

**Joint Board Meeting
January 14, 2025**

Action Item: Approve ORCA Open Payments Change Order

Purpose: The ORCA open payment solution will enable customers to use contactless EMV bank cards (cEMV) and EMV bank cards stored in mobile wallets on NFC-capable mobile devices to pay ORCA fares without needing an ORCA card. The development of this solution will be a collaborative effort between the ORCA Regional Program Team (RPT), INIT and their subcontractors.

Since the initial contract award, the solution provided by the Card Brands has evolved, as this was a new feature at the time of the proposal. Additionally, ORCA uses a different payment acquirer and processor than what was supported in the original proposal from INIT. As a result, a change order is required to implement open payments. The solution provided by this Change Order is much more mature and in use at several agencies around the country.

This action encompasses both the capital project delivery and operating costs over a ten-year period for INIT and their subcontractors, incorporating functionality already adopted by peer transit agencies. Future change orders are expected to further enhance the user experience in the Puget Sound region as technology evolves. However, moving forward with these core components now will allow sufficient time for development, testing, and the extensive certification process necessary to implement open payments for ORCA. The ORCA open payment solution is anticipated to launch before the World Cup in 2026.

Capital Costs

This capital project cost will not exceed \$646,433.60. The project delivery costs will be funded from capital project budget contingency.

	CT	ET	KCM	KT	PT	ST	WSF
Share	7.30%	0.80%	57.80%	2.10%	4.40%	26.90%	0.70%
Cost per agency	\$47,189.65	\$5,171.47	\$373,638.62	\$13,575.11	\$28,443.08	\$173,890.64	4,525.04

Operating Costs

Because the original solution contained an open payment solution, the annual operating costs are already included in the Contract with INIT, which is budgeted in the 2025 ORCA Operating Budget and forecasted for all future years of operation. This amount will be split per the annual operating shares formula.

Recommendation: The ORCA Director, Regional Program Team, and the ORCA Steering Committee support the approval of this action to engage in the delivery of open payments.