

Fare Coordination in the Central Puget Sound Region

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Before 1998

- 5 independent city/county-based transit agencies
- Agency-specific passes and paper transfer slips
- Limited bi-lateral agreements for inter-agency pass acceptance

Formation of Sound Transit in 1999

- New regional high-capacity transit agency spanning three counties
- “Regional Fare Coordination” program included and funded in enabling ballot measure
- Interim system of regional passes and full interagency transfer slip acceptance implemented
- Local transit agencies guaranteed 67% of full fare for linked trips with Sound Transit

ORCA Smart Card launched 2003

- Regional project spanning transit agencies in four counties plus Washington State Ferries
- Fundamental fare payment approach: electronic fare payment on six transit agencies treated as single agency linked trips with 100% transfer credit
- System of face-value denominated regional passes
- Revenue allocation by linked trip, pass purchase value or bulk contract price based on proportional value of transit services used by cardholder

Future Challenges

- Continued phase out of non-ORCA, agency-specific fare media
- Addition of new payment applications (e.g. parking)
- Expansion to additional transit agencies
- Addition of new features, form factors or network partners (e.g. NFC)