficient water heater. This applicant shared how good it felt to have hot running water. The first thing the applicant did was take an hour-long shower.

Door replacement was needed for this applcant. As you can see the door was extrmely weathered and in need of replacement.



These are some of the gratitude letters we received from the applicants we were able to assist through these programs. Being able to make a difference in these people's lives is such a reward to us. This is all possible through our continued support through our communities.

Thanks for being ford of the and pleas don't close the doors to us to us to people like us year might save a few more fives Thank for the cry teas of fore you people the like your agency.

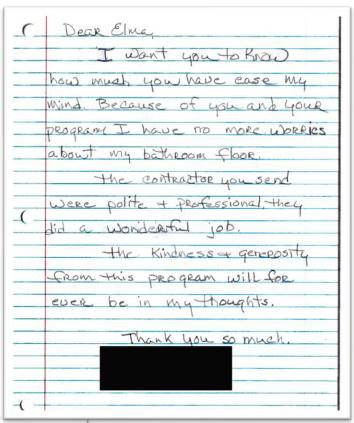
Come for people the like your agency.

Come has a special place in my half that only she can have.

To whom it may concern:

I am glad that I was eligible
for the program. I had very old windows that
were over 30 years old. In the winter time the
glass would get foggy with condensation & it
would get moldy around the frames. I was
always having to clean up the mold or paint
over it, but it would always come back. I
heard about the program from a friend that
told us you might be able to assist me with
my old windows. I hope that the program can
continue to help other families in need of help.
Thanks to the program & the workers my
home stayed cool this summer & it will be
warm this winter.

Taking care of those who took care of us....



To who it may Concern. I received much needed help thur This program. My roof was painted by a Local contractor who dida very good job. We recently had a Thunderstorm and no Leaks. My ceiling in my bathroom was also in disrepair and the program sent a Local contractor who the men did a good job of repairing and taking out the old tax haust fan, latching The ceiting Thank you

YVCOG Wellness Program

Evaluation Report 2024



Wellness Program Activity

100% of YVCOG staff members reported participating in as many or more wellness program activities in 2024 than in 2023!!!

\$35 Wellness Reward Redemption

in 2024

67%

Wellness Program Mission:

YVCOG employees actively pursue all dimensions of well-being to thrive in their everyday lives.



Future Priorities

I am excited to share 2025 priorities with our membership!

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT is an opportunity to engage and introduce people to the career sector of public service in government offices. Our objective is to partner with colleges and universities to offer work study internships, paid internships, and or work-based learning opportunities for individuals who would like to gain experience in their field of study. To begin, we will focus on government planning and government accounting, as these sectors have been identified as needed in our communities.

TRANSPORTATION YVCOG will award nearly \$5 Million competitive grant funds through Congestion Mitigation & Air Quality (CMAQ) to MPO Jurisdictions and Carbon Reduction Program (CRP) to any member jurisdiction early in the new year. Both programs can benefit by reducing airborne contaminants and/or reduce carbon emissions among other eligible projects/programs. The CRP program is a new federal funding program YVCOG is responsible to allocate/award, and the first "air quality" funding pot available to all member jurisdictions (urban or rural).

YVCOG also looks forward to involving our members, transportation stakeholders and the public in the development of the Yakima Regional Safety Action Plan (RSAP) and the Yakima Valley Regional Transit Feasibility Study Phase II (TFS Ph II). The RSAP will look to inventory safety needs and issues, seek mitigation strategies and improvements, and expand public awareness and safety knowledge in our region's multi-modal transportation infrastructure.

PLANNING YVCOG Staff will continue our progress on the Periodic Update, the mandated update to member jurisdictions' Comprehensive Plans, Critical Areas Ordinances, Subdivision Ordinances, and Zoning Ordinances, as well as developing the new Climate Element. In 2025, work for the Periodic Update will include the completion of a Land Capacity Analysis, a Housing Allocation, and mark the start of editing existing plans and ordinances to reflect changes in state law. The Climate Element effort is well underway, with a community survey providing responses to identify and prioritize how cities and towns want to create resiliency to changing weather and climate, such as wildfire and extreme temperatures. Both the Periodic Update and Climate Element are fully funded through grants from the Washington State Department of Commerce.

GRAPHIC DESIGN YVCOG staff can assist members with flyers and pamphlets. We have the hardware and software built for editing both picture and video. This too we are steadily improving the quality of.

