



**MEMBER JURISDICTIONS:**

Grandview  
Granger  
Harrah  
Mabton  
Moxee  
Naches  
Selah  
Sunnyside  
Tieton  
Toppenish  
Union Gap  
Wapato  
Yakima  
Yakima County  
Zillah

**YVCOG EXECUTIVE  
COMMITTEE:**

James A. Restucci, Chair  
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*Union Gap City Council*

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*Toppenish City Council*

Area 3 — Mario Martinez

*Mabton City Council*

Member At Large-

John Hodkinson, Jr., Vice Chair



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## Accessing Census Data – A Do-It-Yourself Guide

*By John R. Rohrbaugh, IT/GISP*



If you are like me, you have a regular need to access data to answer questions about your community, either for constituents, outside organizations, or simple projects. It doesn't take long after spending time on a search engine, various governmental sites, or perusing your organization's own data store, until one is completely lost in a sea of numbers, facts, and figures. In order to assist users in getting the most from things such as Census Quick Facts and the American Fact Finder (AFF), trainers from the Census and OFM have assembled a concise list of Data Portals and a basic "how to" for accessing the data you need, when you need it, in the easiest manner possible. The "how to" guide is titled: DIY Exercises for Accessing Census Bureau Data. The guide not only gives a reader basic information about how to access the various resources, it also runs the reader through exercises which ask questions of the data, shows a reader how to access the information necessary to answer the questions, and then displays what relevant output should look like. The guide is available directly from the YVCOG website at [http://www.yvcog.org/pages/census2010.htm/CensusDIY\\_GUIDE.pdf](http://www.yvcog.org/pages/census2010.htm/CensusDIY_GUIDE.pdf).

## Marijuana Regulations Timeline Extended

*By Joseph W. Calhoun, Planner*



The process to implement I-502, passed by Washington State voters in 2012, has been extended to allow additional time to review and comment on the proposed rules. Initially slated to be adopted on August 14, 2013, the Liquor Control Board will instead propose a revised set of rules on September 4, 2013. The rules are expected to be adopted on October 16, 2013 (effective on November 16, 2013). Licenses can be applied for on November 18, 2013. The final rules will be adopted on December 1, 2013. The state will issue licenses for the production, processing, or retail sales of recreational marijuana in March or April 2104. In addition to refining the statewide rules, this revised schedule will give local jurisdictions more time to update their land use and zoning codes to prepare for the upcoming I-502 implementation. For more information on I-502, visit the Liquor Control Board's I-502 Implementation page at <http://liq.wa.gov/marijuana/I-502>.



**TITLE VI Notice to the Public:** YVCOG fully complies with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and related statutes and regulations in all programs and activities. For more information, or to obtain a Title VI Complaint Form, see <http://www.yvcog.org/title6.pdf> or call (509) 574-1550.

# Reminder: Upcoming Training Opportunities

By Joseph W. Calhoun, Planner

## Safe Routes to School



A free Safe Routes to School training session is coming upon September 17, 2013 at West Valley Middle School from 11:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The purpose of the Safe Routes to School Program is to aid public agencies in funding cost-effective projects within 2 miles of primary and middle schools that provide children a safe, healthy alternative to riding the bus or being driven to school. Registration is capped at 20 so register early. If you cannot attend on September 17, there is another SRTS training scheduled for November 1, 2013 in Sunnyside. For more information and to register, go to [www.esd105.org](http://www.esd105.org) and click on the Professional Development tab. From there, sign in and enter Session ID#105401 for 9/17 or Session ID#105439 for 11/1.



## Planning Short Course

YVCOG is hosting a free Regional Short Course on Local Planning, September 17, 2013 at the Zillah Civic Center from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. The short course program provides a great training opportunity for Local and Tribal Governments, Mayors, Council Members, Board and Commission Members, Staff, Administrators, Attorneys, Stakeholders, Consultants, Students and the Community to learn more about land use planning and community development – and how to be involved. For more information and to register, go to [www.wciapool.org](http://www.wciapool.org) and login. From there click on Education and Training > Training Calendar. Locate the event and follow the steps to register.



In preparation for next spring's biennial CTR affected employer survey, I have been reviewing past survey results. As usual, one question, and more importantly its answer, always jumps out at me. Question number nine reads something like this "If you drive alone to work, which of the following would most encourage you to try using an alternative to driving alone?" There are 18 possible answers, plus one marked 'other' (those by the way are some of the most humorous and sometimes not so funny answers). Of all of those possible answers, one stands out more than any other. Answer 'C', "An immediate ride home in case of an emergency (guaranteed ride home)." That seems to be the biggest concern when deciding to use an alternative mode to drive alone.

