#### **GETTING STARTED WITH**

# **ORCA for Downtown Tacoma Businesses**



Looking for an affordable employee benefit to offer your employees? The ORCA Passport Program lets downtown employers (with as few as 5 employees) put a bus and train pass in every employee's hand at less than 10% of retail cost!

#### **EMPLOYERS WILL:**

- o Save thousands on the cost of buying transit passes at retail prices
- o Save thousands compared to parking costs (see back)
- o Save time managing monthly passes
- o Provide your employees a low-cost benefit with high value
- o Retain great employees and lower turnover costs
- o Improve your employees' health by encouraging them to choose less stressful commute options
- o Improve downtown by reducing the number of cars on the road

"The ORCA Passport Program has saved Propel money and reduced employees' commutes. Currently 48% of Tacoma location staff take alternate forms of transportation as a direct result of the program."

-Patti Sutton, Propel Insurance

## **PROGRAM INCLUDES:**

- o ORCA passes for your employees for just over \$170/year/employee (regularly \$2,484)
- o Unlimited access to all regular bus services on Pierce Transit, Community Transit, Everett Transit, Kitsap Transit, King County Metro Transit, and Sound Transit (regional)
- Access to Sound Transit Link light rail, Sounder commuter rail, and Seattle Streetcar, and King County Water Taxi (Vashon and West Seattle routes)
- o Emergency Ride Home service
- o Vanpool service\*

#### PASS OPTIONS

	Pass Type	Access	Price Per Employee	
Business Passport	Annual Area Passport	Unlimited trips on regional transit providers (see above for details)	\$174.62/year **	
Must provide pass to all employees	Annual Custom Passport Must have 500+ employees		Custom pricing Please contact us for an estimate	
Business Choice	Monthly Regional PugetPass	Unlimited travel on Pierce Transit or other transit service up to the trip value of the pass	Employer may choose amount	
	E-purse or E-voucher	Use like cash for fares or apply towards the cost of a monthly pass	anost amount	

<sup>\*\*</sup> March 2017 – August 2017 price for new Area Passport customers located in the Tacoma/Fife/Lakewood area. Price subject to change at any time prior to agreement execution.

<sup>\*</sup> Includes 100% vanpool fare subsidy on Pierce Transit, Community Transit, Kitsap Transit, and King County Metro Transit vanpool vans and 100% vanshare fare subsidy on King County Metro and Pierce Transit vanshare vans. (Custom vanpool pricing may be necessary based on company's current usage.)

## **HOW DOES THIS HELP my BOTTOM LINE?**

# **Existing Parking Benefit**

Company X currently provides parking subsidies (free parking) for its full-time employees.

Employee Parking	Annually	
Number of Employees Receiving Subsidy	20	
Existing Employee Parking Subsidy (monthly)	\$140.00	\$2,800
Annual Cost of Parking to Employer		\$33,600

#### **Transit Benefit**

By providing transit passes to all full-time, benefits-eligible employees, Company X will pay significantly less than parking.

ORCA Calculator	Annually	
Number of on-site eligible employees	20	
Cost of ORCA* (per employee, per year)	\$174.62*	\$3492,
Card fee per employee (first year only)	\$5.00	
Annual Cost of ORCA to Employer		\$3,592

<sup>\*</sup>March 2017 – August 2017 price. Price subject to change at any time prior to agreement execution. The retail value of the Business Passport is \$2484 per year.

Savings	Annually	
Parking Costs	\$33,600	
Transit Costs	\$3,592	
Annual Savings	\$30,008	

#### **ADDITIONAL SAVINGS**

## **Cost Sharing**

Businesses can recoup some of the costs of ORCA by sharing up to 50 percent of the costs with employees.

#### **State Tax Credits**

Businesses are eligible for a credit against Washington State business and occupation (B&O) or public utility tax liability by providing a public transportation benefit. Employers can recoup up to \$60 per employee per year.

#### **PUTTING IT ALL TOGETHER**

Downtown On the Go and Pierce Transit will work with you and your employee transportation coordinator (ETC) to ensure as many employees as possible take advantage of the ORCA Passport Program and that your employees are ready to use their transit passes and know the benefits of ORCA, including the Emergency Ride Home program and available transit incentives.

## For more information, contact:

Sharon Stockwell | Pierce Transit Employer Services | 253.581.8112 | sstockwell@piercetransit.org Kristina Walker | Downtown On the Go | 253.682.1739 | kristinaw@downtownonthego.org



