



Legislation Text

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Clerk 11/19/2009

AN ORDINANCE relating to public transportation, and authorizing the executive to execute an interagency agreement for the transition of employer accounts to One Regional Card for All, which is also known as ORCA, fare media.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF KING COUNTY:

SECTION 1. Findings:

A. King County and other transit agencies in the Central Puget Sound region have determined that regional fare coordination will, due to increased ease and convenience, promote the use of public transportation throughout the region.

B. K.C.C. 28.94.235 authorizes the executive, subject to approval by the council, to execute interjurisdictional trip agreements with other transit agencies to establish a system of fare payment for passengers transferring between systems or crossing jurisdictional boundaries.

C. To further the goal of increasing ridership by making it more convenient and less expensive for riders to use public transit systems in the region, King County and four other central Puget Sound transit agencies, including Sound Transit, Pierce Transit, Community Transit (Snohomish county) and Everett Transit (city of Everett), entered into an interjurisdictional trip agreement, the Regional Pass and Fare Reconciliation Program Agreement ("the regional fare agreement"), which is also known as the Puget Pass Agreement, dated January 1, 2002, that provides for a program of coordinated fares, a shared set of regional passes, and associated fare reconciliation procedures. The regional fare agreement expires on December 31, 2009.

D. Also in furtherance of their shared goal of promoting the use of public transit by making it easier

and more convenient for riders to use such services, King County and the other parties to the regional fare agreement, together with the Washington state Department of Transportation, Washington state Ferries Division (Washington State Ferries) and the Kitsap County Public Transportation Benefit Area (Kitsap Transit), entered into an Interlocal Cooperation Agreement for Design, Implementation, Operation and Maintenance of the Regional Fare Coordination System, to develop and implement a regional "smart card" pass and electronic fare collection system. The new One Regional Card for All ("ORCA") system was rolled out beginning in May 2009 and is in the process of being fully implemented.

E. The five "Puget Pass" agencies are not able to convert all employer and school district accounts that currently purchase passes for their employees or students to the ORCA system by December 31, 2009.

F. Allowing for the continued sale, use of and revenue allocation for a limited number of non-ORCA regional passes to employer and school district accounts through 2010 will allow these accounts to make an orderly transition to the new ORCA smart-card based regional fare collection system.

SECTION 2. The executive is authorized to enter into an interlocal agreement in substantially the same form as Attachment A to this ordinance.