

Sunday, April 20, 2025

Draft Regional Public Transport Plan 2025-2035 Feedback form

Unique ID

RPTP-0282

Contact details

Name:

Judy Martin

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

Tell us more:

Objective

Invest in a public transport system that promotes positive outcomes regarding greenhouse gas emissions, pollutants and land use.

One key priority that should be added is to keep fares competitive with fuel costs to encourage public transport use ahead of private vehicle use. I use the no 1 Dunedin route, Palmerston to Dunedin, which is roughly 50km long. It is the best value and, consequently, the highest use bus route in Dunedin. Many school children and commuters use it as an alternative to driving and being driven, despite the awkward hours, and it therefore saves many hundreds of vehicle use per trip. A return to zoning would be a disaster on this route.

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

Tell us more:

We currently have two housebound and non-driving neighbours for whom this type of community service would be an absolute godsend. After an emergency trip to the hospital they currently pay over a hundred dollars for an Uber to bring them the 40 plus km home. They would welcome such a service, especially if it had flexible timing.

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:

This is a minor increase, and I support it. I hope central government would also increase the subsidy you or your bus companies receive when the Gold Card discount is used.

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?

No

Tell us more:

I live 40km from Central Dunedin at the northern margins of the city. When our bus trips were zoned we were on zone 4 and a single trip would cost around \$8, which was a real disincentive to bus use. With flat fares, this trip has become the most used in Dunedin.

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

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

Yes

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.

Providing all Otago residents with access to affordable public transport to lessen dependence on private vehicle ownership and use is the most important consideration in these times of volatile fuel prices and increasing climate related threats.