

Capitol Hill Housing

Low Income Access to Transportation Options

Pilot Project 3-month extension



Council Transportation and Sustainability Committee

June 9, 2017



Seattle Department of Transportation

Presentation overview

- Background
- Pilot
- Assessment
- Status
- Future Opportunity
- Testimonials

- Transportation is the second highest household cost for low income residents
- Reducing low income household transportation costs increases the budget available for housing and other expenditures
- In 2016 the ORCA Joint Board approved the Multifamily ORCA Passport

Pilot inspired by 2014 survey

Market Rate Buildings

- 68% of residents with a transit pass get all or part of the cost covered by their employer or school
- 231 survey responses

Affordable Housing

- 21% of residents with a transit pass get all or part of the cost covered by their employer or school
- 78 survey responses

ORCA Business Passport Program not reaching residents of affordable housing

Background

- SDOT and King County Metro (KCM) partnered with Capitol Hill Housing Improvement Program (CHHIP) to implement a 1-year Pilot Project in 3 low-income housing properties:
 - Boylston-Howell – 30 units
 - Holiday – 30 units
 - Villa Apartments – 62 units
- The pilot included:
 - Distribution of subsidized Multifamily ORCA Passport passes to 122 units
 - Distribution of car share memberships
 - Transportation informational fairs and surveys
 - Implementation of shared parking management technology to generate future revenue from the building's garages

Background



- SDOT funded the subsidy cost (50%) and distribution of Multifamily ORCA Passport passes to 122 units from April 1, 2016 to March 31, 2017
- Anticipated outcomes of the Pilot:
 - Implement the first Multifamily ORCA Passport Program in low income properties
 - Reduce the monthly cost of a transit pass
 - Develop and test shared parking management technology

Pilot participation

- Boylston-Howell
 - 30 households; 17 people participated
 - \$32/month; resident paid \$16/month
- Holiday
 - 30 households; 18 people participated
 - \$34/month; resident paid \$17/month
- Villa
 - 62 households; 34 people participated
 - \$20/month; resident paid \$10/month



Assessment

- 69 people participated (57%)
- 44% of participants did not have a transit pass before
- At the end of first year, transit trips increased by an average of 75%
- 53% cost increase to renew Multifamily ORCA Passport (\$40/month per pass)
- Next 3 months residents pay \$20 per month
- Shared parking management technology under development

Status

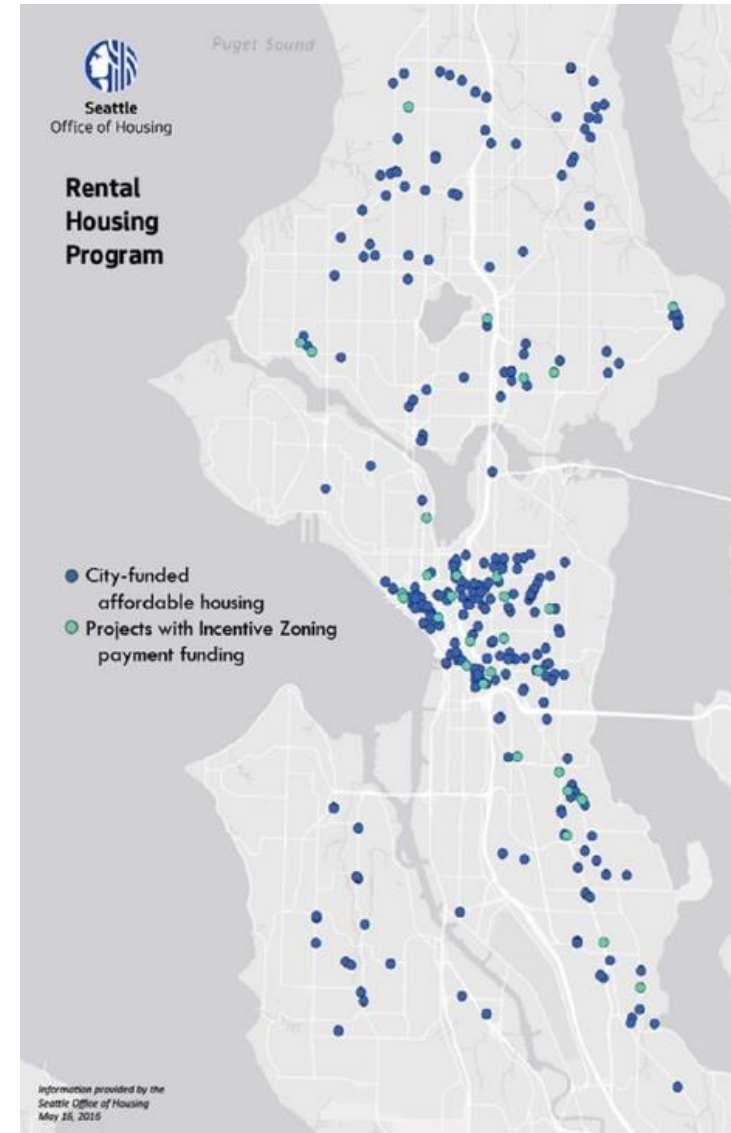
- Ordinance authorizes SDOT to:
 - Extend the MOA with CHHIP for 3 months (until June 30th, 2017) and provides up to \$11K to subsidize the purchase and distribution of Multifamily ORCA Passport passes
- MOA Amendment
 - Increase number of participants in the pilot
 - Conduct a survey of all 122 households with a target response of 70%
 - Provide final report to SDOT

