HOW TO RIDE THE BUS

Planning a Trip
Get Your ORCA Card
Bus Safety
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Planning your trip on public transportation can look a few ways, but always follows the same formula.

Whether you use the trip planner on PierceTransit.org, call Pierce Transit Customer service, or use the Transit app on your mobile device, all you’ll need to input is where you’re starting and your destination.

If you want to plan your trip for a different day or different time, any of those options will help you plan for that, too.

Find more at: PierceTransit.org/youthridershipresources

You can get your youth ORCA card at Pierce Transit’s Customer Service Center at 505 E. 25th Street Tacoma, WA 98421 or by ordering online at myorca.com.

Be sure to have an adult help you register your ORCA card number at myorca.com with your birthdate. Since fares are free for anyone 18 and under, once it’s registered, your ORCA card will know not to ask for money until you turn 19.
Learning something new and utilizing a new resource can bring about questions. If you wanted to make sure you were getting on the correct bus for your destination, saw something you thought was out-of-the-ordinary, or simply had a question about using transit, our Public Safety Officers and Operators will always be more than happy to answer any questions you may have.

If you’re worried about getting on the right bus, there’s a few ways to tell what route you’re getting on. The route number can be found on the bus reader board above the windshield as it’s approaching, on the bus stop sign, and also on whatever trip planning method you choose to use.

Still unsure? Confirm with your bus driver as you board that this is the route you need.

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FINISHING A TRIP

Once you notice that the next stop is your stop, pull the yellow cord located along the inside of the bus’s windows.

You’ll hear a ding, and the operator will know to stop at the next stop. As the bus pulls over for your stop, begin gathering your belongings.

Double-check that you have everything you need, wave and thank your driver, and deboard at the back of the bus.

Awareness

While using transit, it’s important to keep track of everything you brought aboard the bus. We suggest putting your ORCA card in a zippered pocket, or someplace safe and stowing your backpack at your feet.

Another great way to stay aware while traveling, is to track your journey on your phone. You can follow along via the bus’s audio announcements, text announcements and on the Transit app.

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Test Your Knowledge

Read the information and scan the QR code to check out some interactive videos on how to ride Pierce Transit, then answer the questions below!

1. Name three ways to plan a trip.

2. What are three ways to be an aware traveler?

3. How do you request a stop?

4. What should you always do before leaving the bus?

5. What does it cost for someone 18 and younger to ride Pierce Transit services?

6. Where is the route number displayed?

7. Where can you get an ORCA card?

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