

Tuesday, March 25, 2025

Draft Regional Public Transport Plan 2025-2035 Feedback form

Unique ID

RPTP-0047

Contact details

Name:

Kathryn van Beek

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?

No

Tell us more:

It looks good on the surface but environmental sustainability is not going to be reached without the use of trains. Nowhere in your document do you mention trains or rail. Reinstating rail services to residents (not tourists) should be an urgent priority.

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:

Rail. We should be able to catch a passenger train where rail lines exist, eg Dunedin to Invercargill, Dunedin to Timaru.

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:

No. Catching public transport is always inconvenient and it is done for the greater good. People should be incentivised to use public transport. It should be free for all, or very low cost.

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:

No. Catching public transport is always inconvenient and it is done for the greater good. People should be incentivised to use public transport. It should be free for all, or very low cost. People who live further away should not be penalised.

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:

Yes, and it should be expanded for all.

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

No

Tell us more:

It should be standardised, but it should be free.

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.

- We need passenger rail like other cities and regions have
- Bus travel should be free or very low cost
- We need to incentivise as many people as possible to use public transport
- We need public transport to be safer. I spent a very uncomfortable time at the Bus Hub one evening in the cold and dark after my bus didn't show up. There was no communication from ORC, the person on the other end of the phone didn't know what was happening, it was dangerous. Shuttles should be provided in these situations. No one wants to be fearful of being attacked at the Bus Hub, it will put people off catching the bus. The tragic stabbing incident itself didn't put me off particularly, but being fearful in the dark afterwards with no way of getting home certainly has.