

Wednesday, April 23, 2025

Draft Regional Public Transport Plan 2025-2035 Feedback form

Unique ID

RPTP-0301

Contact details

Name:

Stacey Hitchcock

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:

It would also be useful to bring in being adaptable, specifically around responding to and engaging with public more regularly around changes to fares, frequency, service hours and routes as this will improve rider numbers and rider experience - this could sit under either priority 1 or 4. Changes to the Mosgiel Express by adding an extra stop at the exchange is a good example of this, and it would be useful if the public knew that further changes to routes if enough people want it is a possibility in the future.

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

Tell us more:

connections between smaller towns across the Otago region is a great idea - e.g. between Alex-Cromwell-Queenstown would be a great way to provide travel options for commuters who live outside the town they work in - it will also have a positive impact on traffic congestion, transport emissions, and road safety.

On-demand services for smaller towns would also be a great thing to consider - trial it in Mosgiel, and look to offer or explore options in smaller towns like Alexandra, Cromwell, Wānaka.

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 don't like the idea of increasing fares, the \$2 Bee card fee is a really good price, however understand the pressure from central government with funding. Increasing the adult fare would be acceptable in general by the small amount proposed - however please don't increase the concession fares and child/student pricing - these are the people who are most reliant on, and benefit the most from public transport, and since equity is a key priority, hopefully the increase in adult fares would off-set the need to increase concession fares.

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:

I would prefer to not pay more, however accept that it could be increased somewhat... Palmerston can be a higher fee, Mosgiel could be higher, but I plead you not to take it back to being \$6.50 or whatever it was prior to the flat fares. And if the fares are going to increase the further you travel - what do the passengers get out of it? do they get a better service? more frequent? or longer service hours? given it has been so long since the flat fares were introduced I doubt the public would accept a massive increase to the fares as a result of zoning.

Would this also bring in the possibility of an airport to city service in Dunedin?

Topic 5: Should we keep our free fares for children (5-12 years)?

Our proposal:

- 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:

There are massive benefits for children taking the bus, which is made easier when there is no/low financial burden - young people that are used to taking the bus to get to where they need/want to go creates really good habits for adults - contributing positively to reducing transport emissions and congestion for the longterm.

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

Yes

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.

Please extend the Mosgiel express service to the University, and an airport service would be amazing!