

Wednesday, April 30, 2025

Draft Regional Public Transport Plan 2025-2035 Feedback form

Unique ID

RPTP-0408

Contact details

Name:

Ewan Mackie

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?

Yes

Tell us more:

Public transport needs to be given far greater priority within Otago. It should be affordable accessible and safe for everyone. Moreover it needs to be incentivized, for example by making priority bus lanes. The further electrification of the bus fleet should be a priority action. The provision of public transport needs to be committed to. We need to break the mold of people using private cars for all their transport needs. We are stuck in a catch 22 of poor public transport provision meaning there is little adoption from the public. And then that low usage is used as a reason not to increase the provision of public transport. But investing in public transport and providing a really good service for our communities will lead to strong adoption, but this will take time.

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

Tell us more:

We need a public transport connection between Wānaka and Queenstown. Given the size of these communities and the high number of people travelling between them, for both commuting and recreation, the lack of public transport is a disgrace. ORC rates should be used to subsidize a service.

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?

No

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?

No

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?