

Thursday, May 1, 2025

Draft Regional Public Transport Plan 2025-2035 Feedback form

Unique ID

RPTP-0457

Contact details

Name:

Tom Ingham

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

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 think \$2.50 fares strikes the right balance. Of course everyone would prefer lower! But in light of the (unfortunate) Central Government directives, cost increases to fund growth/improvement in the network, and inflationary pressures, I'd accept an increase to \$2.50 and continue to use the bus regularly (perhaps slightly less often if I can help 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:

Firstly, the proposed zone map wasn't the clearest. We catch the 50 bus to Helensburgh and I'll assume we would be zone 1.

I think it makes sense that the costlier routes should be charged higher fares. I trust the Council will not make the increased charges too high, as a Dunedin patron I would still like to see high patronage for outer-zoned routes as more of an ORC priority than revenue gathering.

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:

I don't see many primary school aged children catch the bus on my route. I would love to see more, as would the ORC I'd imagine, so keeping the fare \$0 and perhaps more. promotion around this would help parents reassess that they don't need to drive their kids to school every day!

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

Yes

Tell us more:

Especially if looking to add zones pricing, which would add fare complexity, I would welcome this initiative to standardise fare discounts for youth.

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.

I'm really excited by the goal/prospect of rolling out electric buses for the entire Dunedin fleet in the next 3 years! As both a proud bus passenger and a cyclist that occasionally finds themselves stuck behind smelly polluting buses, this would be fantastic. Keep up the good green work!