



FARE REVENUE REPORT 2023

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Executive summary

The purpose of this report is to review Sound Transit fare revenue, farebox recovery rates and the status of various fare-related programs. Insights from the 2023 Fare Revenue Report:

Systemwide ridership, fare revenue and farebox recovery rates increased as compared to 2022 levels. In 2023, systemwide ridership increased 17% and fare revenue increased 15% when compared to 2022. Fare revenue gains were driven in part from higher overall ridership, led by gains in ORCA Business Passport ridership and the maturing of the Northgate Link extension. Although increasing, systemwide ridership and fare revenue are not yet at prepandemic levels. Systemwide ridership in 2023 was still 20% lower than 2019 levels and fare revenue was 46% lower than 2019.

In 2023, systemwide ridership increased by 17% and fare revenue increased by 15% (from \$45.1 million to \$51.8 million) as compared to 2022.

- Link fare revenue increased by \$3.2 million (11%) from 2022;
- ST Express fare revenue increased by \$2.4 million (20%) from 2022;
- Sounder fare revenue increased by \$0.9 million (23%) from 2022;
- Tacoma Link fare revenue was \$0.1 million after fares were implemented on September 16, 2023.

The ORCA Passport program involves transit agencies working with businesses to provide transportation services to employees and students. ORCA Business Passport fare revenue increased by 14% from \$20.3 million in 2022 to \$23.0 million in 2023 as more employees returned to their worksites. In 2023, revenue from ORCA Business Passport accounts was 44% of the total Sound Transit fare revenue.

Gains in ridership and fare revenue vary greatly by mode, with Link ridership at or above pre-pandemic levels. Link ridership recovery is faster than ridership recovery from Sounder and ST Express.

Trends in ridership and fare revenue are linked again. In 2023, fare revenue is back to increasing nearly at the same rate as ridership. Historically, ridership and fare revenue were closely linked, with similar increases or decreases. During the pandemic this link was broken, mainly due to lower use of fare media.

Continuing to monitor the use of fare media, particularly on Link.

- Sound Transit's new fare compliance policy went into effect in November 2023, so any changes due to the implementation of that policy would not be reflected in this report. The 2024 Fare Revenue Report will provide more insight into how the new policy affects fare compliance.
- Sound Transit continues to monitor fare compliance each month, using two different methodologies.
 - Data automatically generated from the ORCA system, ticket vending machines, mobile ticket sales and automatic passenger counters shows 56% of boardings on Link used fare media in 2023.
 - Data from inspections from Fare Ambassadors, and the goal is to inspect 10% of boardings.
- The Average Fare per Boarding (AFB) has decreased compared to prior years mainly due to decreased use of fare media. Correspondingly, the Average Fare per Boarding on Link continued an unfavorable trend from \$1.23 in 2022 to \$1.20 in 2023.

Additional information on Sound Transit's Fare Compliance Policy can be found in Resolution R2022-07.

Farebox recovery rates: Per Sound Transit’s fare policy, farebox revenue should recover a specified percentage of operating costs. In 2023 all modes were below the policy for minimum farebox recovery thresholds as fare revenue is not keeping pace with operating costs and reflects lower fare payment compliance. Operating costs continue to grow year over year.

- Link farebox revenue was 16% of operating costs in 2023; lower than the 40% minimum policy threshold.
- ST Express bus farebox revenue was 10% of operating costs in 2023; lower than the 20% minimum policy threshold.
- Sounder farebox revenue was 8% of operating costs in 2023; lower than the 23% minimum policy threshold.

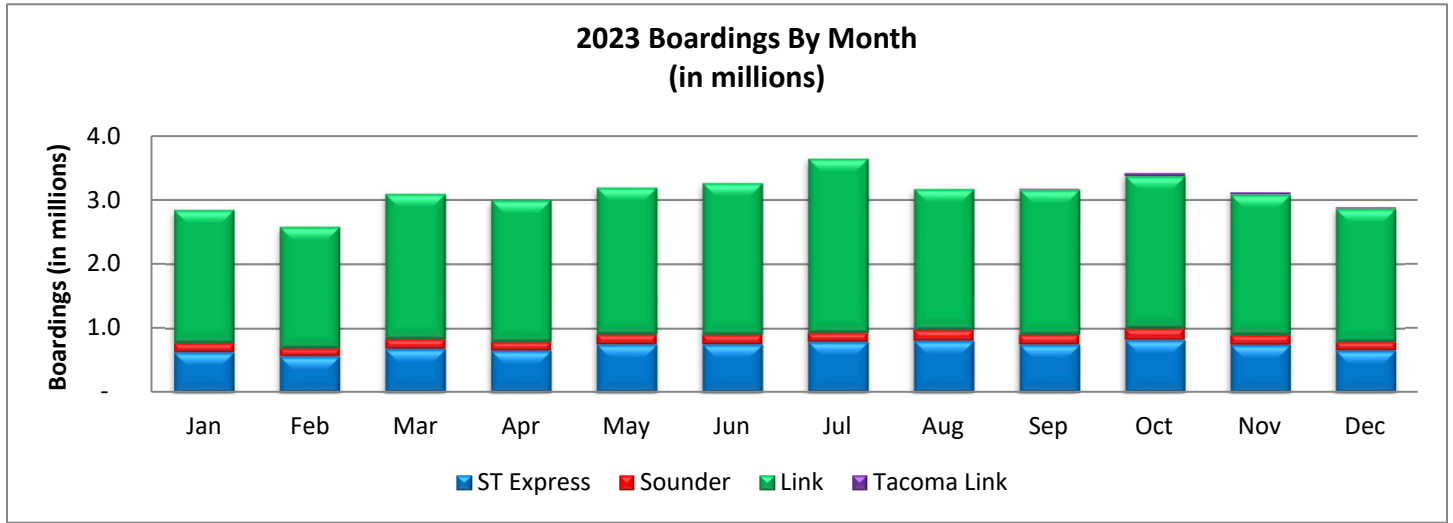
Updated Fare Policy Adopted. In May of 2024 the Sound Transit Board adopted an updated Fare Policy (Resolution No. R2024-08). The updated Fare Policy establishes new farebox recovery minimums and targets both systemwide and for individual modes of service.

- The updated minimums are aligned with fare revenue projections in the current Finance Plan and are 17% for Link light rail, 13% for Sounder commuter rail, 7% for Regional Express bus and 15% systemwide.
- The updated farebox recovery targets are 22% for Link light rail, 18% for Sounder commuter rail, 12% for Regional Express bus and 20% systemwide.
- The updated Fare Policy also establishes that the Board will set farebox recovery minimums and targets for all modes within three years after the start of operation or fare collection.
- The updated Fare Policy also provides that the Board consider potential fare changes every four years in line with assumptions for fare increases in the agency’s Finance Plan. In addition, the Fare Policy establishes a trigger for Board consideration of a fare change when an individual mode does not achieve its farebox recovery minimum in two consecutive calendar years.

Helping riders with low income: More than 217,000 people have enrolled in the ORCA LIFT program. In 2023, Sound Transit continued several fare-related efforts to assist riders with low incomes or those experiencing economic hardship, including:

- Funding additional outreach to promote registration for the ORCA LIFT low-income fare program.
- Promoting ORCA LIFT registration events through ST’s social media channels.
- Partnering with Metro, Seattle-King County Public Health, Catholic Community Services and the Washington State Department of Health and Social Service (DSHS) to increase ORCA LIFT enrollment, especially in Pierce and Snohomish counties. By the end of 2023, there had been more than 217,000 ORCA LIFT enrollments with 55,240 active ORCA LIFT riders, an increase of 4% from 2022.
- Incentivizing registration for ORCA LIFT by providing \$10 preloaded (10 free rides) on ORCA LIFT cards for people who register for this program.
- Working with staff at Pierce Transit to support their implementation of the ORCA LIFT program.
- Continuation of the ORCA LIFT Subsidized Annual Pass Pilot Program with King County Metro. For this program, Sound Transit and King County Metro are providing free 12-month ORCA passes to riders with incomes 80% of the federal poverty level (or lower) who are enrolled in one of six state benefit programs. At the end of 2023, there were about 11,600 riders enrolled.
- Working with staff at Everett Transit to support their implementation of the ORCA LIFT Subsidized Annual Pass program.
- Providing additional human services tickets at a 90-95% discount to human service agencies in cooperation with King County Metro.

The graph below shows how ridership in 2023 trended by month. 2023 ridership reflected pre-pandemic seasonality, with higher ridership in summer months.

