

March 2019



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City of Yakima e-Newsletter

# ISSUES BRIEF

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## Yakima accepting applications for Lodging Tax & Tourism Promotion Funds

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The City of Yakima is accepting applications for Fiscal Year 2020 lodging tax & tourism promotion grant funds. May 1st is the application deadline.

The City's Lodging Tax Advisory Committee (LTAC) will review applications during its meeting on Thursday, May 16th, and forward its recommendations to the Yakima City Council for review during the 2020 budget process.

"The City welcomes applications through May 1st so we can ensure the best use of lodging tax funds," said Mayor Kathy Coffey.

Preference will be given to proposals from qualified entities for projects concerned with operating or improving City-owned facilities that generate overnight tourism and year-round tourism promotion and sales efforts through the destination marketing organization.

Per state law (RCW 67.28.1816) lodging tax funds can be used for:

- Tourism promotion.
- Marketing and operations of special events and festivals designed to attract tourists.
- Supporting operations and capital expenditures of tourism-related facilities owned or operated by a municipality or a public facilities district.

"If the application is for a tourism-related activity or event, the proposal should indicate the number of attendees anticipated from a more than a 50-mile radius and the number of overnight stays the event/activity expects to generate," said Steve Groom, the City of Yakima's Director of Finance & Budget. "The anticipated overnight stays must be in accommodations that collect the lodging tax."

Click <https://www.yakimawa.gov/media/points-of-interest/lodging-tax-and-tourism-promotion/> for more information and a copy of the application.

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"The City welcomes applications through May 1st so we can ensure the best use of lodging tax funds."

- Mayor Kathy Coffey

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At left, is a photograph of North 1st Street and above is an artist's rendering of the street after completion of the project. The first phase begins this spring..

## Phase 1 of North 1st Street project begins this spring

### *First phase includes U.S. Highway 12 to N Street*

Work will begin this spring on Phase 1 of the City of Yakima's North 1st Street Revitalization Project.

Phase 1 will include North 1st Street from U.S. Highway 12 to N Street. This phase will cost about \$3.3 million and be funded through a federal grant, as well as City water and wastewater capital funds.

All together, the three phases include reconstructing about 1.5 miles of roadway.

