United States Patent [19]

Withnall et al.

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[54] **THROUGH-TICKETING IN A PASSENGER TRANSPORT SYSTEM**

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[52] **U.S. Cl.** **235/384;** 235/462; 340/825.33

[58] **Field of Search** 235/384, 462; 340/825.31, 825.32, 825.33

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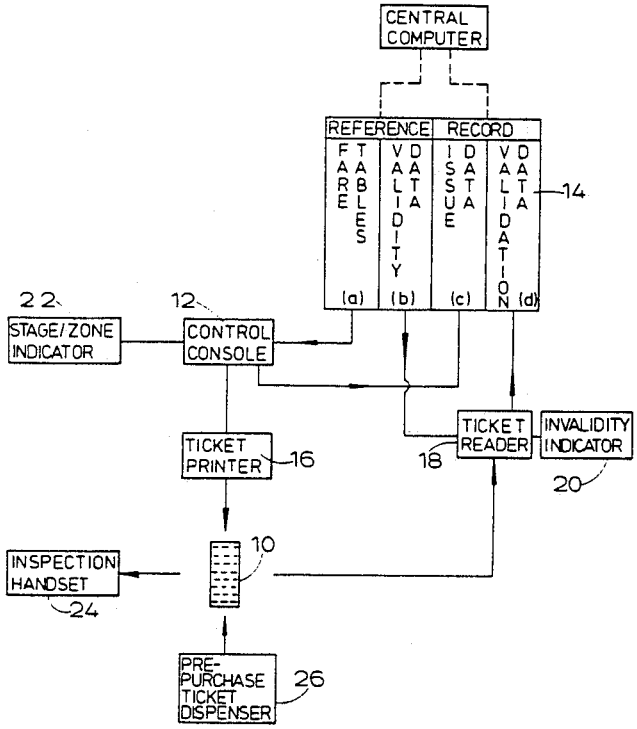
[57] **ABSTRACT**

A passenger-carrying vehicle (for example a bus) in a passenger transport system is equipped with a ticket reader (**18**) capable of optically reading information printed on a ticket (**10**) in bar-code and determining whether or not the ticket is valid. A ticket-printer (**16**) is provided for issuing bar-coded tickets, and both the reader (**18**) and the printer (**16**) are microprocessor-based and associated with a memory (**14**). Fare-table data is stored in the memory (**14***a*), for reference by the ticket-issuing means, data is stored in the memory (**14***b*) for reference by the ticket-checking means, and both the issuing means and the checking means can communicate information to the memory (**14***c*) and (**14***d*) to enable data concerning tickets handled to be stored for subsequent retrieval for management purposes.

13 Claims, 3 Drawing Figures