Opportunity in Seattle

SEATTLE VALUES AND INVESTS IN AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Consistent support for the Seattle Housing Levy in 1986, 1995, 2002, and 2009 has helped create over 12,500 affordable apartments, assisted 800 lower-income families in purchasing their first homes, and provided emergency rental assistance to 6,500 households.

12,500 affordable apartments throughout the city managed by organizations like Capitol Hill Housing



“The Orca pass program fundamentally changed transportation for me. I make more frequent trips using public transportation since purchasing the card, and it has given me freedom to take advantage of opportunities in Seattle. For example, I'm able to take advantage of specials in grocery stores that are beyond walking distance. I'm able to get extensive reduced-fee dental care at the University of Washington School of Dentistry without worrying about transportation costs. I've explored new areas of Seattle that were previously out of reach because of transportation costs. The Orca pass program has improved my quality of life.”

“Makes my family feel normal and connected to public transportation, allowing my family to have extra funds to apply to other household cost. My wife is unemployed, we have an infant son, my hours are cut at work and [thanks to this pass] I feel equally involved in the city's access to public transportation even though I'm low income - a blessing.”

“If this were to go away, I am not sure what I would do.... I can't really afford to go back to spending \$90 per month for an Orca card. It's been nice to be able to go to Edmonds or Tacoma and Puyallup on my days off. That's not a bad thing. Not a bad thing at all. I probably wouldn't do as much regional traveling if it wasn't for this Orca card. And yes, trips to the grocery store and work just makes more sense with an Orca card. Thank you for this card. It's been good to me.”

"Please keep it funded and going! **I decided to not keep my car and just use this \$10 pass and walk.** Loving it and saves me money. Is very convenient to include \$10 fee with rent. Thanks!"

Thank you

Great program for low income people

I will be so sad if it discontinues. Before this program I would spend \$10 a day on metro. You guys are lifesavers.

I like it :-)

Thank you very much.

Good job. Keep it going.

Very helpful getting the discount. Transportation is a large part of my fixed budget.

It's a great program for those of us who don't own cars and \$100/month for pass is expensive.

Please keep the program! <3

Thank you.

Please don't end this program. It saves me over \$100/month, and as a low income individual, that is a life-saver.

It has improved my health because I can combine walking with transit. I can get to the airport with ease and without the huge expense.

Make it permanent, make it universal

Great Program! Thanks!

Nothing. It is perfect.

Seems to be working well

Nothing

Love it! Thank you!

Nothing. This program is great. I hope I can keep using this card. It save us a lot of money.

It would be helpful if this program continued

Thank you!

The orca program has been awesome for my family! The discount helps us make ends meet every month! Thank you!!

Thank you, thank you, thank you!

Not really other than my family and I are grateful to have the Orca cards. Thank you!

No really, but this has made it affordable for my child and I to use the train and bus now when we couldn't afford it before the program started.

Without the Orca card my family would not be able to travel nearly as much.

I hope I can keep the CHH Orca. It helps me a lot.

Questions?