Well, those folks need not be concerned, for the answer lies in the Guaranteed Ride Home (GRH) program. The GRH program ensures that participants that utilize an alternative commute mode, rather than driving alone, such as carpool/vanpool, public transit, walking or bicycle are provided with a ride home in the event of an emergency. The Commute Trip Reduction (CTR) program, here at the YVCOG, provides a program that guarantees a ride home

for those participating employees of CTR affected worksites.

It is ironic that survey after survey indicates that employees rank the availability of GRH as the most important influencing factor in their choice to participate in using a commute alternative. The ironic thing is that GRH is so under-utilized. It is rarely used, yet it is considered an important safety net that allows a comfort zone for those participating in the CTR program. This is a reminder to all of our Employee Transportation Coordinators (ETCs), you need to make your employees aware of this opportunity. Posters, brochures and informational flyers, as well as the ride vouchers for the program have been distributed to your worksites. This is an important program that encourages your employees to use commute alternatives and it costs them nothing. In fact, TC Transportation Services (the same folks that provide Dial-A-Ride for Yakima Transit) is providing this service at no cost as a very important service to the community. So the next time an employee says "Now, how am I going to get home?" You can respond, "Not to worry, GRH to the rescue."

# ATV's on Local Streets?

By Joseph W. Calhoun, Planner



One of the changes brought about by the 2013 Legislature (effective as of July 28, 2013) includes modifications to the rules and regulations which govern the use of all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) in the State of

Washington. To begin, the legislation in ESHB 1632 effectively changes the name of ATV's to "wheeled all-terrain vehicles" (WATV). The detailed definition can be found in RCW 46.09.310.

Aside from a name change, ESHB 1632 substantially changes *where* WATVs can operate, namely on streets and roads with a speed limit of 35mph or less. However, this is not an immediate state-wide change. It is up to each local jurisdiction (including counties) to decide whether or not to allow, by ordinance, WATVs operation on roads 35mph or less. If allowed, each jurisdiction will be required to compile a publicly available list of streets open to WATV use.

There are numerous standards that WATV owners must meet regarding licensing and designated equipment (lights, brake lamps, rear view mirror, etc.), along with signing a form releasing the state of any liability and stating that the owner understands the vehicle was not manufactured for on-road use.

Local jurisdictions who may wish to allow WATVs on their streets and roads of 35mph or less should heavily consider the pros and cons of such a decision. Some questions that jump to mind are: How will the designated roads be determined, and how do they interface with non-designated roads? What effect would WATVs have on traffic congestion, transit operation, or emergency services? Are there any long-term maintenance concerns? If approved, should new construction or re-development be required to designate parking spaces for WATVs?

If properly structured, an ordinance to allow this use could be very beneficial to the public – especially for short trips during inclement weather. Just make sure that the process to get there accounts for all potential issues. In other words, tread lightly.

## SEPTEMBER COMMITTEE MEETINGS

### MPO/RTPO Technical Advisory Committee

Thursday, September 12 at 10:00 a.m.

### YVCOG MPO/RTPO Executive Committee & Policy Board & YVCOG Executive Committee

Monday, September 16 at 1:30 p.m.

LOCATION: 311 North 4th Street—Yakima

\* The 300 Building \* 2nd Floor \*

**For more info, call (509) 574-1550.**

## CENTRAL WASHINGTON STATE FAIR!!!!



September 20—29, 2013

Youth (6-12) \$8.00  
Wristband \$23.00  
Adult (13-64) \$13.00  
Senior (65+) \$10.00

## YVCOG General Membership Meeting

**WHERE: Mabton Civic Center**

**WHEN: Sept. 18, 2013 6:30-9:30 p.m.**

**DINNER: \$18 at 7 p.m.**



**Reservations and cancellations for a voting quorum and the caterer are appreciated no later than Friday, Sept. 13, 2013 at noon. Please RSVP to Tami at (509) 574-1550 or email to haywardt@yvco.org.**

## AUGUST MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

**MPO/RTPO Executive Committee & Policy Board—August 19—Cancelled**

### YVCOG Executive Committee—August 19

- YVCOG 2014 Budget Process—Reviewed Budget Subcommittee's Report and 2014 Draft Budget. Action on Budget anticipated at September 18 Executive Committee and October 16 General Membership meetings.

### Your YVCOG Staff:

J. Page Scott, Executive Director  
Brian Curtin, CTR Coordinator  
Vacant, Senior Transportation Planner  
Shawn Conrad, Senior Planner  
Joseph Calhoun, Planner  
John R. Rohrbaugh, GIS Analyst/Systems Administrator  
Chris Wickenhagen, Administrative Finance Officer  
Tamara Hayward, Office Specialist  
Vacant, Office Specialist

