

Thursday, May 1, 2025

# Draft Regional Public Transport Plan 2025-2035 Feedback form

Unique ID

RPTP-0434

## Contact details

Name:

Marian Krogh

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

### Tell us more:

Public transport should be affordable, accessible, and safe for everyone. Frequent services are the easiest to take. If services only run once/hour there's too much planning, and if you miss a bus you're really late. If services are every 15 mins it so much easier.

A public transport connection to Wanaka is an equity issue. I live in Wanaka and I don't have a car - that means I have to hitchhike if I want to go to Queenstown. I can't afford to be driving all the time, but there's no other option. If there was a public bus connecting Queenstown I'd definitely take it.

Thank you for working towards electrifying the bus fleet. Please do this faster.

The ORC should be advocating for higher density development which will make public transport more efficient. Buses and Urban sprawl don't work well together. Any new developments need to come with public transport connections.

Integrated network - this mentions improving regional connectivity - we can't connect our region without a public transport connection between Wanaka and Queenstown. This is essential!

Taking the bus must clearly be the more affordable option. If it costs more than driving then people will drive instead.

## 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:**

A public transport connection between Wanaka and Queenstown is urgently needed. I often need to go to Queenstown for medical appointments, events, and to visit friends. Other places I've lived have been really easy to get around by public transport but not Wanaka. I'd be happy for my ORC rates to be used for Public transport connecting Wanaka and Queenstown.

### 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 need more people getting on buses, not less. Increasing the price will mean less people taking the bus.

### 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:**

Long distance trips, such as a bus connecting Wanaka and Queenstown should cost more. But trips around Queenstown should all be the same. Those on lower incomes often live furthest away - like in Shotover Country, so it's not fair to have them pay more.

### 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:**

Kids will get a good habit of taking the bus if it's free and they can easily travel either with their parents, or independently. If it costs money for children to go on the bus, then families will choose to drive, instead of taking the bus.

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

Yes

**Tell us more:**

Simplifying concessions means less work for everyone.

## 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 a bus connecting Wanaka and Queenstown in the plan! This is the most important service and it's not even in the plan for 10 years. I would likely take this service weekly, and I know lots of others who would too. There are a lot of events in Queenstown that I'd love to be able to attend, work opportunities, and friends to visit. Many of my friends are seasonal workers and end up having no choice but to buy cars when they move to New Zealand for the winter. It's not fair that Queenstown has public transport but Wanaka doesn't.