

December 5, 2016

CITY COUNCIL AGENDA MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT

Resolution authorizing execution of the ORCA agreement with King County for the purchase and distribution of the annual 2017 ORCA cards to City employees, in an amount not to exceed \$351,432.

FISCAL IMPACT

This Agreement obligates the City to pay King County \$351,432 for the purchase of the annual 2017 ORCA cards for City employees. This expenditure was planned and budgeted in the proposed 2017 operating budget.

As an employer that provides ORCA cards to its employees, the City is required to provide cards for all CTR-affected employees (employees arriving to work between 6:00-9:00 a.m.). The 2017 ORCA card agreement is for 800 ORCA cards for employees.

At an annual card cost of \$439 per employee, the City receives a considerable discount in the bulk purchase of cards. The retail price for an annual transit-only pass ranges from \$1,188 to \$2,484 depending on the agency and number of zones the employee travels through. At these rates, if the City bought transit-only passes for the 800 eligible employees, the cost to the City for an annual retail pass would range from \$950,400 to \$1,987,200. At \$351,432 the ORCA card purchase continues to be a more cost-effective alternative 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.

For comparison purposes, the 2016 ORCA card purchase was \$336,010. The 5% increase in 2017 is attributed to increased transit ridership and Sound Transit fare increases.

STAFF CONTACTS

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Civic Services Department

POLICY CONSIDERATION

State Law and Bellevue City Code:

The State Commute Trip Reduction Law (RCW 70.94) 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 (BCC 14.40) and the Commute Trip Reduction (CTR) law require affected employers to make a good faith effort as defined in RCW 70.94.534(2) 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 strong 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.

City Council Resolution No. 7517, adopted a goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Providing ORCA cards as part of our CTR program encourages more use of transit and other alternative modes and thus helps the City achieve its emission reduction goal.

BACKGROUND

This agreement allows 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 CTR program relies on ORCA cards to support and incentivize employees to commute by alternative modes, particularly by transit and vanpool, where we receive the largest benefit toward reaching our CTR and emission reduction goals. Our efforts are paying off as we have seen increased participation in vanpools and transit ridership over the past year.

As the administrator for CTR businesses in Bellevue, the City promotes the ORCA 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 use among its employees. On average this year, 63 percent of employees at City Hall (excluding commissioned police personnel) and 59 percent of employees at the Bellevue Service Center used transit, vanpools and other non-drive alone commute modes. By providing the ORCA card as one of the City’s CTR program elements, it helps the City comply with its own regulatory requirements and sets an example for other employers.

EFFECTIVE DATE

If approved, this Resolution becomes effective immediately upon Council adoption.

OPTIONS

1. Adopt Resolution authorizing execution of the ORCA agreement with King County for the purchase and distribution of the annual 2017 ORCA cards to City employees.
2. Do not adopt Resolution and provide staff with alternative direction.

RECOMMENDATION

Option 1.

MOTION

Move to adopt Resolution No. 9192 authorizing execution of the ORCA agreement with King County for the purchase and distribution of the annual 2017 ORCA cards to City employees, in an amount not to exceed \$351,432.

ATTACHMENTS

Proposed Resolution No. 9192

AVAILABLE IN COUNCIL DOCUMENT LIBRARY

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