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Central Puget Sound ‘Smart Card’ Fact Sheet

Seven transportation agencies are collaborating on a simplified fare collection program – using smart card technology – for bus, rail and ferry travel in King, Kitsap, Snohomish and Pierce counties. The electronic ORCA (One Regional Card for All) fare card will make travel and fare payment on buses, commuter trains and ferries more convenient for thousands of passengers.

Passenger Benefits: Transit users will be able to travel the region in a transportation system without boundaries, involving:

- 6,493 square miles in...
- 4 counties, including...
- 62 cities and towns,
- 425 bus routes,
- 12 ferry routes (10 state ferry routes; 2 Kitsap Transit routes),
- 83 miles of commuter rail,
- 16 miles of light rail (by 2009),
- ...and can replace the current assortment of more than 300 types of tickets, tokens and passes with one electronic card that is “re-loadable” by the customer to suit his or her individual travel needs.

Technology: The system will use a durable, contact-less microprocessor smart card with “transfer memory” that automatically calculates any fare due. With each use the card will register date, time, route, agency, fare paid and institution charged (if applicable).

Transportation agency benefits:

- Provides more accurate ridership data
- Offers the ability for daily regional revenue reconciliation
- Reduces the amount of employee time producing and selling fares and passes
- Allows for additional transportation systems to join in the future

Revenue distribution: The smart card will improve the regional system of fare collection when passengers transfer between transportation systems. Currently, the partner agencies collect and redistribute more than \$100 million a year in regional fares. The new technology will allow for accurate and immediate daily reconciliation of inter-jurisdictional revenues.



Project Timeline:

2003-2006 System design, development and testing
2007-2008 System evaluation and installation
2008 Ready for passenger use

Project costs: \$42.1 million (includes development, equipment installation and shared administrative costs)

Partners:**Community Transit**

www.communitytransit.org

Contact: Martin Munguia, 425/348-2348
Service area: 1,300 square miles
Cities/towns served: 19
Bus routes: 63
Passengers: 9.1 million boardings in 2005

Everett Transit

www.everetttransit.org

Contact: Steffani Lillie, 425/257-8914
Service area: 36 square miles
Cities/towns served: 2
Bus routes: 10
Passengers: 2 million boardings in 2005

King County Metro Transit

<http://transit.metrokc.gov>

Contact: Rochelle Ogershok, 206/296-6515
Service area: 2,100 square miles
Cities/towns served: 39
Bus routes: 231
Passengers: 95.9 million boardings in 2005

Kitsap Transit

www.kitsaptransit.org

Contact: Laurie Talbert, 360/478-6225
Service area: 396 square miles
Cities/Towns Served: 12
Bus Routes: 51
Ferry Routes: 2
Passengers: 5.3 million boardings in 2005

Pierce Transit

www.piercetransit.org

Contact: Lind Simonsen, 253/581-8034
Service area: 450 square miles
Cities/towns served: 17
Bus routes: 48
Passengers: 15.5 million boardings in 2005

Sound Transit

www.soundtransit.org

Contact: Lee Somerstein, 206/689-4946
Service area: 1,086 square miles
Cities/towns served: 52
Bus routes: 20
Commuter rail routes: 2
Light rail lines: 2 (in 2009)
Passengers: 10.97 million boardings in 2005

Washington State Ferries

www.wsdot.wa.gov/ferries

Contact: Susan Harris, 206/515-3460
Service area: All of Puget Sound
Counties served: Clallum, Island, Jefferson, King, Kitsap, Mason, Pierce, San Juan, Skagit, Snohomish and British Columbia
Ferry routes: 10 routes and internationally
Passengers: 23.8 million passengers

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