

Friday, May 2, 2025

# Draft Regional Public Transport Plan 2025-2035 Feedback form

Unique ID

RPTP-0530

## Contact details

Name:

Ashling Coffey

Do you wish to speak to your submission at a public hearing?

Yes

## 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?

Yes

**Tell us more:**

I live out on the peninsula and I don't think that people realise how bad the bus situation out here is. There are two buses that can get students to school on time in the morning and one in the afternoon. The earlier one in the morning, at 7:45 from my bus stop and is unreliable in its timings and is chock full, just with less

people standing than the other one, I also, realistically would have to get up at 6:30 to get ready and walk to the bus stop on time. If you can make that, It drops you to school at least half an hour early, it is however much more pleasant than the second one. The second bus comes 15ish minutes later but is the only bus in the morning that takes the Musselburgh route which includes the schools Bayfield and Tahuna, the two schools that most of the peninsula kids go to. This results in the bus being packed until they often have to turn people away in the afternoon. We have learned that there are two types of bus drivers: one, who will turn away people when the bus gets full, resulting in school children having to find another means of transport home, as I've often had to watch my friends from Bayfield do. The other type just try to fit everyone onto the bus, telling people to "Just move back!" and the kids yelling that "We can't!" because there's no more room.

### 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:**

We want to encourage people to go on the bus, not scare them away. You want to incentivise people to go on the bus to help reduce carbon emissions and this is 100% not the way to do it.

### 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've said before, I live on the peninsula and it already costs a fortune. I calculated it and if, like I and lots of the peninsula kids do, catch the bus every day, I would cost them just under 500 dollars a year. If we charge more for longer trips then parents will just drive their kids into school as lots of the kids beg them to do already because of the awful bus environment.

### 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?**