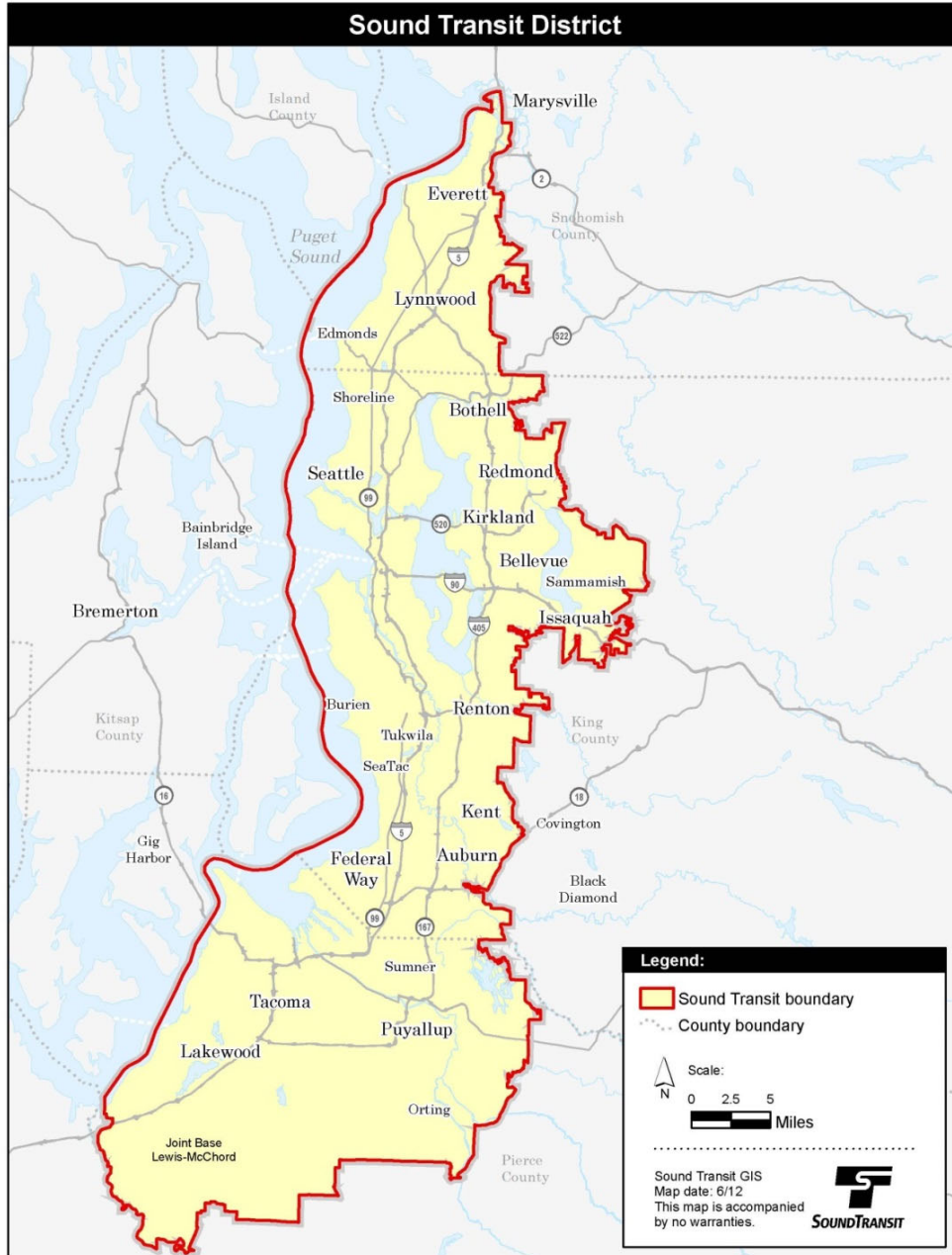


Overview

Transit fares are an important source of revenue to fund transit operations. Through 2046, Sound Transit’s long-range Financial Plan assumes \$5.5 billion of fare revenue.

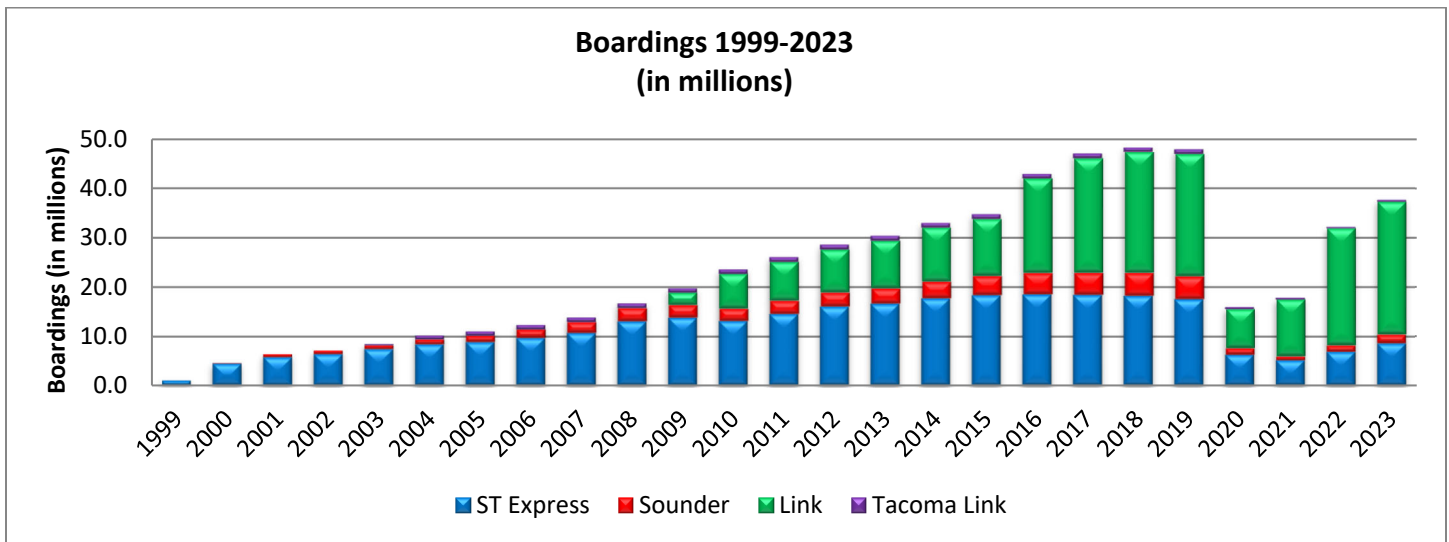
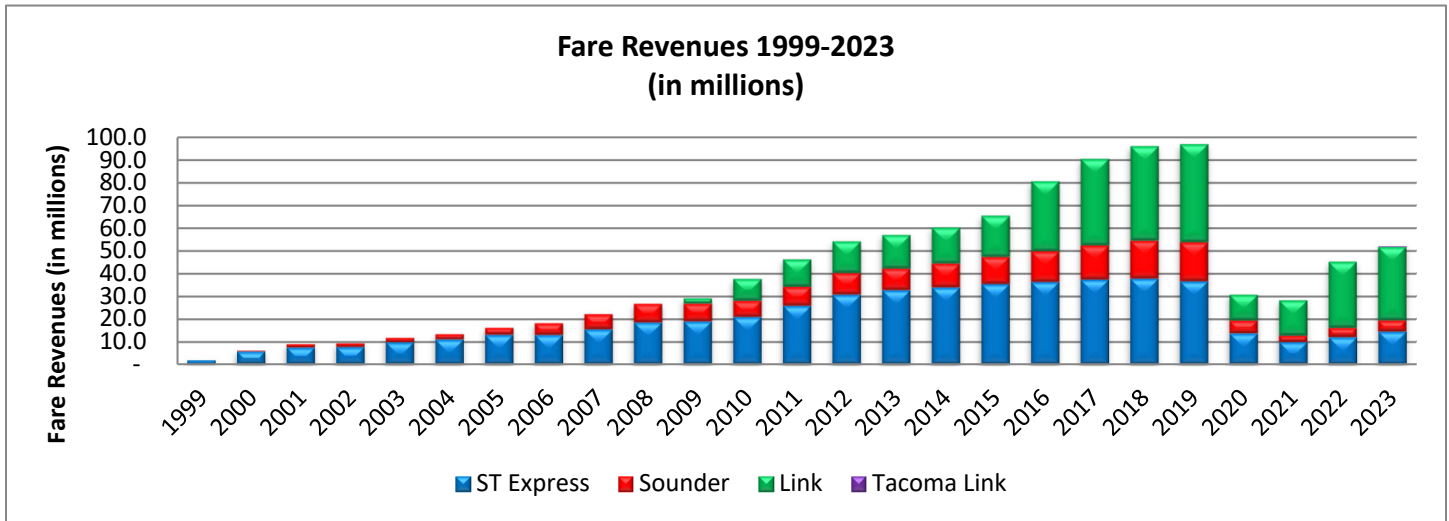
Sound Transit policy sets farebox recovery targets at a minimum percentage of total operating costs, and this ratio varies by mode as defined in Sound Transit Board Resolution 2014-27.

Figure 1: Sound Transit District



Sound Transit fare revenue and ridership

The two graphs below show that Sound Transit fare revenue and ridership grew significantly from 1999-2019. In 2020-2023, however, the COVID-19 pandemic caused fare revenue and ridership to drop significantly.



