

Tuesday, March 25, 2025

Draft Regional Public Transport Plan 2025-2035 Feedback form

Unique ID

RPTP-0051

Contact details

Name:

Austin Milne

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:

1. Passenger experience

The key focus needs to be on convenience, and allowing people who are not able to drive a car, as many of the freedoms that car owners have as possible. These include the ability to take dogs on the bus and for the busses to get to their destination faster, currently they take double the time. This would be helped by using the one way systems and creating a bus only lane around the bus hub. Transport disadvantaged people with disabilities and service dogs have total mobility cards and usually use free taxis. Just because I do not have a car doesn't mean I shouldn't be able to take my dog out.

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

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 would be ok with an extra 50 cents but only if improvements are made to the bus service, and there is a freeze in extra increases for 5 years. I would be happy to buy another ticket for my dog, and that could be a better revenue stream. D

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:

Ok, but also less for shorter trips, eg 1\$ or 50 cents to get from the bus hub to princes st for example.

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:

\$1 or 50cents so they get used to paying.

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

Yes

Tell us more:

Should be 50% so it's simpler

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.

Dogs should be allowed on busses, adopting the same rules as in Auckland would be fine. (Full muzzles on all dogs). To counteract concerns from the disabled community there could be a rule that if a guide dog gets on a bus the regular dogs get off with their owners and get the next bus, I have never seen a guide dog on a Dunedin bus despite catching the bus twice daily for 4 years so it shouldn't be an issue. I currently catch the bus with my dog in a crate, my dog is a 20kg border collie. And carrying the crate around limits where we can go. The passengers and drivers all seem fine with dogs. Please don't let the few ruin it for the vast majority of people who are dog owners.