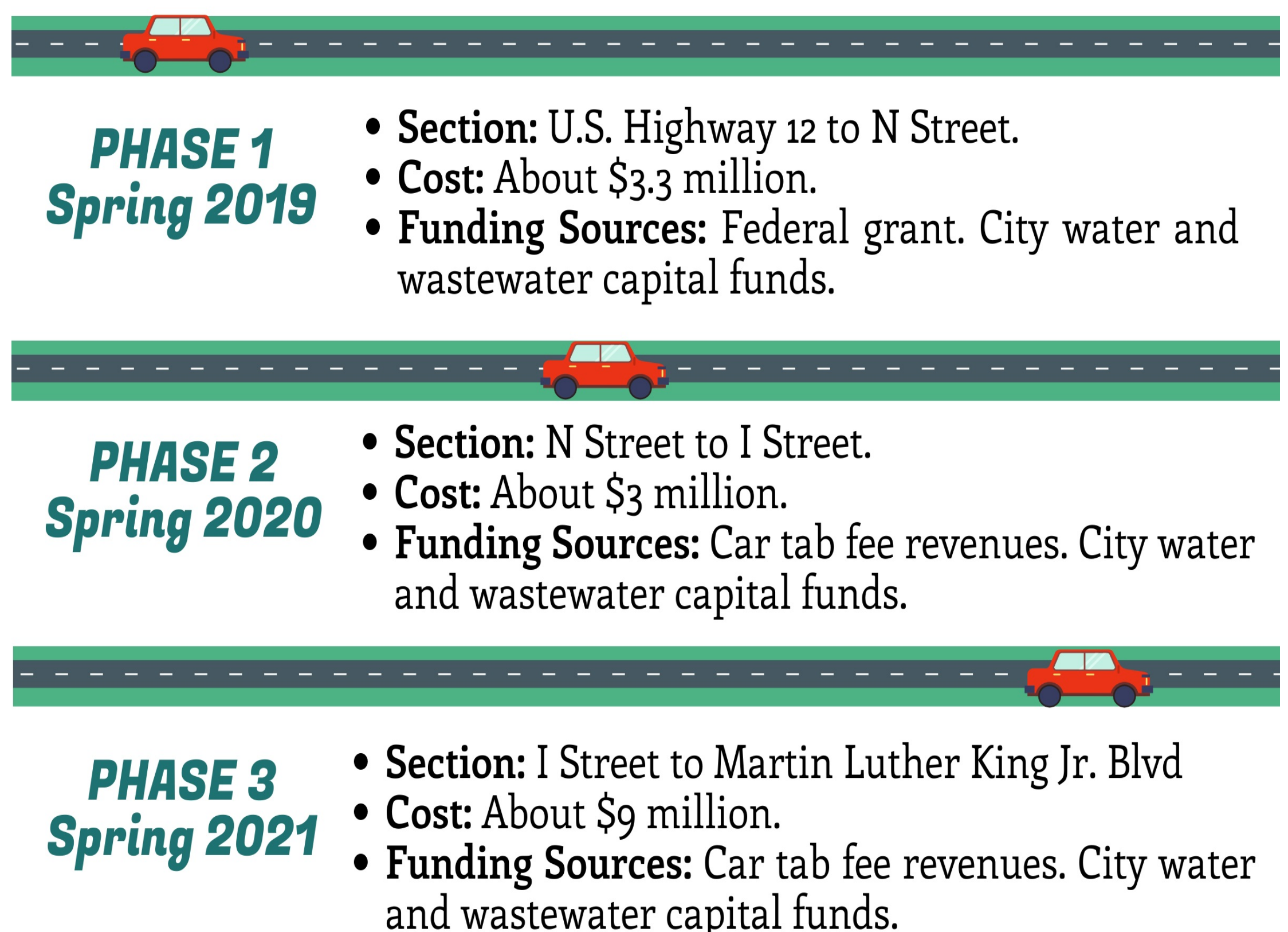
The project includes rebuilding sidewalks, installing new lighting, building median islands, redirecting utility lines and enhancing landscaping along North 1st Street corridor from U.S. Highway 12 to MLK, Jr. Boulevard.

The project will be completed in three phases, with Phase 2 scheduled to start in Spring 2020 and Phase 3 in 2021.

It will be paid for with a combination of federal transportation funds, City utility funds, and money generated from Transportation Benefit District fees approved by the City Council in 2017.

For more details visit <https://www.yakimawa.gov/services/strategic-projects/north-first-street-revitalization-project/>