Sound Transit operational milestones

- September 1999 – ST Express service begins
- September 2000 – Sounder rail service begins
- August 2003 – Tacoma Link service begins
- July 2009 – Link light rail begins service from Westlake to Tukwila International Boulevard
- December 2009 – Link light rail begins service to Sea-Tac Airport
- October 2012 – Sounder extension to South Tacoma and Lakewood begins
- March 2016 – Link light rail begins service to Capitol Hill and the University of Washington
- September 2016 – Link light rail begins service to Angle Lake
- October 2021 – Link light rail begins service to Northgate, Roosevelt and U-District
- September 2023 – Tacoma Link begins service from Old City Hall to St. Joseph

Fare structure

Sound Transit’s fare structure varies based on mode of service, distance traveled and/or the rider’s fare category. With Pierce Transit’s implementation of a reduced fare for ORCA LIFT, all of our customer fare categories are consistent with those of the other five transit agencies participating in the ORCA system for regional fare payment:

- **Adult:** Ages 19 to 64
- **Youth:** Ages 18 and under
- **Reduced:** Ages 65 or older, persons with disabilities or Medicare card holders (requires a valid Regional Reduced Fare Permit as proof of eligibility on buses)
- **Low income (ORCA LIFT):** Riders with household income equal to or less than 200% of the federal poverty level (enrollment by authorized ORCA LIFT agencies with income verification)

Sound Transit is participating, on a demonstration program basis, in King County Metro’s program for very low-income riders:

- **Subsidized Annual Pass:** This program provides a free annual pass for riders with household incomes equal to or less than 80% of the federal poverty level and who are enrolled in one of six state benefit programs – TANF/SFA, RCA, ABD, PWA, SSI, HEN (enrollment by authorized DSHS, Public Health, and Community Services agencies with income verification and state benefit programs)

Link

Link light rail currently serves 19 stations on a 24.3-mile line in Seattle and South King County, including service to Northgate, the University of Washington, downtown Seattle and Sea-Tac Airport. Link charges a base fare of \$2.25 plus a distance charge of \$0.05 per mile, rounded to the nearest \$0.25. (See Appendix A for a chart of station-to-station fares.) In December 2023 the Sound Transit Board adopted Resolution No. R2023-37 establishing a \$3.00 Adult Link flat fare - effective with the opening of the 1 Line Lynnwood City Center Station in 2024.

	September 1, 2022 - Present	October 1, 2021 – August 30, 2022
Adult	\$2.25 - \$3.50	\$2.25 - \$3.50
Youth	Free	\$1.50
Senior/Disabled (RRFP)	\$1.00	\$1.00
ORCA LIFT	\$1.00	\$1.50

ST Express

ST Express buses provide transportation services throughout Snohomish, King and Pierce counties. ST Express routes provide fast service between major cities and job centers, and they allow for convenient transfers to train and local bus service.

	September 1, 2022 - Present	July 1, 2020 – August 30, 2022
Adult	\$3.25	\$3.25
Youth	Free	\$1.50
Senior/Disabled (RRFP)	\$1.00	\$1.00
ORCA LIFT	\$1.00	\$1.50

Sounder

Sounder provides weekday rail service to and from Seattle during peak hours. Sounder South extends 47.6 miles from Seattle to Lakewood, serving eight stations in Pierce and South King counties. Sounder South also provides limited reverse-peak service between Seattle and Tacoma. Sounder North extends 34.2 miles from Seattle to Everett, serving three stations in Snohomish County. Sounder charges a base fare of \$3.05 plus a distance charge of \$0.055 per mile, rounded to the nearest \$0.25. (See Appendix A for a chart of station-to-station fares.)

	September 1, 2022 - Present		March 1, 2021 – August 30, 2022	
	North Line	South Line	North Line	South Line
	Fare Range	Fare Range	Fare Range	Fare Range
Adult	\$3.25 - \$5.00	\$3.25 - \$5.75	\$3.25 - \$5.00	\$3.25 - \$5.75
Youth		Free		\$1.50
Senior/Disabled (RRFP)		\$1.00		\$1.00
ORCA LIFT		\$1.00		\$1.50

Tacoma Link

Tacoma Link light rail provides transportation services on a 4.0-mile line in downtown Tacoma between the Tacoma Dome and the Tacoma Hilltop/St. Joseph. T line charges a flat fare of \$2.00 Adult, \$1.00 ORCA LIFT, \$0 Youth, and \$1.00 Senior/Disabled (RRFP) fare.

	September 16, 2023 - Present
Adult	\$2.00
Youth	Free
Senior/Disabled (RRFP)	\$1.00
ORCA LIFT	\$1.00

Farebox recovery

Sound Transit policy establishes that farebox revenue must recover a specified percentage of operating costs. The percentage of farebox revenue to operating costs is called the farebox recovery ratio. Sound Transit calculates farebox recovery ratios by dividing fare revenues by direct and indirect service operating costs. Sound Transit farebox recovery policy for 2023 was established in ST Board Resolution No. R2014-27, which established the following minimum farebox recovery ratio thresholds:

- Link: 40%
- ST Express: 20%
- Sounder: 23%

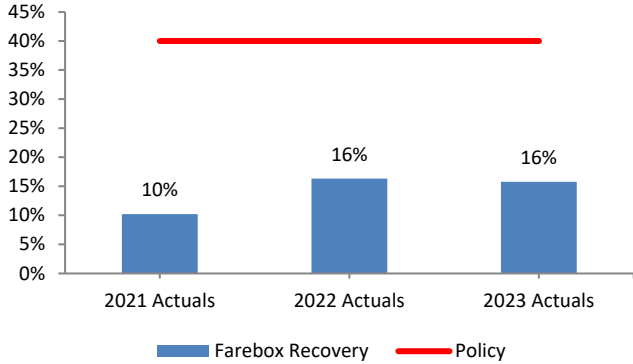
2023 Farebox Recovery performance is outlined below:

- Link farebox revenue was 16% of operating costs in 2023 same as in 2022; significantly lower than the 40% minimum policy threshold. Prepandemic 2019 farebox recovery was 34%.
- ST Express bus farebox revenue was 10% of operating costs in 2023 up from 9% in 2022; significantly lower than the 20% minimum policy threshold. Prepandemic 2019 farebox recovery was 25%.
- Sounder farebox revenue was 8% of operating costs in 2023 up from 7% in 2022; significantly lower than the 23% minimum policy threshold. Prepandemic 2019 farebox recovery was 31%.

While Link fare revenue increased in 2023 due to an increase in ridership, the average fare per boarding (AFB) has gone down compared to prior years in part due to the full year impact of free Youth fares implementation in Fall 2022. Boardings with fare media are boardings where there is an associated record of fare media use. The boardings with fare media rate on Link was 56% in 2023 down from 86% in 2019, which indicates there are more passengers who did not tap ORCA cards, did not purchase a paper or mobile ticket or use other fare media.

Link

Link Farebox Recovery

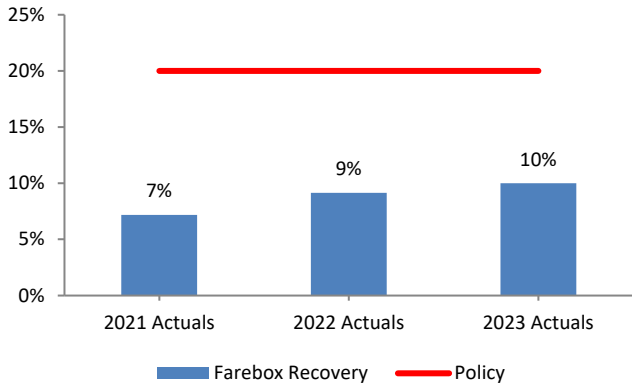


Link Light Rail Farebox Recovery	Farebox Revenues	Operating Expenses	Farebox Recovery
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2021 Actuals	\$15,591,469	\$152,752,633	10%
2022 Actuals	\$29,126,877	\$178,417,310	16%
2023 Actuals	\$32,358,465	\$205,314,451	16%

ST Express

ST Express Farebox Recovery

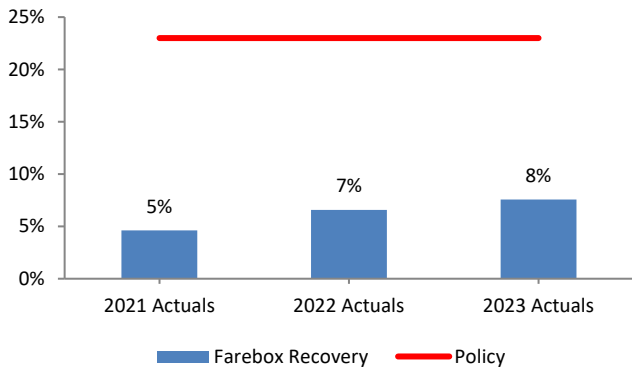


ST Express Farebox Recovery	Farebox Revenues	Operating Expenses	Farebox Recovery
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2021 Actuals	\$9,804,970	\$136,785,443	7%
2022 Actuals	\$11,982,131	\$131,047,108	9%
2023 Actuals	\$14,403,774	\$144,174,454	10%

Sounder

Sounder Farebox Recovery



Sounder Farebox Recovery	Farebox Revenues	Operating Expenses	Farebox Recovery
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2021 Actuals	\$2,751,291	\$59,760,001	5%
2022 Actuals	\$4,024,173	\$61,338,340	7%
2023 Actuals	\$4,966,273	\$65,649,821	8%

Passenger fare revenue by mode

Sound Transit fare revenue increased overall by \$6.7 million in 2023, and boardings increased by 5.4 million. Link accounted for 62% of the total passenger fare revenue, ST Express was 28%, Sounder was 9%, and Tacoma Link was 1%.

