

Monday, April 28, 2025

Draft Regional Public Transport Plan 2025-2035 Feedback form

Unique ID

RPTP-0348

Contact details

Name:

Abbey Chamberlain

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

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

Tell us more:

I agree the current fare levels aren't sustainable, but as a regular commuter a higher increase isn't preferable. I think capping should be introduced to reward regular commuters and to retain existing levels of service.

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:

\$5 or even \$10 is still a really good deal from Dunedin to Palmerston. I find it a little unfair that I pay the same to commute from St Clair as people from Harington Point or Palmerston.

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.

There needs to be higher focus on attracting, educating and retaining new users. The university market is so unaware of how the bus works and these are the people most likely to learn how to take the bus and keep using it. ORC should be doing their most to target this market all year round, not just occasionally at O-week.

I also think ORC should do better at encouraging bus use within their own organization, celebrating the excellent service they have. Currently, PT isn't mentioned in the recruitment video or any of the job descriptions for what ORC deliver. Encouraging staff to use the bus, who can then teach their friends and children to use the bus would be an excellent starting point in better promotion.