

Wednesday, April 30, 2025

Draft Regional Public Transport Plan 2025-2035 Feedback form

Unique ID

RPTP-0413

Contact details

Name:

Bridget Davidson

Organisation (if applicable):

Otago Girls' High School

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:

Safety should be an urgent first consideration. School students and children are having to go to the Bus Hub as a connection point which is an unsafe and unsuitable environment for young people.

The bus stop opposite the bottom of the Dowling Street stairs and ramp is overcrowded and dangerous after school. Because young people are avoiding the Bus Hub they end up in a crush of people and it is unsafe. Greater alternatives for catching buses and more frequent and accessible bus services are needed urgently.

Bus services that loop up the hill, over to Kaikorai Valley and out to the Taieri would be very helpful after school.

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?

Tell us more:

Bus routes and transport to and from all schools in Otago.

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

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?

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:

If young people can be safe and happy catching buses to and from school this sets up positive public transport habits from a young age that may endure throughout their life.

Any other comments?