Stored value cards

Stored credit cards

Individual transport operators have used stored credit cards (rechargeable) from at least 1988 when the TNT Monorail introduced a card option. Private bus operators such as Transit First, Shorelink and Forest Coachlines in Sydney and Dion's in Wollongong also used these. Both private Manly ferry operators use them. CityRail also has these facilities for longer term cards. A trial of Quicklink was to be made in Newcastle (NWN31.5.96) but was postponed or cancelled for operational and union reasons. Some buses were fitted with consoles. No other details are known.

Datafare Value $50

Similar card used by Transdev.

T-Card Value $50

Tcard was to be a major initiative from the NSW government that was intended to make it easier and faster to pay for and access public transport. In February 2003 a contract was awarded to Ticketing Solutions Ltd (ITSL), a consortium led by ERG. Using smartcard technology, Tcard was to be a reusable ticket for all transport modes in the Greater Sydney Area, including Newcastle, Wollongong, the Central Coast, Southern Highlands and Blue Mountains.

Tcard was initially rolled out to school students on private buses as part of the revision of the School Student Transport Scheme (SSTS). It replaced the traditional student pass, magnetic stripe and paper tickets. 286,000 Tcards were distributed through 63 private operators. As part of this project every bus stop and bus route is mapped- the BCA estimates there are over 12,000 route variants with more than 40,000 bus stops (not including school stops) in the area covered.

Stored value cards

The system was trialled to the public in May 2006 on 60 buses from the Punchbowl Bus Co and later in the year selected STA routes 422 423 426 428 L23 L28 in the south west area. Then a trial involving CityRail & Sydney Ferries was to have begun. It was expected that a successful trial would signal the release of Tcard to 4,500 buses and 302 railway stations across the greater Sydney region.

Opal Card (see separate section)