

Regional Fare Forum Meeting 1 Summary

February 24, 2025 | 2:00 – 4:00 PM
Virtual Meeting

Participants

Scott Bader – Everett Transit	Rob Putaansuu – Kitsap Transit
Dow Constantine – Sound Transit	De’Sean Quinn – King County Metro
Christine Frizzell – Community Transit	Rob Saka – City of Seattle
Todd Lamphere – WA State Ferries	Kristina Walker – Pierce Transit

Executive Summary

The 2025 Regional Fare Forum convened its first meeting with the aim of establishing fare policy recommendations for the regional fare system over the next decade. The discussion emphasized balancing agency-specific priorities with regional goals to enhance transit accessibility, simplicity, and equity. Key themes included fare policy alignment, system interoperability, equity considerations, and the role of technology in future fare collection. Participants acknowledged past achievements, such as delivering next gen ORCA, while emphasizing the need for continued collaboration to improve fare structures and user experience.

Key Discussion Points

Purpose & Outcomes of the Regional Fare Forum

- The desired outcome of the Regional Fare Forum is to gain regional alignment on a set of policy recommendations to drive individual and regional fare policy decision making.
- Past Fare Forums led to ORCA’s development and major fare standardization efforts.
- Establishing a long-term vision for the region’s fare system will require balancing diverse agency priorities.

Scope of this Fare Forum

- The scope of this Fare Forum was outlined and, while participants largely aligned with the in-scope items, there was some discussion around ensuring openness to bring up other topics.
- Ensured that while discussion of near-term, existing projects is not in scope for this Fare Forum, they remain a priority and will continue moving forward.
- Accountability measures should be established to track progress.

Fare System Considerations

- ORCA governance and decision-making processes were discussed.
- Participants raised concerns about system accessibility, fare equity, and financial sustainability.
- Interoperability with other transit systems and benchmarking against other regions were highlighted as key considerations.

Future Themes and Shared Values

- Participants aligned on the key themes of simplicity, equity and access, and policy prioritization.
- The existing shared values continue to align with this Fare Forum's purpose. Some edits were suggested related to updating innovative technology and the link between safety and simplicity.

Next Steps

- Future Fare Forum meetings will address the agreed upon priority topics: simplicity, equity and access, and policy prioritization.
- Per participants' request, meeting materials will be sent out to participants in advance of subsequent meetings.
- The RFF Planning Team will incorporate proposed edits to the shared values and bring back to the participants at the next meeting.