In 2023, the overall average fare per boarding was \$1.39, down from \$1.42 in 2022, in part due to the full year impact of free Youth fares implementation in Fall 2022. Boardings with fare media accounted for 56% of total Link boardings in 2023, down from 86% in 2019. Boardings with fare media accounted for 81% of total Sounder boardings in 2023, down from 98% in 2019.

	REVENUES			% Change	
	2023	2022	2021	2023-2022	2022-2021
Link Light Rail	\$ 32,358,465	\$ 29,126,877	\$ 15,591,469	11%	87%
ST Express	14,403,774	11,982,131	9,804,970	20%	22%
Sounder	4,966,273	4,024,173	2,751,291	23%	46%
Tacoma Link	129,072	-	-	-	-
	\$ 51,857,585	\$ 45,133,181	\$ 28,147,730	15%	60%

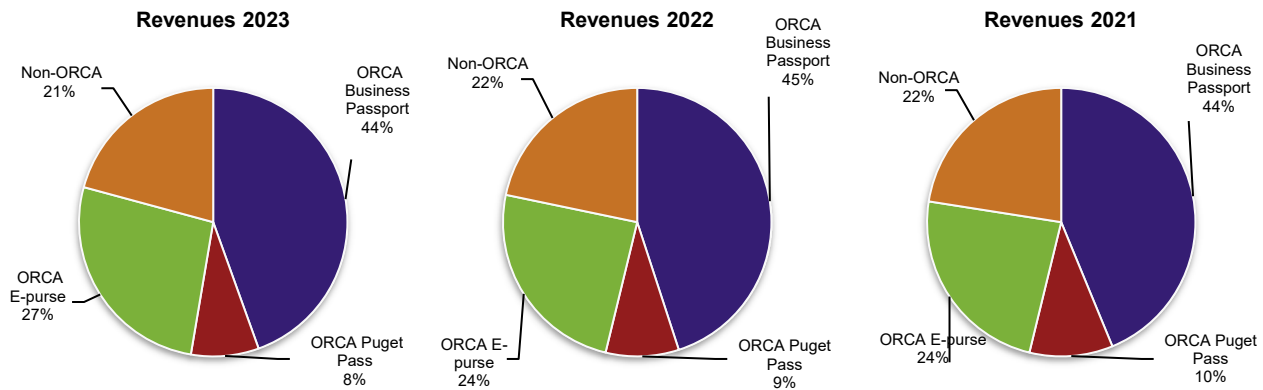
	BOARDINGS			% Change	
	2023	2022	2021	2023-2022	2022-2021
Link Light Rail	26,867,750	23,706,210	11,516,117	13%	106%
ST Express	8,568,134	6,852,694	5,146,374	25%	33%
Sounder	1,755,751	1,269,923	734,481	38%	73%
Tacoma Link ¹	121,554	-	-	-	-
	37,313,189	31,828,827	17,396,972	17%	83%

	AVERAGE FARE PER BOARDING			% Change	
	2023	2022	2021	2023-2022	2022-2021
Link Light Rail	\$ 1.20	\$ 1.23	\$ 1.35	-2%	-9%
ST Express	1.68	1.75	1.91	-4%	-8%
Sounder	2.83	3.17	3.75	-11%	-15%
Tacoma Link	1.06	-	-	-	-
	\$ 1.39	\$ 1.42	\$ 1.62	-2%	-12%

¹ Tacoma Link – The full year ridership is 380,001 and ridership from 9/16/23-12/31/23 is 121,554 (after fare implementation).

Passenger fare revenue by source

Sound Transit receives fare revenue from ORCA products, Sounder and Link ticket sales, Mobile Ticket sales and cash farebox receipts on ST Express. ORCA product use on Sound Transit services accounted for 79% of total fare revenue in 2023, up from 78% in 2022 and 2021.



The breakdown of detailed revenue and ridership amounts for all product types, passenger types and route-level details rely on various assumptions for the allocation of non-ORCA generated revenues. These allocations may change and evolve as ridership and payment patterns change. The following is a brief description of the various fare payment methods and how those revenues are allocated.

ORCA products

ORCA Business Passport agreements are annual contracts based on the actual or estimated transit usage for a company or a geographical area and allocated to each agency based on the annual rate specific to each agency.

Per Sound Transit Board policy, Business Passport agreements need to be “priced according to the actual or estimated use at a level no lower than the fare revenue expected from the pass users as a group if the bulk purchase/distribution program were not in place.” The expected fare revenue is the amount of fare revenue historically collected from the group of program participants, based on their transit use prior to the Passport program. This amount acts as the introductory price for the initial Passport agreement. Agencies price renewal contracts based upon actual ridership during the prior contract period, which regularly results in revenue increases since the introduction of Passport programs usually results in increased ridership.

ORCA e-purse is stored transportation value used like cash to pay a fare. E-purse revenues are allocated to each agency and mode based on all trips traveled by the rider within the regional ORCA two-hour transfer window. For trips involving multiple agencies (“linked trips”), the highest total single fare of the linked trip is allocated among each of the agencies traveled. Each agency’s revenue allocation for a linked trip is based in proportion to the actual cash value of the fare each agency would have charged for the service.

ORCA Regional PugetPass is a monthly regional pass that allows for travel on bus, light rail or train services within the region on one or more participating agencies’ transit services. Regional passes are sold in denominations valid for payment of trip fares ranging in value from \$0.50 to \$10.00. ORCA agencies price the pass based on the value of 36 monthly trips, or \$9 per month for every \$0.25 in pass value. Funds received from the purchase of regional passes are allocated in proportion to the total value of services used on each agency during the period in which the pass is valid.

Non-ORCA products

Paper tickets are sold for one-way fares or as round trip/day passes via ticket machines for travel on Link, Sounder, and Tacoma Link. Paper tickets are valid only for the origin and destination and mode for which they are purchased. Ticket machines are located at all Link light rail, Sounder rail, and Tacoma Link stations, and also at select transit centers.

Farebox includes cash and paper tickets deposited into fareboxes and are specific to ST Express.

Mobile tickets are available via the Transit GO Ticket mobile app. The app provides day passes, one-way and round-trip tickets for Link light rail and Sounder, and one-way tickets for ST Express. The mobile ticketing option started in December 2016 for Link light rail and Sounder, and in November 2019 for ST Express. In 2023, mobile ticket sales were \$1.8M, up from \$1.5M in 2022.

Other generally consists of revenues and boardings from non-ORCA fare media such as:

- Paper tickets such as Human Services Program tickets
- Boardings without fare media, including children and youth ages 18 and under, Personal Care Attendants for riders with disabilities, free ride tickets, police officers or estimated fare evasion (see detail in “Special rates of fare” section)

Link

Link fare revenue increased by \$3.2 million in 2023 after increasing by \$13.5 million in 2022. Link ridership increased by 3.1 million boardings in 2023. Sound Transit attributes the ridership increase to the Northgate Link extension and less remote work, however fare revenue still remains significantly below the prepandemic level of 2019.

Revenue by payment type

Link Payment Type	REVENUES			Change	
	2023	2022	2021	2023-2022	2022-2021
ORCA Business Passport	\$ 13,460,035	\$ 12,325,728	\$ 6,342,712	9%	94%
ORCA Puget Pass	2,163,821	2,216,115	1,193,921	-2%	86%
ORCA E-purse	8,021,449	6,740,832	3,369,182	19%	100%
VM/Paper Tickets	7,567,365	6,863,069	4,152,811	10%	65%
Mobile Tickets	1,145,795	981,133	532,843	17%	84%
Totals	\$ 32,358,465	\$ 29,126,877	\$ 15,591,469	11%	87%

Link Payment Type	BOARDINGS			Change	
	2023	2022	2021	2023-2022	2022-2021
ORCA Business Passport	6,118,942	5,444,270	2,489,875	12%	119%
ORCA Puget Pass	936,743	948,112	559,425	-1%	69%
ORCA E-purse	4,395,491	3,588,897	1,791,726	22%	100%
VM/Paper Tickets	3,203,263	2,915,840	1,708,582	10%	71%
Mobile Tickets	463,025	370,175	198,672	25%	86%
Boardings without Fare Media	11,750,286	10,438,916	4,767,837	13%	119%
Totals	26,867,750	23,706,210	11,516,117	13%	106%

Link Payment Type	AVERAGE FARE PER BOARDING			Change	
	2023	2022	2021	2023-2022	2022-2021
ORCA Business Passport ²	\$ 2.20	\$ 2.26	\$ 2.55	-3%	-11%
ORCA Puget Pass	2.31	2.34	2.13	-1%	10%
ORCA E-purse	1.82	1.88	1.88	-3%	0%
VM/Paper Tickets	2.36	2.35	2.43	0%	-3%
Mobile Tickets	2.47	2.65	2.68	-7%	-1%
Totals	\$ 1.20	\$ 1.23	\$ 1.35	-2%	-9%

² ORCA Business Passport – Combination of per trip, and fixed annual contracts that are priced based on previous year’s ridership.

