

Monday, March 24, 2025

Draft Regional Public Transport Plan 2025-2035 Feedback form

Unique ID

RPTP-0026

Contact details

Name:

Amanda Brown

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:

A reliable service, low fares and routes that reach where people need to go are the main priorities. Low fares reduce barriers for use.
School age children should travel free. Let's make using public transport a 'normal' way to travel.
If a community finds an issue with routes, time table or over crowding, then a quick and reasonable and open response is required by ORC.
School bus routes should be considered again to help ease congestion with working commuters.

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:

The distances travelled on rural and small towns will never be able to break even. Partnership with other commercial transport companies may be required. Something like 'book a ride' system might be possible.

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 see more people using the service on my route.
Most are travelling on a gold card ride. \$0 cost.
\$2.00 a ride, is \$4 a day, as you have to return to somewhere! This is accessible cost for many.

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:

These routes and time tables need to align with what the communities require and need.

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:

Free for all children and youth at school.
School buses were nearly always full. Consider having a morning and afternoon bus services for intermediate schools. Kids at my local school have to leave school 5min early to make sure they catch the bus, or it's an hour wait for the next one.
Make catching a bus a normal way of travelling. Grow a new customer base for the future.

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

Yes

Tell us more:

Youth are more likely to need transport to school. Making it free will remove any financial barrier to getting to school.

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 bus user, all you want is for a bus to turn up on time.
Fares will never cover the running costs until more people travel on a bus. Too 'expensive' fares will always stop new customers.