

Wednesday, April 23, 2025

# Draft Regional Public Transport Plan 2025-2035 Feedback form

Unique ID

RPTP-0308

## Contact details

Name:

Aline Boer

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:**

I think these are all important points to focus on. I take the bus between Warrington daily and it would be great if passenger experience and trust in our bus system would be improved (since, due to buses often being late, the level of trust currently is not high). Sustainability is, of course important. I think that is very important to remember that, by keeping the bus fares low, people will actually continue to take the bus in from Warrington and further away. If the fares go up, it will no longer make financial sense for us living in Warrington to take the bus and I predict that numbers of people taking the bus would drop drastically - we'd instead just drive our cars into work and that wouldn't be a very sustainable option.

## 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?**

Yes

**Tell us more:**

I think that the council should consider bringing a train line back in. There are so many coastal communities that could be served by this and currently do not even have a bus service coming past them. Even Warrington only has a bus come in and out once a day, with the afternoon bus coming back so early that people with a 9-5 job have to walk from the highway back into Warrington after the 6 PM bus.

### 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:**

Only if this is the only way for the buses to be able to run. With that, it would be great if we could at least bring our bikes on the bus again.

### 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:**

As I mentioned above, I do not think that the council should charge more for longer trip. If the fares would be raised to, say 5 NZD, this will bring a trip from Warrington to Dunedin and back to 10 NZD. By then, it is actually cheaper for many of us to just drive, which would be bad for the environment and makes no body any happier. We already have a bus that only comes once in the morning and comes back once in the afternoon, and is often late. If it then also becomes more expensive, I would predict that for many of us that take the bus in, it will no longer be worth it to take the bus.

### 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)?**

No

**Tell us more:**

I'd say put it at a 40% discount.

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

Yes

**Tell us more:**

I think it is great for youth to have the freedom to take the bus in a financially viable way.

**Any other comments?**