Revenue by passenger type

Adult passenger fares accounted for 96% of total Link revenues with 3% from reduced-fare passengers (qualifying seniors and persons with disabilities) and 1% from ORCA LIFT (low-income adults). Link averaged more than 5,100 unique ORCA LIFT (low-income) passengers monthly in 2023, down from about 5,200 in 2022. Sound Transit implemented free fares for Youth ages 18 and under in September 2022. Although some Youth continue to tap their ORCA cards, others are riding without fare media.

Link Passenger Type	REVENUES			Change	
	2023	2022	2021	2023-2022	2022-2021
Adult	\$ 30,971,021	\$ 27,577,773	\$ 4,585,986	12%	89%
Youth	-	639,510	464,928	-100%	38%
RRFP	979,468	619,005	349,068	58%	77%
ORCA LIFT (Low Income)	407,977	290,589	191,487	40%	52%
Totals	\$ 32,358,465	\$ 29,126,877	\$ 15,591,469	11%	87%

Link Passenger Type	BOARDINGS			Change	
	2023	2022	2021	2023-2022	2022-2021
Adult	24,846,938	20,518,834	9,828,458	21%	109%
Youth	391,397	1,137,995	585,190	-66%	94%
RRFP	928,740	1,506,322	847,267	-38%	78%
ORCA LIFT (Low Income)	700,675	543,059	255,203	29%	113%
Totals	26,867,750	23,706,210	11,516,117	13%	106%

Link Passenger Type	AVERAGE FARE PER BOARDING			Change	
	2023	2022	2021	2023-2022	2022-2021
Adult	\$ 1.25	\$ 1.34	\$ 1.48	-7%	-9%
Youth	-	0.56	0.79	-100%	-29%
RRFP	1.05	0.41	0.41	156%	0%
ORCA LIFT (Low Income)	0.58	0.54	0.75	7%	-28%
Totals	\$ 1.20	\$ 1.23	\$ 1.35	-2%	-9%

Fare compliance

Sound Transit’s Fare Compliance Policy can be found in Resolution R2022-07.

ST Express

ST Express is Sound Transit’s second largest mode in terms of boardings, serving major transportation corridors and transit centers in the Sound Transit District. Ridership increased by 1.7 million in 2023 and revenue increased by \$2.4 million. Sound Transit continued to make frequency changes on several routes in 2023 due to operator shortages, including route 566 Auburn – Redmond, 580 South Hill – Puyallup, 590 Tacoma – Seattle, 592 DuPont – Seattle.

Revenue by payment type

ST Express Payment Type	REVENUES			Change	
	2023	2022	2021	2023-2022	2022-2021
ORCA Business Passport	\$ 6,829,764	\$ 5,574,274	\$ 4,284,438	23%	30%
ORCA Puget Pass	1,593,379	1,454,563	1,357,361	10%	7%
ORCA E-purse	4,407,973	3,388,259	2,759,323	30%	23%
Non-ORCA	1,572,658	1,565,035	1,403,848	0%	11%
Totals	\$ 14,403,774	\$ 11,982,131	\$ 9,804,970	20%	22%

ST Express Payment Type	BOARDINGS			Change	
	2023	2022	2021	2023-2022	2022-2021
ORCA Business Passport	2,906,782	2,202,705	1,374,119	32%	60%
ORCA Puget Pass	664,236	652,211	659,359	2%	-1%
ORCA E-purse	2,344,231	1,785,448	1,400,862	31%	27%
Non-ORCA	2,652,885	2,212,330	1,712,034	20%	29%
Totals	8,568,134	6,852,694	5,146,374	25%	33%

ST Express Payment Type	AVERAGE FARE PER BOARDING			Change	
	2023	2022	2021	2023-2022	2022-2021
ORCA Business Passport ³	\$ 2.35	\$ 2.53	\$ 3.12	-7%	-19%
ORCA Puget Pass	2.40	2.23	2.06	8%	8%
ORCA E-purse	1.88	1.90	1.97	-1%	-4%
Non-ORCA	0.59	0.71	0.82	-17%	-13%
Totals	\$ 1.68	\$ 1.75	\$ 1.91	-4%	-8%

³ ORCA Business Passport – Combination of per trip and fixed annual contracts that are priced based on previous year’s ridership..

Revenue by passenger type

Adult fares accounted for 94% of total ST Express revenues, with 5% from reduced-fare passengers (qualifying seniors and persons with disabilities), and 2% from ORCA LIFT passengers (low-income adults). ST Express averaged more than 3,600 unique ORCA LIFT (low-income) passengers monthly in 2023. Sound Transit implemented free fares for Youth ages 18 and under in September 2022. Although some Youth continue to tap their ORCA cards, others are riding without fare media.

ST Express		REVENUES			Change	
Passenger Type	2023	2022	2021	2023-2022	2022-2021	
Adult	\$ 13,475,187	\$ 11,347,420	\$ 9,134,889	19%	24%	
Youth	-	146,101	72,970	-100%	-16%	
RRFP	653,324	304,307	285,936	115%	6%	
ORCA LIFT (Low Income)	275,263	184,303	211,175	49%	-13%	
Totals	\$ 14,403,774	\$ 11,982,131	\$ 9,804,970	20%	22%	

ST Express		BOARDINGS			Change	
Passenger Type	2023	2022	2021	2023-2022	2022-2021	
Adult	7,443,779	5,713,925	4,146,641	30%	38%	
Youth	169,314	193,916	122,437	-13%	58%	
RRFP	501,775	604,607	575,761	-17%	5%	
ORCA LIFT (Low Income)	453,266	340,246	301,535	33%	13%	
Totals	8,568,134	6,852,694	5,146,374	25%	33%	

ST Express		AVERAGE FARE PER BOARDING			Change	
Passenger Type	2023	2022	2021	2023-2022	2022-2021	
Adult	\$ 1.81	\$ 1.99	\$ 2.20	-9%	-10%	
Youth	-	0.75	1.41	-100%	-47%	
RRFP	1.30	0.50	0.50	160%	0%	
ORCA LIFT (Low Income)	0.61	0.54	0.70	13%	-23%	
Totals	\$ 1.68	\$ 1.75	\$ 1.91	-4%	-8%	

Sounder

Sounder revenue increased by \$0.9 million in 2023 with ridership increasing by more than 400,000 boardings. In 2023, Sounder South fare revenues increased by 23%, and Sounder North revenues increased by 38% due in large part to increasing revenue from ORCA Business Passport use.

Revenue by payment type

Sounder Payment Type	REVENUES			Change	
	2023	2022	2021	2023-2022	2022-2021
ORCA Business Passport	\$ 2,730,117	\$ 2,406,893	\$ 1,698,029	13%	42%
ORCA Puget Pass	471,377	308,417	272,503	53%	13%
ORCA E-purse	1,288,354	907,041	531,153	42%	71%
VM/Paper Tickets	332,445	282,165	186,987	18%	51%
Mobile Tickets	143,980	119,658	62,619	20%	91%
Totals	\$ 4,966,273	\$ 4,024,173	\$ 2,751,291	23%	46%

Sounder Payment Type	BOARDINGS			Change	
	2023	2022	2021	2023-2022	2022-2021
ORCA Business Passport	821,591	586,219	354,947	40%	65%
ORCA Puget Pass	87,772	86,736	62,889	1%	38%
ORCA E-purse	387,219	276,546	161,941	40%	71%
VM/Paper Tickets	93,698	67,509	50,817	39%	33%
Mobile Tickets	35,239	27,183	14,406	30%	89%
Boardings without Fare Media	330,232	225,730	89,481	46%	152%
Totals	1,755,751	1,269,923	734,481	38%	73%

Sounder Payment Type	AVERAGE FARE PER BOARDING			Change	
	2023	2022	2021	2023-2022	2022-2021
ORCA Business Passport ⁴	\$ 3.32	\$ 4.11	\$ 4.78	-19%	-14%
ORCA Puget Pass	5.37	3.56	4.33	51%	-18%
ORCA E-purse	3.33	3.28	3.28	2%	0%
VM/Paper Tickets	3.55	4.18	3.68	-15%	14%
Mobile Tickets	4.09	4.40	4.35	-7%	1%
Totals	\$ 2.83	\$ 3.17	\$ 3.75	-11%	-15%

⁴ ORCA Business Passport – Combination of per trip and fixed annual contracts that are priced based on previous year's ridership.

Revenue by passenger type

Adult passenger fares accounted for 98% of Sounder revenues due to the market composition for commuter rail service. Sounder averaged more than 400 unique ORCA LIFT (low-income) passengers monthly in 2023, the same as in 2022. Sound Transit implemented free fares for Youth ages 18 and under in September 2022. Although some Youth continue to tap their ORCA cards, others are riding without fare media.

