Press Release

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The Future of Mobility

INIT revolutionizes e-fare with open payments system in Portland-Vancouver Metropolitan Area

Karlsruhe/Portland, 9 September 2017.
In partnership with TriMet, C-TRAN and Portland Streetcar, INIT has delivered the final element of the newly launched Hop Fastpass™ e-fare system. Since August, the open payments component has been in operation within the Portland-Vancouver metropolitan area.

Regional riders can now pay for fares using a mobile wallet such as Android Pay, Apple Pay or Samsung Pay, as well as any contactless bank card. They simply tap their phone or card on any of the 1,200 INIT validators and hop on board the Portland Streetcar, C-TRAN buses including The Vine, TriMet's buses, MAX light rail and WES Commuter Rail.

"My vision was to build innovative, open payments, open architecture fare collection system for all of our regional riders," says Chris Tucker, TriMet Project Manager. "We now have open payments, real-time fare calculation, daily and monthly fare capping, and seamless travel across three regional transit agencies and two states."

Daily and monthly fare capping
Having the ability to pay with a credit card or mobile wallet frees riders from the worry associated with how many or what kind of tickets they should buy. They simply tap, hop on and ride. A further advantage of the system is the daily fare capping. This way, riders never have to worry about spending more than needed to take public transit. Riders using a Hop Fastpass™ cards additionally benefit from monthly fare capping. The plan offers riders greater social equity, and provides more cost-effective transport options for travel throughout the Portland-Vancouver metropolitan area.

Multi-client capable backend system with open architecture

INIT's back-end processing software, MOBILEvario, serves as the core intelligence for the account-based and open payment fare system. It manages and processes fares in real time, recognizes and processes revenue sharing, as well as manages accounts and automates reconciliations for all three agencies. Offline processing is another added benefit of the INIT system. In the event of a network outage, fare payments can still be processed ensuring revenues are not lost.

INIT developed the system using open architecture API's so that other partners could be easily incorporated. As an example, the IVR system and mobile apps were able to easily integrate with the INIT open payments e-fare system which benefited riders using the system with further tools and greater functionality.

Fully integrated ITS

TriMet and C-TRAN have the added benefit of a fully integrated system from INIT. By adding the open payment e-fare component to their existing operations control and real-time passenger information system, the agencies were able to realize a fully integrated Intelligent Transportation System (ITS). Due to INIT's flexible and modular solution design, the e-fare module was also installed within all Portland Streetcars without the need to interface with an operations control system.

"INIT has been an amazing partner," said Sean Donaghy, C-TRAN CEO. "The integrated approach they took helped us realize the launch of this modern and seamless open payments solution. What that means for our riders is they can move from the Streetcar to a TriMet bus, over to C-TRAN and all the way throughout the system with ease."

The open payments system within the Portland-Vancouver metropolitan region was implemented within budget and on time.

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About INIT

As a worldwide leading supplier of integrated planning, dispatching, telematics and ticketing systems for buses and trains, INIT has been assisting transport companies in making public transport more attractive, faster and more efficient for more than 30 years. Today, more than 600 customers rely on INIT´s innovative hard- and software solutions.

The unique selling proposition of INIT's integrated telematics system MOBILE is that it comprises all of the daily tasks of public transport providers:

- Planning & Dispatching
- Ticketing & Fare Management
- Operations Control & Real-Time Passenger Information
- Analysing & Optimising

This creates a solution that covers the complete production process of public transport providing more efficiency and enhanced service quality.

INIT products are recognized for their state-of-the-art technology and may be deployed stand alone or integrated into an intelligent overall system tailor-made for the specific needs of the individual customer. Also a step-by-step extension of the system is possible.

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