

# Regional Fare Forum Meeting 2 Summary

**May 28, 2025 | 12:00 – 3:00 PM**  
**Sound Transit – Santa Fe Room & Virtual**

## Participants

|  |                                   |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| Scott Bader – Everett Transit          | Rob Putaansuu – Kitsap Transit    |
| Shannon Braddock – 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 Regional Fare Forum convened meeting two to explore strategies for simplifying the regional fare system. Utilizing passenger personas, participants evaluated the complexity and barriers within current reduced fare programs and discussed potential solutions such as fare capping, alignment of fare change dates, and system-wide policy coordination. Broad support emerged for initiatives that streamline access, particularly for vulnerable riders, while remaining mindful of revenue implications and operational constraints.

## Key Discussion Points

### Clarification of Safety as a Shared Policy Value

- Diverse perspectives were shared regarding the role of safety in the forum's policy framework.
- General agreement emerged to retain safety as a policy value.
- It was acknowledged that safety is being addressed operationally across other regional bodies.

### Fare System Complexity and Rider Personas

- Data showed that riders experiencing the greatest system complexity are in the reduced fare categories while riders with business provided ORCA cards experience the least amount of complexity.
- Data used to construct the rider personas underscored the burden of proving eligibility and navigating complex fare structures.
- Members stressed the need to shift from a compliance-focused approach to a service- and equity-oriented mindset.
- Communication challenges, particularly around reduced fare programs, were noted as key barriers to enrollment and scalability.

### Fare Simplification and Apportionment

- ORCA's revenue-sharing formula and the potential complexity introduced by fare capping were discussed.
- Examples from other systems (e.g., Portland/Vancouver) were shared to illustrate fare capping across multiple agencies.

#### Solutions, Trade-offs, and Priorities

- Support emerged around low-to-medium impact solutions including aligning agency fare change implementation dates, simplifying pass pricing, and adjusting transfer windows. Members are also willing to further evaluate fare capping as a potential solution.
- Emphasis was placed on prioritizing outcomes - whether increasing ridership, ensuring equity by reducing complexity for those who need it most, regional alignment, or maintaining revenue.
- Concerns were raised about the pace of change, risks associated with poor implementation, resource constraints, unintended impacts, and the capacity of individual agencies.

#### Next Steps

- Meeting 3 will be rescheduled to better accommodate members' calendars and will address equity and access.
- Continue to evaluate possible solutions and associated trade-offs to reduce system complexity.