

# Regional Fare Coordination in the Puget Sound



# What is ORCA?

- Card-based smartcard system
- Collaboratively designed
- Regional and agency-specific products
- E-purse and regional pass revenue shared among agencies based on ridership
- Significant business program
- Community Transit
- Everett Transit
- King County Metro
- Kitsap Transit
- Pierce Transit
- Sound Transit
- Washington State Ferries



Bus



Bus Rapid Transit



Light Rail



Train



Monorail



Streetcar



Fast Ferry/  
Water Taxi



Ferry

# ORCA and fare policy

- Modernization of regional PugetPass
- Agencies have same fare categories (mostly) and definitions
- Each agency determines their fares



# Regional Fare Forum

- Brought together 12 representatives from the governing bodies of each of the ORCA agencies to:
  - Reaffirm commitments to regional fare coordination
  - Provide guiding principles for the next generation ORCA fare structure
  - Discuss strategies to further integrate and simplify fare structures for customers to seamlessly travel throughout the region
- Evaluated
  - Fare simplification
  - Fare capping

# Fare complexity example

- Peak fares are charged on trips that:
  - Arrive in downtown Seattle between 6 AM to 9 AM or 3:30 PM to 6 PM on weekdays;
  - Leave downtown Seattle between 6 AM to 8:15 AM or 3 PM to 6 PM on weekdays, or otherwise
  - Operate at least half of their time during weekday peak hours of 6 AM to 9 AM or 3 PM to 6 PM
- Peak fares are automatically calculated when an ORCA card is used.
- An additional fare is indicated if an off-peak pass is used for a peak trip.
- Peak fares are not charged on weekends or holidays.

# Fare forum results

## Community Transit

- Removed zone-based fares

## King County Metro


- Removed zone and peak based fares and moved to flat fares (June 2018)

## Sound Transit

- Removed zone-based fares and moved to flat fares for bus service (July 2020)

# ORCA card options

Regional Reduced Fare Permit	ORCA LIFT	ORCA Youth	Adult ORCA	
RRFP: Disability	RRFP: Senior 65+	Income qualified	6–18 years	19–64 years
For riders with disabilities or Medicare	For riders 65 and over	For riders at or below 200% federal poverty level	Check if your school can help with costs	Check if your school or employer can help with costs
\$	\$	\$\$	\$\$	\$\$\$
LOWEST COST	LOWEST COST	LOW COST	LOW COST	FULL COST

Subsidized annual pass	New program for people enrolled in certain state benefit programs. This ORCA product can be loaded onto an ORCA LIFT or RRFP card		NO COST ON METRO AND SOUND TRANSIT
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Children 5 years of age and under can ride for free with an adult and do not need an ORCA card. For more information about these fare options, visit [kingcounty.gov/whichorcafare](http://kingcounty.gov/whichorcafare)

## Other fare coordination

- Sound Transit and Metro align reduced fares (youth, LIFT, senior/disabled)
- ORCA Business programs
- ORCA LIFT and subsidized annual pass
  - Income based, reduced fare programs





# next generation ORCA

- Customer mobile app
- Intuitive website experience
- Real-time system
- Expanded retail network
- Open architecture allows for future flexibility
- Agencies have more control over system
  - Website content management
  - Data and reports management
  - More off the shelf technology



# Thank you!

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