

CITY COUNCIL REGULAR SESSION

Resolution execution of the ORCA card agreement with King County for the purchase of ORCA cards for City of Bellevue employees for 2022, in an amount not to exceed, \$215,000, plus all applicable taxes.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This agreement allows City employees to use a single card known as “ORCA” to access comprehensive transportation services provided by King County Metro, Sound Transit, Pierce Transit, Community Transit, Everett Transit, and Kitsap Transit. The City’s Commute Trip Reduction (CTR) program relies on ORCA cards to support and incentivize employees to commute by alternative modes, particularly by transit and vanpool, where we receive a larger benefit toward reaching our CTR and emission reduction goals.

RECOMMENDATION

Move to adopt Resolution No. 10043

BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS

As the administrator for CTR for Bellevue employers, the City promotes the ORCA card program as an effective CTR tool. When the ORCA card is included in an employer’s CTR program, it is associated with an increase in the transit and vanpool use among its employees. Public transportation ridership has begun to rebound from the pandemic and City of Bellevue staff ridership is projected to continue to increase in 2022 as transit agencies restore or modify previously suspended routes. Providing the ORCA card as one of the City’s CTR program elements helps the City comply with its own regulatory requirements and positions the organization to incentivize alternative modes of commuting to worksites.

To be eligible to participate in the ORCA card agreement, the City is required to provide ORCA cards to all of its CTR-affected employees (employees arriving to work between 6:00-9:00 a.m.). Therefore, the 2022 ORCA card agreement is for the use of 1,300 ORCA cards for employees.

POLICY & FISCAL IMPACTS

Policy Impact

Prior Direction from Council

In December 2020, the City Council passed Resolution No. 9859, adopting the Environmental Stewardship Plan which included strategy M.M.1.1, to reduce the drive alone rate for City employees through incentives. Providing ORCA cards as part of our CTR program supports more use of transit

and other alternative modes by employees and thus helps the City achieve its greenhouse gas emission reduction goal.

State Law/Bellevue City Code

The State Transportation Demand Management (CTR) law (RCW 70A.15.4040) requires employers with 100 or more employees to develop a program that encourages its employees to reduce drive-alone commute trips and vehicle miles traveled. Bellevue City Code 14.40 and the CTR law require affected employers to make a good faith effort as identified in RCW 70A.15.4050 to develop and implement a CTR program.

Comprehensive Plan

Bellevue's Comprehensive Plan, Policy TR-12 states: "Ensure that the City as an employer sets a positive example by maintaining a comprehensive and effective transportation demand management program for its employees." By providing ORCA cards, the City provides employees an alternative to drive alone commuting and sets a positive example to other Bellevue employers.

Fiscal Impact

Approval of this action obligates the City to pay King County up to \$215,000, plus all applicable taxes, for the purchase of the annual 2022 ORCA cards for City employees. ORCA costs are calculated using a fixed price for vanpools and administrative services and the projected volume of employee ridership. The projected volume of employee ridership are best estimates using current data and information available. The City will only pay for actual transit ridership.

At \$215,000 the ORCA card agreement purchase continues to be a cost-effective option for the City, and it provides employees access to comprehensive transportation benefits that combine transit, vanpool, rail, streetcar, water taxi and emergency taxi ride features all in one program.

This expenditure was planned and budgeted in the 2021-2022 Facility Services Fund operating budget.

OPTIONS

1. Adopt the Resolution execution of the ORCA card agreement with King County for the purchase of ORCA cards for City of Bellevue employees for 2022, in an amount not to exceed, \$215,000, plus all applicable taxes.
2. Do not adopt the Resolution and provide alternative direction to staff.

ATTACHMENTS & AVAILABLE DOCUMENTS

Proposed Resolution No. 10043

AVAILABLE IN COUNCIL LIBRARY

Agreement for Purchase of ORCA Business Cards and ORCA Business Passport Products between King County and the City of Bellevue