COMMUNITY LAW ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM (CLEP) OUTREACH YVCOG will continue to develop and foster relationships with communities and law enforcement. Our continued emphasis will be on creating and supporting community block watch groups, by providing communities with the necessary knowledge and tools. Graffiti abatement and prevention is another goal. YVCOG will pursue another CLEP grant to continue engaging communities and law enforcement.

HOUSING We will concentrate on securing additional funding to sustain our current programs. YVCOG was awarded in late 2024 an additional home rehabilitation grant and it is well underway.

YVCOG will also prioritize affordable attainable housing by fostering existing partnerships and new partnerships to bring more housing options to Yakima Valley.

TARGET ZERO

Our primary focus as the host agency for the Target Zero program in partnership with the Washing Traffic Safety Commission is to educate and engage on the importance of traffic safety. We will be utilizing data to foster a plan to work towards the goal of Zero deaths Zero Fatalities by 2030.

NEW FACILITY YVCOG will be working with our federal, state, and local governments to obtain funding for a new facility. It is necessary to continue services for the Crime Lab in an efficient manner. Our contract for the current space leased ends in 2026, when we will be required to vacate the location. The current facility has limited space for the growing forensic science taking place. Currently, staff is crammed into the 535 sq. ft space, impacting the growth in services taking place. Our objective is to stay centrally located in the valley to assist all members and continue the great service taking place while providing continued results for the valley.

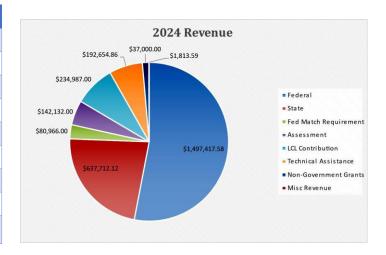
LOCAL CRIME LAB The first quarter of 2025, the YVLCL will be focused on developing more content on our website and preparing the laboratory for accreditation application in late spring. The YVLCL team will continue to cross train personnel in multiple service areas to increase the capacity and timeliness of the current technology services offered.

Thank you for your continued support!

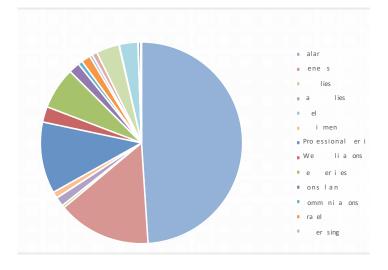
Mustera Wicker Da

2024 Revenues & Expenses

2024 Revenue										
Federal	\$	1,497,417.58								
State	\$	637,712.12								
Fed Match Requirement	\$	80,966.00								
Assessment	\$	142,132.00								
LCL Contribution	\$	234,987.00								
Technical Assistance	\$	192,654.86								
Non-Government Grants	\$	37,000.00								
Misc Revenue	\$	1,813.59								
	\$	2,824,683.15								



2024 Expenses										
Salary	\$ 1,512,628.11									
Benefits	\$ 461,374.67									
Supplies	\$ 13,380.56									
Lab Supplies	\$ 45,338.64									
Fuel	\$ 955.86									
Equipment	\$ 31,282.58									
Professional Services	\$ 354,793.75									
Web Applications	\$ 76,852.44									
Tech Services	\$ 207,052.61									
Consultant	\$ 54,509.08									
Communications	\$ 21,367.16									
Travel	\$ 44,811.96									
Advertising	\$ 14,987.77									
Insurance	\$ 24,592.72									
Rentals/Leases	\$ 113,289.28									
Repairs/Maintenance	\$ 2,801.95									
Misc	\$ 91,225.10									
Registrations	\$ 1,413.95									
Trainings	\$ 12,288.49									
Dues/Subscriptions	\$ 3,993.72									
	\$ 3,088,940.40									







