

Tuesday, April 29, 2025

Draft Regional Public Transport Plan 2025-2035 Feedback form

Unique ID

RPTP-0386

Contact details

Name:

Veronica Rodriguez-Jurado

Do you wish to speak to your submission at a public hearing?

No

Topic 1: Are we focusing on the right things in the plan?

Do you agree that these focus areas capture Otago's public transport priorities?

No

Tell us more:

I think what is missing is more emphasis or training on how to coexist with bikers and bike lanes. I have seen some city buses do some questionable things around bikes, such as pulling out or in in front of a bike or even running a red light to turn right across a bike path with a green light. Biking is already dangerous in Dunedin, but it is especially risky around buses. I don't think all drivers are conscious of how easy it is for a bus to kill or injure a biker. Just a matter of emphasizing safe driving around bikes and bike lanes.

Similarly, I think it is crucial to promote positive behaviour and positive views on bikers. A lot of the community hates or at least dislikes bikers, and it shows on how dangerously they drive around bikes. I have seen at least 10 cars run a red turn light at the intersection of Castle St and St Andrew St, even when bikes are about to cross (on a green light for bikes). Have seen maybe near misses. This might be a DCC issue, but I think ORC has a role to play in this, too - as I am sure it is not just a Dunedin problem.

Topic 2: Should we support community transport services in smaller towns and rural areas?

Our proposal: we are considering the establishment of a subsidised community transport programme providing support for transport services in Otago's smaller towns and rural areas.

What do you think about this proposal?

Do you agree with ORC having a role in supporting community transport services?

Yes

Are there other initiatives or programmes that you think Council should be considering?

No

Topic 3: Should we increase our passenger fares?

Our proposal: we are considering increasing the base fare for adult Bee Card passengers from \$2 to \$2.50. This would effectively increase bus fares for all passengers using Bee Cards by 25%.

What do you think about this proposal?

Should Council increase the adult Bee Card fare?

Yes

Topic 4: Should we charge more for longer trips?

Our proposal: we are considering introducing a zone fare system to our bus networks in Dunedin and Queenstown. Under this system, passengers travelling further distances across multiple zones will pay a higher fare than those travelling short distances within one zone.

What do you think about this proposal?

Should Council charge more for longer trips?

Yes

Tell us more:

Alternatively, instead of zones it could be by time. For example, the very extensive bus system in Vancouver allows for passengers to travel any bus for the same price, over a 1.5-hour period. That way, if you need to use more than one bus route to reach your destination, even if it is not far, you are not paying twice as much money. If I want to bus somewhere and it tells me I need to take several buses, I do not even consider that option.

Zoning is also good, as long as the zones are selected in a way that is fair and that does not mean that people living further from town are paying disproportionately more. Rent tends to be cheaper the further from town or uni, and biking from some areas (like Kaikorai Valley, South D, etc.) is pretty difficult or just dangerous. So buses tend to be the only option for car-less people.

Topic 5: Should we keep our free fares for children (5-12 years)?

Our proposal:

- A. Retain free fares (100% discount) for children (5-12 years), **AND**
- B. Standardise our concession discount for youth (13-18 years) to 40% across both the Dunedin and Queenstown networks. For example, if the adult fare is \$2, youth pay \$1.20, or if the adult fare is \$2.50, youth pay \$1.50.

What do you think about this proposal?

Should Council retain free fares (100% discount) for children (5-12 years)?

Yes

Should Council standardise our concession discount for youth (13-18 years) to 40% across both the Dunedin and Queenstown networks?

Yes

Any other comments?

Let us know if you have any other comments or ideas on the topics discussed in the Draft Regional Public Transport Plan.

I think something that would make me use public transport a lot more is if the schedule for buses was reliable. A lot of the times the buses are late, or even worse, much earlier than scheduled. It is one of the main reasons I don't like to take the bus, as there is always a chance I might miss it and waste a lot of my time.