

Thursday, April 10, 2025

Draft Regional Public Transport Plan 2025-2035 Feedback form

Unique ID

RPTP-0218

Contact details

Name:

Tara Strahan

Organisation (if applicable):

Cancer Society

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:

Yes would like included a focus on enable the community to connect more easily with accessing Health and social services such as to Dunstan and to Invercargill and Dunedin Hospitals. At present health shuttle is only able to take people that do not have mobility issues, not able to take children and they do not operate on public holidays. No service between Queenstown and Dunstan or to connect with the Health shuttle that goes through to Dunedin. Increased financial and psychological distress on families in our community.

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?

Yes

Tell us more:

I would like to know more about what community transport would look like rurally. We have volunteers as part of the Cancer society that drive to Dunstan but they tend to be elderly and driving to Dunedin in one day is not feasible. We do not have a huge pool of volunteers. Wanaka has wheels to Dunstan which works well but there is an ongoing problem if a person is not well enough to travel on the health shuttle or mobility impaired and has no family then there are very limited/ no options to get to hospital appointments. I would like a wider community pool of volunteer drivers and a shuttle that is available to take people to Dunstan and to connect with the health shuttle in Cromwell and with volunteers that are able to take people further afield if needed. Combining various community groups and pooling drivers is one suggestion. They would need to be vetted and have basic training and someone to manage this pool of drivers. It would be great to encourage more ride sharing and connecting people travelling in the same direction via an app.

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?

No

Tell us more:

I think people should be incentivized and encouraged to use public transport. If increased then reward for use- e.g. free ride after 10 rides or something so people are rewarded for increased use. Cost reduction for monthly pass etc then the increase in cost would be more palatable. As a one off user \$2.50 is ok but it will add up for regular users and families. Can the buses be made smaller on some routes and frequency increased to increase use and reduce potentially running costs/ impact to the environment.

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

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:

Would like youth to be free then they would use more often and they are independent without needing an adult therefore more likely to save an adult then making a car trip.

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

Yes

Tell us more:

Makes sense to standardise but also would be great to be free to youth.

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.

Ongoing need for accessing treatments and hospital appointments. Majority of hospital appointments are in Dunedin, Invercargill and Dunstan with limited options to get there. People very reliant on family and often people have moved here and do not have family support. Increased financial burden for family also needing to take time off work. Increased Psychological distress and inequity for rural people.