

CITY COUNCIL AGENDA MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT:

Resolution No. 8172, authorizing execution of the ORCA agreement with King County for the purchase and distribution of the annual 2011 ORCA cards to City of Bellevue employees.

FISCAL IMPACT:

This Agreement obligates the City to pay King County \$263,587.96 for the purchase of the annual 2011 ORCA cards for City of Bellevue employees. This expenditure was planned and budgeted in the 2011-2012 operating budget.

STAFF CONTACT:

Nora Johnson, Director, 452-4167
Laurie Leland, Service First Division Manager, 452-4366
Civic Services Department

POLICY CONSIDERATION:

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 vehicle miles traveled and drive alone commute trips. 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.

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.

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

BACKGROUND:

The City, as an employer, implemented a CTR program in 1987. The goals of the City's program are to reduce drive alone trips by providing alternative rideshare options to its employees and to reduce parking demand at City Hall and the Bellevue Service Center. Rideshare options include transit, vanpool, and carpool. This agreement enables use of a common fare smartcard known as ORCA for public transportation services provided by any of the ORCA Agencies (King County Metro, Sound Transit, Pierce Transit, Community Transit, Everett Transit, and Kitsap Transit), making public transportation in the four county region fast, easy and seamless.

As an employer that provides ORCA cards to its employees, the City is required to purchase cards for all CTR-affected employees (employees arriving to work between 6-9 a.m.). The cost of the 2011 ORCA program is based on 2010 Bellevue employee ORCA card usage/trip data. Other costs included in the ORCA contract are the City's Metro vanpool and vanshare subsidies, ride home free

guarantee, and card setup costs. The 2011 ORCA card agreement is for 800 ORCA cards for employees. The City's annual cost per employee for this card is \$329. The retail price for an annual transit pass ranges from \$648 to \$2,052 depending upon the number of zones the employee travels through (with 800 eligible employees the cost to the City for the annual retail pass ranges from \$518,400 to \$1,641,600). At \$263,587.96, the ORCA card purchase is more cost-effective for the City and provides a comprehensive transportation benefits program that combines transit, rail, vanpool, streetcar, water taxi and emergency taxi ride features all in one program.

For comparison purposes, the 2010 ORCA card purchase was \$253,707.52. The \$9,880.44 (3.9%) increase in 2011 is attributed to fare increases among several of the participating agencies.

The ORCA program is one that the City, as the administrator for CTR businesses in Bellevue, promotes as an effective tool for employees to ride transit, vanpool or vanship. When the ORCA card is included in an employer's CTR program, it is associated with an increase in the transit mode share among its employees. This year 62 percent of City employees at City Hall (excluding Police) and 60 percent of employees at BSC used transit or other non-drive alone commute modes. By providing the ORCA card as one of the City's CTR 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 No. 8172 authorizing execution of the ORCA card agreement with King County. This will continue the City's commitment to encourage CTR options for its employees.
- 2) Do not adopt Resolution No. 8172 and provide staff with alternative direction. This will require the City to purchase individual transit passes or identify and implement other strategies to meet CTR requirements.

RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt Resolution No. 8172 authorizing execution of the ORCA card agreement with King County for the purchase and distribution of the annual ORCA card to City of Bellevue employees.

MOTION:

Move to adopt Resolution No. 8172 authorizing execution of the ORCA card agreement with King County for the purchase of the annual ORCA card to City of Bellevue employees.

ATTACHMENTS:

Proposed Resolution No. 8172.

AVAILABLE IN COUNCIL OFFICE:

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

CITY OF BELLEVUE, WASHINGTON

RESOLUTION NO. 4172

A RESOLUTION authorizing the execution of the ORCA card agreement (plus supplements, if necessary) with King County, in an amount not to exceed \$263,587.96, for the purchase and distribution of the annual 2011 ORCA cards to City of Bellevue employees.

THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BELLEVUE, WASHINGTON, DOES RESOLVE AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. The City Manager or his designee is hereby authorized to execute the ORCA card agreement (plus supplements, if necessary) with King County, in an amount not to exceed \$263,587.96, for the purchase and distribution of the annual 2011 ORCA cards to City employees, a copy of which ORCA card agreement has been given Clerk's Receiving No. _____.

Passed by the City Council this _____ day of _____, 2010, and signed in authentication of its passage this _____ day of _____, 2010.

(SEAL)

Don Davidson, DDS
Mayor

Attest:

Myrna L. Basich, City Clerk