

December 11, 2017

CITY COUNCIL AGENDA MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT

Resolution authorizing execution of the ORCA agreement with King County for the purchase and distribution of the annual 2018 ORCA cards to City employees, in an amount not to exceed \$346,052, plus all applicable taxes.

FISCAL IMPACT

This agreement obligates the City to pay King County \$346,052, plus all applicable taxes, for the purchase of the annual 2018 ORCA cards for City employees. This expenditure was planned and budgeted in the 2017-2018 operating budget.

As an employer that provides ORCA cards to its employees, the City is required to provide cards for all Commute Trip Reduction (CTR) affected employees (employees arriving to work between 6-9 a.m.). The 2018 ORCA card agreement is for 800 ORCA cards for employees.

At an annual card cost of \$433 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 \$346,052 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 2017 ORCA card purchase was \$351,432. The 2 percent decrease in 2018 is attributed to a slight decrease in transit ridership by City employees.

STAFF CONTACTS

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Civic Services Department

POLICY CONSIDERATION

State Law and Bellevue City Code:

The State Commute Trip Reduction (CTR) 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 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.

BACKGROUND

In February 2007, the City Council passed Resolution No. 7517, adopting a goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Providing ORCA cards as part of our CTR program encourages more use of transit and other alternative commute modes and thus helps the City achieve its emission reduction goal.

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 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.

As the administrator for CTR businesses throughout 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 alternatives. 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 in Bellevue.

EFFECTIVE DATE

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

OPTIONS

1. Adopt the Resolution authorizing execution of the ORCA agreement with King County for the purchase and distribution of the annual 2018 ORCA cards to City employees, in an amount not to exceed \$346,052, plus all applicable taxes.
2. Do not adopt the Resolution and provide alternative direction to staff.

RECOMMENDATION

Option 1

MOTION

Move to adopt Resolution No. 9344 authorizing execution of the ORCA agreement with King County for the purchase and distribution of the annual 2018 ORCA cards to City employees, in an amount not to exceed \$346,052, plus all applicable taxes.

ATTACHMENTS

Proposed Resolution No. 9344

AVAILABLE IN COUNCIL DOCUMENT LIBRARY

ORCA Agreement