

Tuesday, April 29, 2025

Draft Regional Public Transport Plan 2025-2035 Feedback form

Unique ID RPTP-0387

Contact details

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Organisation (if applicable): Taieri Network

Do you wish to speak to your submission at a public hearing?

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?

Tell us more:

Taieri Network is submitting only on topics that have been raised within our community or by individuals through our networks. Our comments reflect the real needs and priorities we are hearing from the Taieri community.

As residents and ratepayers, we value being part of Dunedin City, but we also want to ensure that investment reflects the contributions and realities of communities beyond the central city.

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?

Tell us more:

Taieri Network supports delivery of public transport to smaller towns and rural areas. Collaboratively working with other not-for-profit organisations would be beneficial to both ORC and the local community organisations. One example is Strath Taieri Connect Charitable Trust who are looking into piloting a community vehicle for rural residents. The vehicle would pass through Outram which is a rural town with no public transport, so Taieri Network have offered to work collaboratively on this project, whether that be financially, helping provide volunteer personnel or assisting with admin and operational procedures.

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:

Many are struggling with financial pressures but the view that if public transport is still cheaper than running one's own personal vehicle (and there is good service providing good timing of routes and stops), then uptake of public transport would continue to remain. So an increase in fares seems practical but there is a careful balance between cost and usage. Taieri Network supports an increase of 25% to fares, but keeping children up to the age of 12yrs seems practical.

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:

Taieri Network does not support a zone fare system for the following reasons:

Equity and Financial Disadvantage: Rural or outer suburb communities (e.g., Mosgiel, Port Chalmers, Arrowtown) could face higher costs despite often having fewer transport alternatives.

Discourages Public Transport for Rural Areas: Higher fares may push rural commuters back to private car use, increasing traffic and emissions.

Potential Confusion: Introducing zones could make the system more complex and less accessible, particularly for tourists or infrequent users.

Administrative Challenges: Implementing zones requires updates to ticketing systems, signage, staff training, and community education.

Unintended Social Outcomes: Might widen the urban-rural divide if rural residents feel unfairly treated or excluded from affordable transport options.

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.

Infrastructure - ORC need to ensure they invest or contribute to costs of maintaining roading on bus routes. It is clear that urban roads do not cater for heavy usage of large vehicles (buses and such like) and as a result urban streets often (or almost always) end up with potholes, seal lifting on roads becoming more bumpy.

Love the idea of Uber bus being trialled in Mosgiel! Not sure how elderly will cope with that but if there is good education and sharing with in elderly groups in Mosgiel, I'm sure it will be well received.