Case Study: Island Transit Trims Inventory by 13 Days Using RTA's Barcoding Solution

RTa Fleet Management Software

Where Fleet Meets Technology

RTA's Barcoding Solution Saves Time

About Island Transit

Located in Coupeville, Wash., Island Transit has been providing ridesharing services across Island County since 1987. The transit company offers bus, paratransit and vanpool services. Island Transit's mission is to improve rider experience and the well-being of others in the area through goals that include: emphasizing rider use, improving safety and satisfaction, increasing mobility opportunities, offering less dependence on the automobile, decreasing traffic congestion, and improving air quality for all people in the service area.

Needed to Improve Time-consuming Inventory Process

Island Transit's fleet operation has a full-service garage to maintain its fleet of vehicles. Located on an island where next-day delivery is two-to-three days away, the fleet's inventory needs to be stocked with spare parts to keep downtime at a minimum in case of breakdowns or maintenance issues. This requires the operation to keep 8,000 parts – worth $700,000 – in its inventory.

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-- Ken Riley, Maintenance and Facility Manager at Island Transit

When it's time to take inventory, Island Transit counts all parts and tires. Performing this on 8,000 items was becoming too time-consuming for the staff. With two people conducting inventory, it took about 14 days to complete the process.

Transitioned to RTA's Barcoding Solution

Island Transit needed an easier way to keep track of its parts inventory. To simplify the process, the operation started revamping its system over a four-year span. After making gradual improvements to the speed of the process, Island Transit – a client of RTA since 2008 -- began using RTA's Barcoding solution. They added a tricoder in 2016 and another in 2017 to give them a total of three barcoding tools.

Using the Barcoding tools, Island Transit made a goal of putting barcodes on all parts – even tires. To-date they have about 95 percent of their total inventory barcoded. This allowed employees to simply scan the items with the barcode scanner. Parts were then automatically logged and processed through the software and entered into the inventory.

Saved 13 Days of Work

Using the three Barcoding tools saved Island Transit valuable time and effort.

With the ease of the tools, four to five staff members are now able to perform the inventory in just one day. The flexibility of allowing more people to access the tool and the streamlined process of using barcodes on all of the parts allowed Island Transit to complete its inventory 13 days earlier than before.

"I don't know why everyone isn't using (the barcoding tool)," said Ken Riley, Maintenance and Facility Manager at Island Transit. "It pays for itself by saving labor."

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