# Using Payment Innovation to Improve Urban Transportation Networks

**Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago** 

June 12, 2007 Chicago, IL Today's Outline...

- Market perspective
  - Payments
  - Transit
- Closed-loop systems
  - Overview
  - Focus on SmarTrip in Washington
- Open-loop systems
  - Overview
  - Focus on New York City Transit subway trial program
- Wrap up
  - Strategy and outlook

#### Core theme...

#### Goals

- Become a "retailer" for transportation services
- Become a "merchant" accepting payments in many forms
- Align core competencies for transit and payments industry
- Leverage contactless payment technology and infrastructure

#### Value for customer

- Convenience of multi-function card
- Alternative methods of payment accepted; flexibility
- Reduces perceived cost of transit trips; de-mystify fares

# Value for agencies

- Increase ridership through convenience
- Cost savings merchant, not card issuer
- Process electronic transactions; cost savings over cash

# Capitalize on commercial payment system infrastructure

# **Overview of US Public Transit Marketplace...**

### • Transit ticketing systems

- Nationally, once in a generation re-investment
  - Over \$1 billion in systems deployed or under contract
  - Replacing aging and obsolete systems
- All include state-of-the-art contactless smart cards
  - Push toward all-electronic systems
    - Easier to use, manage, repair; effective and efficient
  - Provides <u>speed and convenience</u> for customer
  - Fare policy changes fostering shift away from cash
- All are largely closed-loop systems; transit only
- Ridership
  - Nationally, over 10 billion transit trips in 2006
    - Over 2% growth on year-to-year basis
    - Congestion, land use and fuel costs contributing to growth

#### **Evolution of transit fare payment in US...**



# Confluence of Events...

• Payment applications worldwide are using contactless technology

- Consumer and merchant benefits
- Convenience and speed of service are essential



- Global Standards based technology
  - Manufacturability and choice of vendors
    - both cards and readers
- Support from all major payment associations



- Highly flexible
  - Ability to support multiple applications

... Transit Meets Payments Industry

**Contactless payment implementations...** 



**Overview of US Public Transport Fare Payment Projects...** 

- Seattle ORCA, One Regional Card for All
  - Linking 7 Agencies covers bus, rail and ferry
- Los Angeles TAP, Transit Access Pass
  - System for bus, light rail and Metro
- Boston CharlieCard
  - System for bus, light, heavy and commuter rail
  - New fare policy; discounts for CharlieCard transactions
- TransLink San Francisco Bay Area
  - Regional transit ticketing scheme; 26 operators linked
- Chicago Card Chicago
  - Only account-linked system in operation
  - Consideration for regional expansion

All multi-operator closed-loop payment systems...

# State of the state







#### Washington, DC's Metro



**Metrorail facts:** 

- 106 system miles
- 86 stations
- 1,000 car fleet
- 70 million miles traveled
- 588 escalators
- 237 elevators
- 750,000 transit trips daily
- 210 million trips annually

#### Second largest rail operator in United States

#### Washington, DC's Metro



**Metrobus facts:** 

- 1,500 buses
- 340 routes
- 13,000 stops, 1,700 bus shelters
- 10 garages, 2 shops
- 48.3 million miles annually
- 500,000 transit trips daily
- 132 million transit trips annually

#### Fifth largest bus system operator in United States

# SmarTrip in Washington, DC...

- Launched May 1999
  - Contactless smart card for transit
  - First fully integrated in nation; proprietary platform
  - Rail, parking and bus
  - Closed-loop payment system; transit only
- Expansion to regional operators underway
  - Washington operators nearly complete
  - Baltimore MTA underway
- Back office support contract used for
  - Customer service, fulfillment
  - Clearing and financial settlement between agencies
- 2,300,000 cards issued





SmarTrip in Washington, DC...

#### • SmarTrip continues to prove popular with customer base

- Market penetration
  - Rail 65% overall; higher in peak periods
    - SmarTrip-only express lanes under field test
  - Bus 22% overall; some >90%
  - Parking 100%, exclusive method to pay

#### Demonstration project with Citi and MasterCard

- Single card for payment of transit fares and parking fees with credit capability for retail transactions
  - Up to 20,000 cards issued
  - Current and acquired accounts
  - Launched December 2004



Use the same card for ALL payments...hybrid open system

# **Overview of US Public Transport Fare Payment Projects...**

- New York City Transit
  - Lexington Avenue Line trials, 2006
  - NYCT/Citi/MasterCard
    - www.mastercard.com/subwaytrial
- Port Authority of New York and New Jersey
  - Builds upon the New York City Transit Trial, 2007
  - Proposal evaluation phase
- Salt Lake City
  - Ski bus payment trial, 2006-2007
  - System-wide expansion under tender, 2007
- Nashville
  - Mag-stripe payment cards at farebox, 2007

All based upon open-loop payment systems...

#### Special profile...New York City Transit



- Special pilot announced January 2006
  - NYCTA, MasterCard, Citibank
  - Pay at the gate with PayPass
  - No more swipe, just tap and go
    - Started summer 2006
    - Lexington Line, 25 stations
    - Revolutionary for industry
    - Consumers can't wait
    - Media has been "all over it"

A revolution in the transit marketplace...

Special profile...New York City Transit

- Guiding principles for demonstration program
  - Show marked improvement in customer service
    - Product performance at the gate
    - System and account experience
    - Overall cardholder impressions
  - Create open and interoperable solution compatible with surrounding traditional merchants
  - Meet or beat current operating and transaction costs

# Special profile...New York City Transit

- Consumers can either:
  - Buy rides in advance and receive MTA discounts,

#### or....

- pay-as-you-go
- Website content
  - Trial information
  - Ride history
  - Pre-fund (buy) rides in advance

Solution is elegant in its simplicity...



Strategy for Transit Fare Payment...

- Take a merchant-like approach to payments
  - Manage product pricing, fare tariff
- Provide customers layered payment options
- Keep the solution elegant in its simplicity
  - EZ Pass, IPass
- Evaluate traditional transit business models and ask...
  - Is custom-built, one-off system really required?
  - Does agency need to own the fare payment system?
  - Will the system be flexible and open?
  - Will the system evolve with evolving technologies and business requirements?

What's Next for Transit Payments...

- Payments market continues to expand product line
  Contactless cards, payment tags, and other form factors
- Agencies will continue roll-out of contactless programs
- New transit trials and rollouts for open-loop systems
  - Issuance, investment and marketing
  - Develop products for full spectrum of transit payments
- Explore additional opportunities for bank/transit integration
  - Provide consumers options on product and form

Thank you very much...

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