

Monday, March 24, 2025

# Draft Regional Public Transport Plan 2025-2035 Feedback form

Unique ID

RPTP-0040

## Contact details

Name:

Rachel Stanton

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?

No

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

Yes

**Tell us more:**

If by smaller rural towns you mean Wānaka, Cromwell and Alexandra, which are by no means small or rural by today's standards. Proper public transport is needed. Within and between these communities. It's a process that need to start sooner rather than later.

## 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:**

It's not great but it's still relatively cheap and if it's needed to meet costs and sustain the network it's worth it.

## 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:**

Yes but only for trips between major centres. In Auckland I saw zoning double the cost of my fare to work even though my bus stop I was 2 blocks from a cheaper zone. The cost needs to be justified in a way that makes relative sense without punishing those who choose to live further from a central area to save on the cost of living etc.

## 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:**

The wider public shouldn't be subsidising transport for kids whose parents do not transport their kids to school. I like the idea of it being subsidised for children to encourage public transport use but children and

families but not free all the time. Another option is offering a children travel free day (I think Sydney used to do children free on Saturdays etc)

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

Yes

**Tell us more:**

Yes, again as above. It makes sense to encourage use of public transport but not free.

## 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.**

Wānaka, Cromwell and Alexandra all deserve consideration in the plans. Public transport options need to begin to be made available in these areas. Even if it was to connect these communities to Queenstown (aka the major airport hub). It's too expensive to pay for airport parking, too expensive to pay for private coaches or buses. Vulnerable people have to rely on family or friends for rides and that is if you have those networks available to you.