

Monday, March 24, 2025

Draft Regional Public Transport Plan 2025-2035 Feedback form

Unique ID

RPTP-0034

Contact details

Name:

Mandy Phipps-Green

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?

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 think this increase is reasonable. However, please do not increase the youth charge. Youth users (who are STILL CHILDREN) experienced a significant increase already with their charge doubling earlier this year with the central government changes.

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:

This seems reasonable to me.

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:

I think if it is fairer that 5-12 years pay a small charge to help maintain the service, especially because 13-18 year olds, WHO ARE STILL CHILDREN, have to pay \$1.20 now (the fee doubled earlier this year.) "Retaining free fares for children will keep public transport affordable for families." Point of fact: families include teenagers. Teenagers are more mobile and more likely to use the bus frequently but somehow their fares are not considered as part of "family affordability"?! Our family has 3 teenagers who use the bus daily. It is now much more expensive for us - they have no jobs. Honestly, under 18 year olds should all be classed as children. Teenagers don't have many travel options either - and if they can legally drive, they have few parking options.

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

No

Tell us more:

Please, no more increases to youth fares. We have borne a 100% increase already this year.

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.

We really appreciate the bus services. In general, they serve our needs very well and the ORBUS communications team on social media does a good job sharing information, and people at ORC I've contacted with queries previously also. The bus website is great. Everyone does a great job. It's frustrating that central Government has made the cuts they have.