Sounder Passenger Type	REVENUES			Change	
	2023	2022	2021	2023-2022	2022-2021
Adult	\$ 4,851,285	\$ 3,954,312	\$ 2,697,221	23%	47%
Youth	-	15,301	12,557	-100%	22%
RRFP	83,209	40,054	30,190	108%	33%
ORCA LIFT (Low Income)	31,779	14,506	11,323	119%	28%
Totals	\$ 4,966,273	\$ 4,024,173	\$ 2,751,291	23%	46%

Sounder Passenger Type	BOARDINGS			Change	
	2023	2022	2021	2023-2022	2022-2021
Adult	1,642,485	1,181,715	680,460	39%	74%
Youth	16,177	15,576	8,544	4%	82%
RRFP	60,381	48,154	32,628	25%	48%
ORCA LIFT (Low Income)	36,708	24,478	12,849	50%	91%
Totals	1,755,751	1,269,923	734,481	38%	73%

Sounder Passenger Type	AVERAGE FARE PER BOARDING			Change	
	2023	2022	2021	2023-2022	2022-2021
Adult	\$ 2.95	\$ 3.35	\$ 3.96	-12%	-15%
Youth	-	0.98	1.47	-100%	-33%
RRFP	1.38	0.83	0.93	66%	-11%
ORCA LIFT (Low Income)	0.87	0.59	0.88	47%	-33%
Totals	\$ 2.83	\$ 3.17	\$ 3.75	-11%	-15%

Fare compliance

Sound Transit’s Fare Compliance Policy can be found in Resolution R2022-07.

Revenue by line

Sounder revenues are allocated to Sounder North and Sounder South based on the origin/destination of the trip taken. The maximum one-way adult fare on Sounder North is \$5.00 and is \$5.75 on Sounder South. The Sounder North average fare per boarding (shown below as AFB) for 2023 was \$3.27, and it was \$2.80 for Sounder South.

Sounder North				Change	
	2023	2022	2021	2023-2022	2022-2021
Revenues	\$ 314,448	\$ 227,380	\$ 136,651	38%	66%
Boardings	96,158	60,167	31,314	60%	92%
AFB	\$ 3.27	\$ 3.78	\$ 4.36	-13%	-13%

Sounder South				Change	
	2023	2022	2021	2023-2022	2022-2021
Revenues	\$ 4,651,826	\$ 3,796,793	\$ 2,614,640	23%	45%
Boardings	1,659,593	1,209,756	703,167	37%	72%
AFB	\$ 2.80	\$ 3.14	\$ 3.72	-11%	-16%

Souder special event service

Sound Transit offers occasional special Souder weekend service, primarily for major sporting events held at Lumen Field and T-Mobile Park. Special event boardings and revenues in the table below are included in Souder totals presented earlier.

Sound Transit welcomed visitors during MLB All-Star week by running additional service on Link light rail as well as special Souder game trains, with service on Link, Souder and ST Express buses fare free on July 10 and 11.

Souder Special Events				Change	
	2023	2022	2021	2023-2022	2022-2021
Revenues	\$ 153,861	\$ 118,310	\$ 69,887	30%	69%
Boardings	30,954	28,663	14,743	8%	94%
AFB	\$ 4.97	\$ 4.13	\$ 4.74	20%	-13%
# of Events	26	24	5	8%	380%

Special event service is particularly popular on the north line, which accounted for 32% of total special event boardings but only 0.6% of total Souder boardings in 2023.

Souder North Special Events				Change	
	2023	2022	2021	2023-2022	2022-2021
Revenues	\$ 50,940	\$ 48,915	\$ 16,140	4%	203%
Boardings	9,825	12,025	3,491	-18%	244%
AFB	\$ 5.18	\$ 4.07	\$ 4.62	27%	-12%
# of Events	26	24	5	8%	380%

Souder South Special Events				Change	
	2023	2022	2021	2023-2022	2022-2021
Revenues	\$ 102,921	\$ 69,396	\$ 53,747	48%	29%
Boardings	21,129	16,638	11,252	27%	48%
AFB	\$ 4.87	\$ 4.17	\$ 4.78	17%	-13%
# of Events	26	24	5	8%	380%

Tacoma Link

Tacoma Link fare revenue collection started on September 16, 2023, and the revenue was \$0.1 million in 2023.

Revenue by payment type

Tacoma Link		REVENUES				
Payment Type	2023	2022	2021	2023-2022	2022-2021	
ORCA Business Passport	\$ 62,450	-	-	-	-	
ORCA Puget Pass	8,302	-	-	-	-	
ORCA E-purse	36,281	-	-	-	-	
Non-ORCA	22,039	-	-	-	-	
Totals	\$ 129,072	-	-	-	-	

Tacoma Link		BOARDINGS				
Payment Type	2023	2022	2021	2023-2022	2022-2021	
ORCA Business Passport	23,138	-	-	-	-	
ORCA Puget Pass	8,523	-	-	-	-	
ORCA E-purse	32,377	-	-	-	-	
Non-ORCA	57,519	-	-	-	-	
Totals	121,557	-	-	-	-	

Tacoma Link		AVERAGE FARE PER BOARDING				
Payment Type	2023	2022	2021	2023-2022	2022-2021	
ORCA Business Passport ⁵	\$ 2.70	-	-	-	-	
ORCA Puget Pass	0.97	-	-	-	-	
ORCA E-purse	1.12	-	-	-	-	
Non-ORCA	0.38	-	-	-	-	
Totals	\$ 1.06	-	-	-	-	

⁵ ORCA Business Passport – Combination of per trip, and fixed annual contracts that are priced based on previous year’s ridership.

Revenue by passenger type

Adult passenger fares accounted for 91% of total Tacoma Link revenues with 8% from reduced-fare passengers (qualifying seniors and persons with disabilities) and 1% from ORCA LIFT (low-income adults). Tacoma Link averaged more than 50 unique ORCA LIFT (low-income) passengers monthly in 2023.

Tacoma Link	REVENUES				
Passenger Type	2023	2022	2021	2023-2022	2022-2021
Adult	\$ 1116,901	-	-	-	-
Youth	-	-	-	-	-
RRFP	10,420	-	-	-	-
ORCA LIFT (Low Income)	1,752	-	-	-	-
Totals	\$ 129,072	-	-	-	-

Tacoma Link	BOARDINGS				
Passenger Type	2023	2022	2021	2023-2022	2022-2021
Adult	103,267	-	-	-	-
Youth	1,974	-	-	-	-
RRFP	12,795	-	-	-	-
ORCA LIFT (Low Income)	3,518	-	-	-	-
Totals	121,554	-	-	-	-

Tacoma Link	AVERAGE FARE PER BOARDING				
Passenger Type	2023	2022	2021	2023-2022	2022-2021
Adult	\$ 1.13	-	-	-	-
Youth	-	-	-	-	-
RRFP	1.81	-	-	-	-
ORCA LIFT (Low Income)	0.50	-	-	-	-
Totals	\$ 1.06	-	-	-	-

Special rates of fare

This section describes all Sound Transit fare rates other than the general retail rates as described in the “Fare structures” section above. The Sound Transit Fare Policy (Resolution No. R2014-27) allows for establishing a special rate of fare under certain conditions for special event service, ride-free zones, peace officer fares, discount and free fares (for the purposes of: marketing, educational outreach, customer relations, human services, demonstration of transit services and facility tours hosted by Sound Transit or local transit agencies, public emergencies, natural disasters) and employer/institutional programs. The table below shows the types of discounted/free fares offered and the value of the total discount in 2023 compared with 2022 and 2021. The following sections describe each special fare type further.

Fare media provided for transit promotional and marketing campaigns, educational outreach and transit training, and customer relations and complaint resolution include:

- Complimentary and discounted tickets/passes for one-way tickets on ST Express service valued at \$3.25 per trip (based on maximum value)
- Sounder day passes at \$10.00 per pass (Sounder North) and \$11.50 (Sounder South)
- Link light rail day passes at \$7.00 per pass

In 2023, the value of these discounts increased by about \$109,000 from the previous year, with the discount representing 2% of total passenger fare revenue.

Type of Fare	Value of Discount		
	2023	2022	2021
Free Ride Zone - Tacoma	\$173,159	\$179,374	\$249,198
Peace Officers	29,017	25,819	14,826
Transit Promotional and Marketing Campaigns	5,804	7,050	98
Educational Outreach and Transit Training	8,106	21,535	6,945
Customer Relations and Complaint Resolution	40,753	39,054	61,712
Transit Demonstrations and Tours	205	-	1,128
Amtrak RailPlus Program	320	-	-
Human Services Tickets	236,559	237,995	166,019
Paratransit	3,119	1,948	1,852
Public emergencies and natural disasters	85	517	75
ORCA LIFT Subsidized Annual Pass	314,627	189,464	106,366
Total	\$811,814	\$702,754	\$608,218
% of Total Fare Revenue	2%	2%	2%

Mode	Value of Discount		
	2023	2022	2021
Link	\$449,574	\$380,861	\$219,378
ST Express	160,903	113,657	120,491
Sounder	27,181	28,863	19,150
Tacoma Link	174,157	179,374	249,198
Total	\$811,814	\$702,754	\$608,218

Free ride zone - Tacoma Link

Through September 16, 2023, when Sound Transit began fare collection on the extended Tacoma Link line, Sound Transit received payment of \$29,000 per year under an agreement with the City of Tacoma and local Tacoma businesses in lieu of fares for Tacoma Link.

