Is Software-as-a-Service the right choice for your public transit agency?

A 10-STEP GUIDE TO HELP YOU DECIDE



1. Evaluate Your Current System

infrastructure and systems.Identify pain points, inefficiencies, and areas that require

• Begin by assessing your agency's existing technological

- improvement.Determine if your current systems are scalable and can
- adapt to evolving needs or if they are limiting your growth potential.
 Consider the agency size, complexity of operations, and
- specific features and functions required in the system.



Clearly outline your agency's short-term and long-

2. Define Agency Objectives

- term objectives.Ideate objectives. For example, if a goal is to
- increase ridership, a scenario would be: "Allow us to create special fare products for institutional partners and empower them to easily sell those fare products directly to their rider base."



Evaluate your agency's budget constraints and

financial capacity.

3. Outline the Costs

- Consider upfront costs, maintenance, and ongoing expenses.
- Compare the total cost of ownership (TCO) of implementing a SaaS solution versus maintaining or
- upgrading your existing systems.
 Consider the scalability and flexibility benefits of SaaS pricing models versus that of a bespoke
- solution pricing model.



Assess solution capabilities against your scenarios to help determine if an existing SaaS solution meets your

4. Assess Capabilities and Needs

- requirements without needing to be a design-build or full-customized solution.
 Assess which solutions can best accommodate growth and fluctuations of your operations and ridership.

5. Consider the Rider Experience

Recognize the importance of providing a seamless and



convenient experience for riders.For a more comprehensive and flexible mobility

information, and payment options.

solution, explore how a SaaS solution can enhance

online booking, trip planning, mobile ticketing, real-time

6. Evaluate Administrative and Operational Efficiencies

Consider how SaaS can streamline administrative and

fare collection, operator and customer interactions,

operational tasks, such as route planning, scheduling,

7. Determine Data and Analytics Needs



performance measurement, and reporting. Evaluate the potential for automating manual processes to reduce errors and save time.



performance, rider behavior, and trends.

capabilities to make data-driven decisions.

8. Assess Maintenance and

Support Needs

on-premises system.

Leverage data analytics to gain insights into service

Determine if a SaaS solution offers robust analytics



Evaluate the level of maintenance and support required for a SaaS solution. Typically, SaaS vendors manage maintenance and updates reducing the burden of the agency's IT staff, allowing them to

focus on other priorities.

• Assess if your agency has the internal resources to manage updates, security, and user support for an

Measure the benefit of automatic updates and

continuous innovations offered by SaaS providers

allowing for significantly reduced system downtime

and the latest advancements in technology without the need for costly upgrades or migrations.



9. Review Integration Capabilities

- Examine existing systems and workflows to determine potential areas of integration.
 Evaluate the simplicity of integration and identify any



Recommendations

10. Collect Input and

potential obstacles or constraints.

using the SaaS solution.Consider their perspectives and experiences in

• Reach out to other organizations or industry peers

informing your decision-making process.





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