

Friday, May 2, 2025

Draft Regional Public Transport Plan 2025-2035 Feedback form

Unique ID

RPTP-0507

Contact details

Name:

David Solomon

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:

Forget about passenger experience. Forget about building Trust.
If you operate a good business, those items will develop naturally. Artificial objectives like those items are farcical, and backfire.
Secondly, increase the fares, and reduce ORC rates.
In fact, sell the bus business in its entirety back to local operators. Let the free market prevail. Remove ORC from this business.

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?

No

Are there other initiatives or programmes that you think Council should be considering?

Yes

Tell us more:

Exit the public transport business.

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:

Increase the fares to reflect the cost of operations. Stop subsidizing failing business.

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:

The longer the distance traveled, the higher cost, therefore higher the fare.

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)?

No

Tell us more:

They take up a seat, they should be charged.

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

No

Tell us more:

1 - 16 year olds should get a 50 % discount.

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.

Discount off peak fares, and introduce an all day pass for off peak times.

Analyse passenger numbers, and reduce/ increase service based on occupied seats per route. Adjust timetables to match demand. Match bus size to match passenger numbers. That is why I am advocating for a privatized system. An external operator would profile the routes and match the seats to the demand. If there is no demand, there would be no service, if there was demand, services would increase. Stop subsidizing the Cruise Ship passengers. If the fares reflected the cost of the service, it could actually provide a profit to the operator. The ORC doesn't subsidize the Water Taxi's, so should not be in the Public Transport sector at all.

Thank You.