

Tuesday, March 25, 2025

# Draft Regional Public Transport Plan 2025-2035 Feedback form

Unique ID

RPTP-0058

## Contact details

Name:

Matthew Jenks

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:

Agree, public transport should be affordable, high quality, electrified, frequent and reliable and meet the needs of all users.

## 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

## 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

**Tell us more:**

The reduction in central government funding for public transport is disappointing and puts regional councils in a difficult situation. However, every effort should be made to ensure that prices remain as low as possible to maintain access to those who have the least financial resources.

## 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:**

Yes is the short answer. However, fares, frequency and reliability should be such that public transport is still a better option than single occupancy cars for those living further afield.

## 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

**Tell us more:**

100% support this, for the reasons stated above. In addition freedom, independence, are enhanced by children being able to use the bus system at an affordable price

**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.**

As a regular cycle commuter in Dunedin (and bus user) I regular cycle in the vicinity of buses. The bus drivers are extremely good around cyclists in my experience and are to be commended on this. The electric buses are a game changer for cyclists in terms of breathing in less air pollution. HAPINZ 3.0 study in New Zealand has highlighted the impact of air pollution on health. The faster we transition to electric buses the better for the health of pedestrians and cyclists in the city as well as benefits for climate.