The value of foregone revenue for these trips—assuming comparable transit fares and including the average fare impact of transfers, passes and discounts—is approximately \$1.00 per boarding. Price elasticity would reduce boardings in response to a fare, and ST estimates that foregone revenue is approximately \$0.67 per boarding, or \$173,159 in 2023.

Peace officer fares

Sound Transit recognizes any of the following as “fare payment” for peace officers:

- Law enforcement uniform
- Badge or identification

This applies to officers of a Washington general authority and/or federal law enforcement agency.

Sound Transit derived boarding estimates from the 2015-2016 Origin and Destination Survey. Sound Transit applied the percentage of peace officer boardings in 2015-2016 to estimate 2023 ridership, resulting in an estimated \$29,017 of foregone revenue.

Promotional and marketing campaigns

As part of some Sound Transit promotional and marketing campaigns, Sound Transit provides complimentary tickets/passes. Foregone revenue was \$5,804 in 2023. There were 805 complimentary tickets/passes distributed in 2023.

Educational outreach and transit training

Sound Transit conducts educational outreach and transit training events, primarily at local schools. Outreach includes Link, Sounder and Martin Luther King Corridor Safety programs. In 2023 Sound Transit provided 1,256 discounted tickets/passes at these events, down from 3,209 in 2022. The total foregone revenue from educational outreach and transit training was \$8,166 in 2023 and \$21,535 in 2022.

Customer relations and complaint resolution

For customer communications and complaint resolution, Sound Transit provides complimentary tickets/passes. The total foregone revenue was \$40,753 in 2023 and \$39,054 in 2022. Reasons for complimentary and discounted tickets/pass distribution included elevator and escalator outages and overcrowding during peak times.

Transit demonstrations and facility tours (includes conferences and industry tours)

Sound Transit provides complimentary and discounted tickets/passes for transit demonstration activities. The total amount of foregone revenue from this program in 2023 was \$205 and \$0 in 2022. Different hosted groups and conferences affect the totals for this category from year to year.

Amtrak RailPlus program

Sound Transit maintains an agreement with Amtrak to allow mutual acceptance of certain fare media on rail service between Seattle and Everett. Sound Transit reimburses Amtrak for each recorded instance of a Sounder rider using a qualifying pass on Amtrak service. In 2023, Sounder riders took 98 RailPlus trips aboard Amtrak service with an average fare per boarding of \$3.27; foregone revenue for these trips is estimated at \$320.

Human Services Ticket Program

King County Metro coordinates the Human Services Ticket Program, which is administered by the King County Department of Community and Health Services. In 2023 Sound Transit participated in this program by selling Link day-passes to qualified agencies at a 90-95% discount, and by accepting Metro tickets on ST Express bus service. Participating agencies provide tickets or day passes to clients experiencing homelessness and/or those who have very low incomes. The tickets help clients access shelters, health care, employment and related services critical to personal and residential stability. Per agreement with KCM, ST receives 10% of the retail price of day pass sales and 5% of the retail price of day passes sold in combination with Metro tickets.

The total foregone revenue resulting from the fare discount provided for this program was \$236,559 in 2023 and \$237,995 in 2022.

Paratransit access to Sound Transit fixed route service

In 2023 Sound Transit provided an estimated 2,244 free trips on ST fixed route modes for eligible paratransit shuttle riders. Sound Transit estimates foregone fare revenue for these trips is \$3,119. However, had these trips been taken on actual paratransit shuttle service, the cost would have been approximately \$198,639.

Public emergencies and natural disasters

In 2023 Sound Transit accommodated approximately 30 riders on special service buses due to mudslides and/or other Sound Transit service cancellations. The agency estimates foregone fare revenue for these trips to be \$85.

The number of riders for 2023 reflects the ongoing success of Sound Transit's Operations Department strategy to ensure bus bridge service to customers in the event of rail service disruptions. The practice provides a level of service that anticipates customers' needs and provides immediate service to compensate for the inconvenience of service disruptions.

Sound Transit contracts for coaches from Community Transit, King County Metro, Pierce Transit and Starline Luxury Coaches. When Sounder cannot operate, reduced operating expenses and lower revenues offset the cost of the bus bridges.

Employer/institutional programs

Per the ORCA agreement, Sound Transit may grant a temporary discount of no more than 20% to bulk pass purchasers as long as the purchaser offers a minimum 50% subsidy to the individual pass recipients.

Sound Transit provided no bulk pass discounts to Business Accounts in 2023.

Low-income fare (ORCA LIFT) promotion

In 2018 the Sound Transit Board approved an interlocal agreement with King County Metro and Public Health that provided Sound Transit funding to train staff at State Department of Social and Health Services offices in Pierce and Snohomish counties to provide ORCA LIFT registration, making it more convenient for people to register for ORCA LIFT. Sound Transit is also providing funding for human services agencies to register ORCA LIFT customers at other locations in Pierce and Snohomish counties. In 2023, Sound Transit also provided funding for ORCA LIFT cards preloaded with \$10 (10 free rides on ST services) as an incentive for people to register for ORCA LIFT in King, Pierce and Snohomish counties. Together, these efforts help Sound Transit expand ORCA LIFT awareness and registration in Pierce and Snohomish counties and continue to promote ORCA LIFT in King County.

ORCA LIFT Subsidized Annual Pass Pilot Program

In partnership with King County Metro, Sound Transit began offering free ORCA passes to riders with incomes 80% below the federal poverty level (or lower) and who are also enrolled in one of six state benefit programs. The subsidized annual pass is available to qualified riders living in King, Pierce and Snohomish counties and covers travel on services provided by King County Metro, Sound Transit, Everett Transit and the City of Seattle.

This program is intended to serve people with no income or very-low income who cannot afford the reduced fare on public transportation already available through ORCA LIFT, the Regional Reduced Fare Permit program or the ORCA youth fare. Sound Transit originally committed to join the program for a two-year pilot period. In 2022, the Board extended participation in the program until the end of 2024, or until a permanent program is approved. In 2023, Sound Transit staff worked with staff at Everett Transit to assist with their implementation of this program using the ORCA pass used by Sound Transit.

The program started in October 2020 and by the end of 2023, there were 11,600 people enrolled in the subsidized annual pass program.

APPENDIX A - Fares by station

Sounder fare tables

Sounder South (Lakewood-Seattle)

<i>Adult</i>	Lakewood	South Tacoma	Tacoma	Puyallup	Sumner	Auburn	Kent	Tukwila	Seattle
Lakewood		\$3.25	\$3.50	\$4.00	\$4.00	\$4.50	\$4.75	\$5.00	\$5.75
South Tacoma	\$3.25		\$3.25	\$3.75	\$4.00	\$4.25	\$4.50	\$5.00	\$5.50
Tacoma	\$3.50	\$3.25		\$3.50	\$3.50	\$4.00	\$4.25	\$4.50	\$5.25
Puyallup	\$4.00	\$3.75	\$3.50		\$3.25	\$3.50	\$4.00	\$4.25	\$4.75
Sumner	\$4.00	\$4.00	\$3.50	\$3.25		\$3.50	\$3.75	\$4.00	\$4.75
Auburn	\$4.50	\$4.25	\$4.00	\$3.50	\$3.50		\$3.25	\$3.75	\$4.25
Kent	\$4.75	\$4.50	\$4.25	\$4.00	\$3.75	\$3.25		\$3.25	\$4.00
Tukwila	\$5.00	\$5.00	\$4.50	\$4.25	\$4.00	\$3.75	\$3.25		\$3.75
Seattle	\$5.75	\$5.50	\$5.25	\$4.75	\$4.75	\$4.25	\$4.00	\$3.75	

Sounder North (Everett-Seattle)

<i>Adult</i>	Everett	Mukilteo	Edmonds	Seattle
Everett		\$3.25	\$4.00	\$5.00
Mukilteo	\$3.25		\$3.75	\$4.50
Edmonds	\$4.00	\$3.75		\$4.00
Seattle	\$5.00	\$4.50	\$4.00	

