



## NORTHERN KITTITAS COUNTY

# TRIBUNE

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## Participate in the east-west rail transportation survey

### Attend the March 14 summit

KITTITAS COUNTY – The Washington State legislature and its Joint Transportation Committee are asking for your help with a study that is being used for public policy purposes regarding east-west passenger rail service. The survey takes about 15 minutes and explores transportation issues in the Seattle-Tri-Cities-Spokane corridor.

This survey is about travel that you have made within that corridor in the last six months. Information about where and how you travel can help transportation agencies plan for future needs, so your careful response to this survey will be critical in helping to shape the future of this region.

Visit <http://bit.ly/YHR-train-survey>. When asked to enter your survey code, type the word **train**.

### Summit

Saturday, March 14, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., All Aboard Washington and the Greater Yakima Chamber of Commerce host the Central Washington Passenger Rail Summit at the Yakima Convention Center, 10 North 8th St. in Yakima. To attend, register online with a visit to <https://tinyurl.com/wpv64az>.

Speakers at the summit provide

updates on the study. They hail from the Washington State Department of Transportation Rail Division, the Joint Legislative Transportation Committee (JTC), and the JTC's contractor STEER.

The purposes of the summit are to: (1) Increase public awareness regarding the feasibility and economic benefits of restoring passenger rail service to Central Washington, (2) Encourage state, regional and local organizations to incorporate passenger rail into their planning efforts, and (3) Increase support from the public and from elected representatives.

### Background

Last year Governor Jay Inslee signed legislation directing the Joint Transportation Committee to study the feasibility of an east-west inter-city passenger rail system for the state. This survey is part of that study to look at the feasibility of establishing service for Auburn, Cle Elum, Yakima, Ellensburg, Tri-Cities, Toppenish and Spokane. The study is scheduled to complete in June this year.

Stakeholders advocating for passenger rail service have said the data gleaned from the survey is critical to stakeholders lobbying lawmakers to launch a passenger rail service initiative.