YAKIMA VALLEY CONFERENCE OF GOVERNMENTS MEMBERSHIP ASSESSMENTS FOR 2024

																		2023-2024
Members		0	FM	General			MATCH FUNDS			Total				Difference		Change		
	% Population	Pop	ulation	Assessment*						Assessment						%		
		2023	2024		2023		2024		2023		2024		2023		2024			
GRANDVIEW	4.31%	11,020	11,250	\$	5,664	\$	6,014	\$	3,607	\$	3,732	\$	9,271	\$	9,746	\$	474	5.1%
GRANGER	1.45%	3,740	3,775	\$	1,922	\$	2,018	\$	1,630	\$	1,665	\$	3,553	\$	3,683	\$	130	3.7%
HARRAH	0.22%	580	580	\$	298	\$	310	\$	598	\$	602	\$	896	\$	912	\$	16	1.8%
MABTON	0.75%	1,975	1,965	\$	1,015	\$	1,050	\$	1,083	\$	1,096	\$	2,098	\$	2,147	\$	49	2.3%
MOXEE	1.83%	4,665	4,785	\$	2,398	\$	2,558	\$	2,786	\$	2,843	\$	5,184	\$	5,401	\$	217	4.2%
NACHES	0.43%	1,125	1,120	\$	578	\$	599	\$	1,690	\$	1,697	\$	2,268	\$	2,296	\$	28	1.2%
SELAH	3.24%	8,365	8,450	\$	4,300	\$	4,517	\$	4,410	\$	4,489	\$	8,709	\$	9,006	\$	296	3.4%
SUNNYSIDE	6.33%	16,500	16,530	\$	8,481	\$	8,836	\$	4,781	\$	4,912	\$	13,262	\$	13,749	\$	487	3.7%
TIETON	0.59%	1,505	1,545	\$	774	\$	826	\$	1,004	\$	1,022	\$	1,777	\$	1,848	\$	71	4.0%
TOPPENISH	3.41%	8,870	8,900	\$	4,559	\$	4,758	\$	2,995	\$	3,068	\$	7,554	\$	7,826	\$	272	3.6%
UNION GAP	2.55%	6,640	6,660	\$	3,413	\$	3,560	\$	3,619	\$	3,673	\$	7,032	\$	7,234	\$	202	2.9%
WAPATO	1.77%	4,615	4,620	\$	2,372	\$	2,470	\$	1,778	\$	1,814	\$	4,150	\$	4,284	\$	134	3.2%
YAKIMA	37.77%	98,200	98,650	\$	50,475	\$	52,734	\$	21,049	\$	21,880	\$	71,524	\$	74,615	\$	3,091	4.3%
YAKIMA CO.	34.13%	88,955	89,155	\$	45,723	\$	47,659	\$	19,491	\$	20,207	\$	65,214	\$	67,866	\$	2,652	4.1%
ZILLAH	1.23%	3,195	3,215	\$	1,642	\$	1,719	\$	1,538	\$	1,566	\$	3,181	\$	3,285	\$	104	3.3%
TOTALS	100.00%	253,000	261,200	\$	133,614	\$	139,627	\$	72,058	\$	74,268	\$	205,672	\$	213,895	\$	8,223	4.0%
			Yakima Trans	it To	otal Trans	As	sessment		6500		6,700							
									78,558		80,968							

Members		OFM	Yakima Valley Local Crime Lab Contribution 2023 - 2025						
	% Population	Population							
				2023		2024		2025	
GRANDVIEW	4.25%	10,960	\$	10,208	\$	16,183	\$	16,183	
GRANGER	1.43%	3,690	\$	3,437	\$	5,448	\$	5,448	
HARRAH	0.22%	580	\$	540	\$	856	\$	856	
MABTON	0.77%	1,975	\$	1,839	\$	2,916	\$	2,916	
MOXEE	1.71%	4,405	\$	4,103	\$	6,504	\$	6,504	
NACHES	0.43%	1,110	\$	1,034	\$	1,639	\$	1,639	
SELAH	3.19%	8,235	\$	7,670	\$	12,159	\$	12,159	
SUNNYSIDE	6.35%	16,400	\$	15,275	\$	24,215	\$	24,215	
TIETON	0.55%	1,430	\$	1,332	\$	2,111	\$	2,111	
TOPPENISH	3.44%	8,870	\$	8,261	\$	13,097	\$	13,097	
UNION GAP	2.56%	6,595	\$	6,142	\$	9,738	\$	9,738	
WAPATO	1.79%	4,610	\$	4,294	\$	6,807	\$	6,807	
YAKIMA	37.90%	97,810	\$	91,099	\$	144,418	\$	144,418	
YAKIMA CO.	34.19%	88,240	\$	82,185	\$	130,288	\$	130,288	
ZILLAH	1.24%	3,190	\$	2,971	\$	4,710	\$	4,710	
TOTALS		258,100	\$	240,390	\$	381,090	\$	381,090	



Yakima Valley Conference of Governments 509-574-1550 info@yvcog.us yvcog.us

311 North 4th Street, Suite 204 Yakima, WA 98901