

Wednesday, March 26, 2025

Draft Regional Public Transport Plan 2025-2035 Feedback form

Unique ID

RPTP-0067

Contact details

Name:

Dave Goosselink

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:

You should spend less money on any "environmental sustainability" measures which don't deliver corresponding financial benefits. And fares should move to more substantially cover the cost of provision, so that you can reduce the excessive subsidies by general ORC ratepayers who don't choose to use public transport and who fully fund their own movements.

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?

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:

Absolutely. An increase to \$2.50 should be the minimum. \$3 or \$4 per fare should be urgently considered to more fairly reflect the high cost of provision.

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. Travelling a longer distance takes more fuel/charging, staff costs, and limits wider use of fleet vehicles on shorter, more popular routes. A zone based fare system for public transport is standard in many other cities around the world.

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:

Free fares for children 12 and under is fair, if that is considered a worthy subsidy by the ORC and central Government.

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 teenagers should definitely be paying a decent contribution to their fare cost, so a standard 40% discount would be acceptable.

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.

Increase the use of mini bases and smaller transport options for less popular routes and off peak times to lower fleet and maintenance costs.