Plan, Travel, and Pay... Your Way

Volpe Led the Evolution of Innovative Transportation Payment Systems

In the 1970s, Volpe conducted the first federal study on automated fare collection...

... and since then has been a leader in advanced transportation payment systems.

If it’s easier to pay for transportation, both travelers and cities benefit

For travelers:
+ More convenient and faster ways to pay
+ Easier to pay for multimodal travel
+ Financial incentives for using alternative transportation

For cities:
+ Fewer carbon emissions
+ Fewer congestion
+ A satisfied traveling public
+ Transportation agencies can better manage travel demands

Volpe co-hosted key workshops to bring together users, stakeholders, and technology providers. This led to the adoption of common technologies for payment systems in...

... Washington

80% of riders use an ORCA Card to accommodate. That’s around 400,000 e-tickets a day.

... San Francisco

The Clipper Card is used by more than 20 participating transit agencies in and around San Francisco, providing riders with easy travel by bus, ferry, light rail, subway, and commuter rail. The card also makes parking easier at transit stations.

One million Bay Area residents use the Clipper Card

×1,000,000

... and Boston

Volpe experts were instrumental in helping the city of Boston and MTA officials evaluate alternative approaches for commuting by implementing a new form of cashless currency called the Charlie Card.

One out of every five riders use a Charlie Card.

Volpe worked with the transportation community to create a shared vision for multimodal payment systems – essential for seamless travel and smart cities.

Mobile devices and real-time data inform traveler choices and has made it easier than ever before to...
+ Plan the most convenient trip, using all modes
+ Reserve seats or tickets
+ Pay for all trip modes from one account

Mobile devices and real-time data inform traveler choices and has made it easier than ever before to...
+ Plan the most convenient trip, using all modes
+ Reserve seats or tickets
+ Pay for all trip modes from one account

Incentives

Providers can apply incentives such as discounts, promotions, and loyalty programs. They can also bundle services based on customer patterns.

Volpe continues to develop international standards and is encouraging innovation in transit payment systems, in partnership with the Federal Transit Administration, ITS JPO, private sector, and the public.

A-5, Department of Transportation
Volpe The National Transportation Systems Center