

Thursday, March 27, 2025

Draft Regional Public Transport Plan 2025-2035 Feedback form

Unique ID

RPTP-0088

Contact details

Name:

Frederique Gulcher

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

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?

No

Tell us more:

This is so important when you think about seasonal workers in rural and tourism places who won't have their own transport and who should have equitable access to services.
Having a flexible system run by the local community also creates connections and maintains other

support systems.

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:

Now is not a time to increase fares across the board. Living costs are high enough.

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:

I'm not opposed to a two fare structure where those travelling longer distances from Mosgiel and Palmerston for example would pay more than \$2 with a Bee Card, but having said that, those people are often the most in need as they need to get to city centre service and jobs.

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:

This absolutely helps families with many children who don't have their own transport. Not just the cost, but the convenience of getting on the bus and only having to swipe for one adult while the children find a seat.

This benefits everyone.

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

Yes

Tell us more:

It's equitable and easy to understand.

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.

Over the years I have seen the perception and usage of public transport change favourably. Six years ago, people used terms like the loser cruiser. Nowadays, catching the bus is pretty normal and passengers seem to be from all walks of life (I can only comment on my no.8 route).

The buses connect people, connect communities and support independence. On some occasions I catch the bus before 3pm and it's full of older adults. I think this is really great for people unable to drive who might otherwise become isolated and lonely. They are chatting with each other or the driver as they get off and that just warms the heart. Transporting all ages and all walks of life also makes us empathetic and connected, so public transport is also about social connection.

Please keep it accessible, affordable and normal.