Youth – Free

Reduced fare – All one-way fares \$1.00

Link

Adult	Northgate	Roosevelt	U-District	UW	Capitol Hill	Downtown Tunnel stations*	Stadium	SODO	Beacon Hill	Mt. Baker	Columbia City	Othello	Rainier Beach	Tukwila Int'l	SeaTac/Airport	Angle Lake
Northgate		\$2.25	\$2.50	\$2.50	\$2.50	\$2.75	\$2.75	\$2.75	\$2.75	\$2.75	\$3.00	\$3.00	\$3.00	\$3.25	\$3.50	\$3.50
Roosevelt	\$2.25		\$2.25	\$2.25	\$2.50	\$2.50	\$2.50	\$2.50	\$2.75	\$2.75	\$2.75	\$2.75	\$3.00	\$3.25	\$3.25	\$3.25
U-District	\$2.50	\$2.25		\$2.25	\$2.50	\$2.50	\$2.50	\$2.50	\$2.75	\$2.75	\$2.75	\$2.75	\$2.75	\$3.25	\$3.25	\$3.25
UW	\$2.50	\$2.25	\$2.25		\$2.25	\$2.50	\$2.50	\$2.50	\$2.50	\$2.50	\$2.75	\$2.75	\$2.75	\$3.00	\$3.25	\$3.25
Capitol Hill	\$2.50	\$2.50	\$2.50	\$2.25		\$2.25	\$2.25	\$2.25	\$2.50	\$2.50	\$2.50	\$2.50	\$2.75	\$3.00	\$3.00	\$3.00
Downtown Tunnel stations	\$2.75	\$2.50	\$2.50	\$2.50	\$2.25		\$2.25	\$2.25	\$2.25	\$2.50	\$2.50	\$2.50	\$2.50	\$3.00	\$3.00	\$3.00
Stadium	\$2.75	\$2.50	\$2.50	\$2.50	\$2.25	\$2.25		\$2.25	\$2.25	\$2.25	\$2.25	\$2.50	\$2.50	\$2.75	\$3.00	\$3.00
SODO	\$2.75	\$2.75	\$2.50	\$2.50	\$2.25	\$2.25	\$2.25		\$2.25	\$2.25	\$2.25	\$2.50	\$2.50	\$2.75	\$2.75	\$3.00
Beacon Hill	\$2.75	\$2.75	\$2.75	\$2.50	\$2.50	\$2.25	\$2.25	\$2.25		\$2.25	\$2.25	\$2.50	\$2.50	\$2.75	\$2.75	\$3.00
Mt. Baker	\$2.75	\$2.75	\$2.75	\$2.50	\$2.50	\$2.50	\$2.25	\$2.25	\$2.25		\$2.25	\$2.25	\$2.50	\$2.75	\$2.75	\$3.00
Columbia City	\$3.00	\$2.75	\$2.75	\$2.75	\$2.50	\$2.50	\$2.25	\$2.25	\$2.25	\$2.25		\$2.25	\$2.25	\$2.50	\$2.75	\$2.75
Othello	\$3.00	\$2.75	\$2.75	\$2.75	\$2.50	\$2.50	\$2.50	\$2.50	\$2.50	\$2.25	\$2.25		\$2.25	\$2.50	\$2.75	\$2.75
Rainier Beach	\$3.00	\$3.00	\$2.75	\$2.75	\$2.75	\$2.50	\$2.50	\$2.50	\$2.50	\$2.50	\$2.25	\$2.25		\$2.50	\$2.50	\$2.75
Tukwila Int'l	\$3.25	\$3.25	\$3.25	\$3.00	\$3.00	\$3.00	\$2.75	\$2.75	\$2.75	\$2.75	\$2.50	\$2.50	\$2.50		\$2.25	\$2.50
SeaTac/Airport	\$3.50	\$3.25	\$3.25	\$3.25	\$3.00	\$3.00	\$3.00	\$2.75	\$2.75	\$2.75	\$2.75	\$2.75	\$2.50	\$2.25		\$2.25
Angle Lake	\$3.50	\$3.25	\$3.25	\$3.25	\$3.00	\$3.00	\$3.00	\$3.00	\$3.00	\$3.00	\$2.75	\$2.75	\$2.75	\$2.50	\$2.25	

*Downtown Tunnel stations include: Westlake, University St., Pioneer Square and International District/Chinatown

Youth – Free

Reduced fare – All one-way fares \$1.00

APPENDIX B - ST Express route detail

Revenue by route

2023 revenues for ST Express increased from 2022 levels. Revenues for ST Express routes are allocated as follows:

ST Express Route	REVENUES			Change	
	2023	2022	2021	2023-2022	2022-2021
510	\$ 655,190	\$ 522,346	\$ 382,931	25%	36%
511	43,885	206,477	269,286	-79%	-23%
512	1,044,970	886,878	1,040,527	18%	-15%
513	152,305	120,634	50,721	26%	138%
522	786,542	663,202	840,866	19%	-21%
532	329,102	241,989	183,525	36%	32%
535	602,633	455,844	280,936	32%	62%
540	10	-	-	-	-
541	-	10	47	-100%	-79%
542	893,270	750,415	400,990	19%	87%
544	-	121	134	-100%	-10%
545	2,512,146	1,612,992	990,835	56%	63%
550	1,789,958	1,342,381	908,454	33%	48%
554	1,226,461	793,093	516,709	55%	53%
555/556	183,554	113,409	21,564	62%	426%
560	457,912	469,651	393,525	-2%	19%
566	223,047	184,932	171,207	21%	8%
567	8	75	-	-89%	-
574	790,781	904,863	800,633	-13%	13%
577	444,109	450,613	484,844	-1%	-7%
578	570,466	579,846	521,250	-2%	11%
580	5,813	14,499	21,461	-60%	-32%
586	196,117	161,945	125,215	21%	29%
590	509,407	525,257	519,961	-3%	1%
592	134,378	136,973	122,749	-2%	12%
594	654,349	702,411	688,763	-7%	2%
595	89,525	94,299	45,922	-5%	105%
596	40,777	46,976	21,915	-13%	114%
Extra Bus	67,059	-	-	-%	-%
Totals	\$ 14,403,774	\$ 11,982,131	\$ 9,804,970	20%	22%

Boardings by route

ST Express ridership increased by 25% in 2023, led by growth of over 500,000 boardings on both Routes 550 and 545.

ST Express Route	BOARDINGS				Change	
	2023	2022	2021	2023-2022	2022-2021	
510	256,551	201,192	120,787	28%	67%	
511	20,946	104,609	100,959	-80%	4%	
512	798,473	577,274	565,591	38%	2%	
513	82,045	63,103	20,298	30%	211%	
522	635,757	521,227	486,469	22%	7%	
532	140,844	102,373	70,575	38%	45%	
535	350,828	253,481	148,946	38%	70%	
540	-	-	-	-%	-%	
541	-	-	-	-%	-%	
542	340,638	284,489	166,110	20%	71%	
544	-	-	-	-%	-%	
545	1,165,383	851,163	539,310	37%	58%	
550	1,174,020	945,140	630,814	24%	50%	
554	719,249	508,296	341,677	42%	49%	
555/556	72,306	48,565	9,929	49%	389%	
560	402,899	342,887	251,130	18%	37%	
566	107,960	99,693	99,158	8%	1%	
567	-	-	-	-%	-%	
574	614,318	503,592	392,748	22%	28%	
577	266,083	229,717	212,256	16%	8%	
578	448,281	377,774	300,738	19%	26%	
580	5,354	8,842	17,187	-39%	-49%	
586	62,251	57,925	41,006	7%	41%	
590	263,001	225,421	208,932	17%	8%	
592	66,939	59,537	49,983	12%	19%	
594	499,204	423,668	340,293	18%	25%	
595	41,515	33,641	18,116	23%	86%	
596	30,322	22,966	16,204	32%	42%	
Extra Bus	2,967	6,119	-2,842	-52%	-%	
Totals	8,568,134	6,852,694	5,146,374	25%	33%	

Average Fare Per Boarding by route

ST Express average fare per boarding decreased by 4% in 2023 and 8% in 2022.

ST Express Route	AVERAGE FARE PER BOARDING			Change	
	2022	2022	2021	2023-2022	2022-2021
510	\$ 2.55	\$ 2.60	\$ 3.17	-2%	-18%
511	2.10	1.97	2.67	6%	-26%
512	1.31	1.54	1.84	-15%	-16%
513	0.86	1.91	2.50	-3%	-23%
522	1.24	1.27	1.73	-3%	-26%
532	2.34	2.36	2.60	-1%	-9%
535	1.72	1.80	1.89	-4%	-5%
540	-	-	-	-%	-%
541	-	-	-	-%	-%
542	2.62	2.64	2.41	-1%	9%
544	-	-	-	-%	-%
545	2.16	1.90	1.84	14%	3%
550	1.52	1.42	1.44	7%	-1%
554	1.71	1.56	1.51	9%	3%
555/556	2.54	2.34	2.17	9%	8%
560	1.14	1.37	1.57	-17%	-13%
566	2.07	1.86	1.73	11%	7%
567	-	-	-	-%	-%
574	1.29	1.80	2.04	-28%	-12%
577	1.67	1.96	2.28	-15%	-14%
578	1.27	1.53	1.73	-17%	-11%
580	1.09	1.64	1.25	-34%	31%
586	3.15	2.80	3.05	13%	-8%
590	1.94	2.33	2.49	-17%	-6%
592	2.01	2.30	2.46	-13%	-6%
594	1.31	1.66	2.02	-21%	-18%
595	2.16	2.80	2.53	-23%	11%
596	2.55	2.05	1.35	-%	51%
Totals	\$ 1.68	\$ 1.75	\$ 1.91	-4%	-8%