## North 1st Street Revitalization Project Timeline



## Census Bureau seeks workers for 2020 count

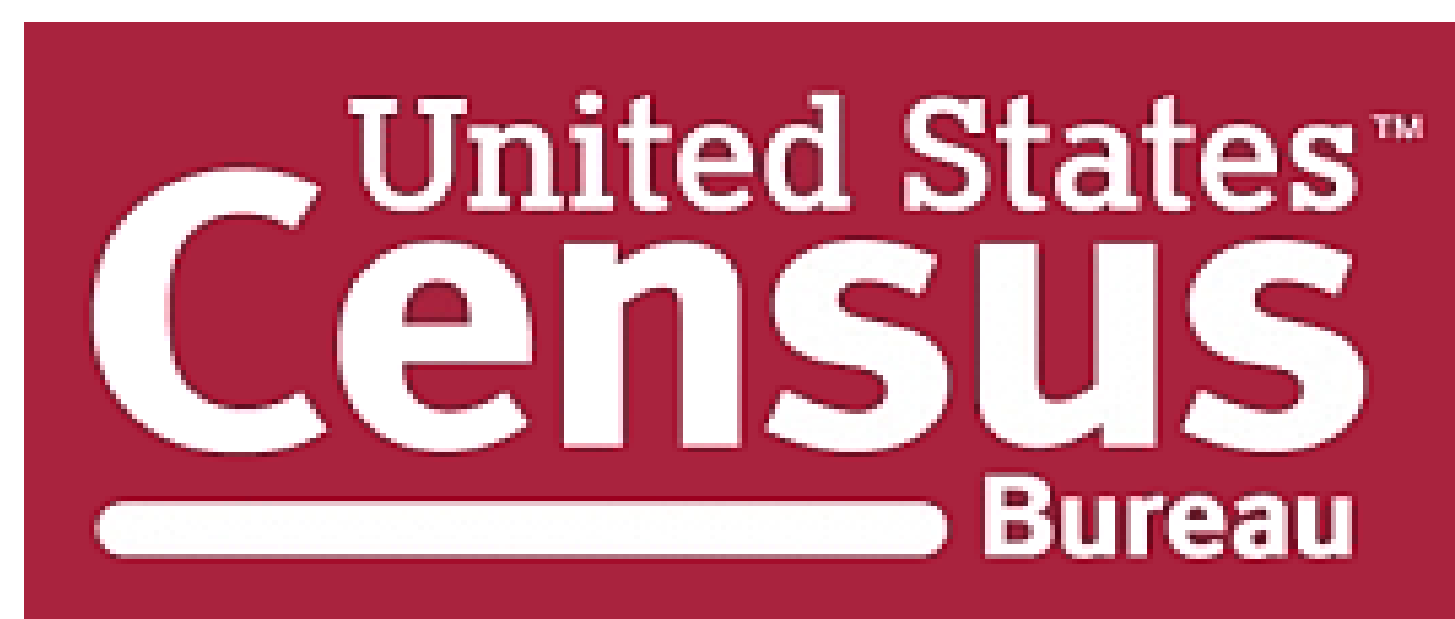
### *Starting hourly wage in Yakima is \$14.50*

The U.S. Census Bureau is encouraging people who live in the Yakima area to apply for a temporary job with the bureau to help make sure data collected during the 2020 Census is as accurate as possible.

The bureau is in the process of hiring thousands of workers to assist with the census next year.

Article 1, Section 2 of the U.S. Constitution requires that a census be conducted.

Originally, the main purpose for a census was to establish representation in Congress.



Today, in addition to its many other benefits, the census is an important tool for determining how state and federal funding is allocated to local governments.

"The amount of funding the City of Yakima is eligible to receive from state and federal sources is impacted by census data," said Yakima Mayor Kathy Coffey.

"For example, funding for transportation projects, community development grants, and school construction are determined in part by the census numbers," said Coffey.

"That's why a complete and accurate count is so important," Coffey said.

How more than \$675 billion in federal funding, alone, is allocated to local governments is dependent on census counts.

The Census Bureau is looking to fill a variety of positions. Pay ranges for those positions vary. A Census Taker in the Yakima area, for example, will earn \$14.50 an hour.

Anyone interested in learning more about positions offered by the Census Bureau and how they can apply for a job is encouraged to visit the bureau's website at <https://2020census.gov/jobs>



# Briefly...

## Landscaping class deadline is March 16

Saturday, March 16th, is the deadline to register for a free workshop that will teach home owners how to develop attractive landscaping that uses little water.

The Spring Heritage Garden Workshop is titled “Low-Water Use Landscaping Made Easy.” It will be held from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm on Saturday, March 23rd, at the Yakima Area Arboretum.

One of the sponsors is the Yakima Basin Integrated Plan (YBIP) Water Use Committee.

To register for the class click [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdGH94-sF2sVYD7\\_vJIGWFhqKLRBWcdopfH41Zmt9liIGAWRA/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdGH94-sF2sVYD7_vJIGWFhqKLRBWcdopfH41Zmt9liIGAWRA/viewform)

## April Pools Day set for Saturday, April 6

The community is invited to jump into Lions Pool on Saturday, April 6th for the City's first-ever April Pools Day event.

April Pools Day is from 1 to 3 pm on April 6th. The free event includes a combination of water safety activities and swim time.

Water safety training will cover life jacket use, boating safety, elementary rescues and hypothermia awareness.

Lions Pool is located at 509 W. Pine Street. Call 575-6046 for more information about April Pools Day or other Lions Pool activities.

## City changes Permit Center hours

The City of Yakima's Permit Center opens 30 minutes later each day due to an increase in construction and permit detail.

