

Thursday, March 27, 2025

# Draft Regional Public Transport Plan 2025-2035 Feedback form

Unique ID

RPTP-0081

## Contact details

Name:

Cara Smith

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:

Good to see that more services may be considered. Would like to see consideration of reducing bus sizes in off peak times.

## 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

**Tell us more:**

Would like to see school buses come back

### 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:**

While it may only seem like 50c there are a lot of improvements that would be needed to even want to pay more. Currently with buses often late (the Mosgiel 5:12pm bus from the Hub to Mosgiel is often 15 - 20 minutes late, not all buses having real-time tracking so not sure if they arrive, regularly having people vape on buses (this has been reported but nothing has been done), and often overfull buses at the moment you put up with this because it is \$2 - cheap bus fare = cheap service. To increase cost but not see any change in these things would make me get back into the car - even if it costs more with the car, I can at least feel safe, not have to put up with vaping (which causes health issues for all passengers) and not have to be waiting.

### 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

**Tell us more:**

If one of the priorities is to "Set fares so they are simple, fair and affordable to users, but generate sufficient revenue to maintain financial sustainability of our services" why complicate it by adding different pricing structures. Why would someone in Mosgiel pay more to catch buses when there are already so many issues. Also how would this help with traffic congestion as if bus fares increase more people will get back into their cars.

### 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:**

This would make it more affordable for families

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

No

**Tell us more:**

Would prefer this be removed at bus fares stay \$2 for everyone. Bringing back school buses would be the answer to best offering services to young people

**Any other comments?**