The Permit Center opens at 8:30 am instead of 8:00 am, Monday through Friday. It continues to close at 5:00 pm each day.

January saw nearly \$5 million more in new building valuation than January 2018.

This continues a growth trend in the City of Yakima. During 2018, new building starts in the city were valued at \$112,279,486, well above the \$81,457,182 in new valuation for 2017.

Building permit statistics are available on the City of Yakima's Planning Division website at [www.buildingyakima.com/public/documentsview](http://www.buildingyakima.com/public/documentsview)



## City of Yakima yard waste collection now underway

Snow may still be on the ground, but yard waste collection in the City of Yakima has begun.

The City's Refuse Division is providing yard waste pick-up each week through November 30th.

“Please have the green yard waste cart available by 6:00 a.m. on the curb or alley on the day of scheduled pick-up,” said Refuse and Recycling Manager Loretta Zammarchi. “Place the container 4 feet from any obstacles.”

There is a charge for the service, which is limited to collecting grass clippings, leaves, and small branches. Branches should be cut into lengths of 3 feet or less and not exceed 3 inches in diameter. All yard waste must fit inside the cart with the lid closed.

“Our trucks can pick up yard waste carts weighing up to 150 pounds,” Zammarchi said. “Carts exceeding the weight limit will not be collected.”

Items that are unacceptable for yard waste pick-up include garbage, plastic bags, food scraps, animal waste, ashes and sod, building materials, and tree trunks or large branches. The items are not acceptable by the Yakima County landfill as yard waste. They are considered contaminants.

Visit the Division's yard waste collection website at <https://www.yakimawa.gov/services/refuse/yard-waste-collection/> or call 575-6005 for more information or to make changes to your yard waste collection.

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## Report street light outages, potholes, graffiti through Yak Back application

Street light outages are just one of many issues City of Yakima residents and businesses can report through the Yak Back application at <https://www.yakimawa.gov/yak-back/> or on the front page of the City's website, <https://www.yakimawa.gov/>

Other examples of issues that can be reported to the City via Yak Back include potholes, trash, abandoned properties and graffiti. Since its inception in 2012, the Yak Back app has seen dramatic growth. There were nearly 1,500 reports in both 2017 and 2018.

The application is mobile friendly. Reports can be saved in a custom, personal report profile or they can also be submitted anonymously. The Yak Back app also has a GPS locator feature that when clicked can help people pinpoint issues for City staff.

In addition, the public can call in Yak Back requests to 575-3535 and have Yak Back reports processed.

The City reminds the community that if there is an emergency situation they should dial 9-1-1 and get help on the way as quickly as possible.



# "Snowmageddon" - February 2019



Sean Davido photos

**Yakima-area residents survived and thrived during record-setting snowfall in February.**



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509-576-6614  
<https://www.yakimawa.gov/>



<https://www.facebook.com/cityofyakimafb/>



<https://twitter.com/CityofYakima>



<https://www.instagram.com/cityofyakima/>



<https://www.youtube.com/c/CityofYakimaWA>

The City of Yakima *Issues Brief e-Newsletter* is published monthly by the City's Community Relations Office.

Questions? Suggestions?

Contact Community Relations Specialist John Fannin at 249-6858 or [John.Fannin@yakimawa.gov](mailto:John.Fannin@yakimawa.gov).

## City Contacts

|                  |          |
|------------------|----------|
| Airport:         | 575-6149 |
| Animal Control:  | 575-6038 |
| City Clerk:      | 575-6000 |
| City Manager:    | 575-6000 |
| Codes/Licenses:  | 575-6126 |
| * Fire:          | 575-6060 |
| Human Resources: | 575-6090 |
| Municipal Court: | 575-3050 |
| Parks:           | 575-6020 |
| Planning:        | 575-6183 |
| * Police:        | 575-6200 |
| Refuse:          | 575-6005 |
| Streets:         | 575-6005 |
| Transit:         | 575-6175 |
| Utilities:       | 575-6080 |
| Wastewater:      | 575-6077 |
| Water/Irrig:     | 575-6154 |
| YCTV/YPAC:       | 575-6092 |

**\* NON-EMERGENCY only.  
Call 911 in an emergency.**