

Thursday, May 1, 2025

Draft Regional Public Transport Plan 2025-2035 Feedback form

Unique ID

RPTP-0444

Contact details

Name:

Alice O'Neill

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:

Really pleased to see further building upon integrated routes, simplicity (re: no more zones/single fare for any distance; having transfers), and accessibility. Thanks ORC for your work.

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

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:

If possible, please don't increase. These fares really can add up (also, if i may say, the online top-up system is really bad.... it's a confusing website. So topping up is already an effort). Inflation of prices of essential items is increasing much faster than the ORC, minimum wage, wages generally, and the benefit. Please leave price as-is if you can.

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:

Zones suck, they're confusing, annoying, inconvenient. This is just extra admin and headache for drivers to remember, passengers to remember, ORC/transport admin workers to stay on top of & integrate, and a big unnecessary hurdle for tourists or out of town visitors using the bus. Please please don't do this. I remember zoned bus routes from my high school years and it was a truly sucky element of an otherwise positive public transport experience.

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:

Yes, please do retain this free fares setup.

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

Yes

Tell us more:

Consistency and simplification of this kind is helpful and efficient for all parties involved.

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.

PLEASE PLEASE PLEASE, SEATING AT BUS STOPS. I HAVE ORTHOSTATIC INTOLERANCE//FIBROMYALGIA PAIN MEANING THAT STANDING IN PLACE IS VERY PAINFUL. If there's a seat at a bus stop i can use the bus without even needing my walking stick, on a good day. On a bad day, a bus stop with a bench enables me to just have my stick, but if i have to be at any seat-free bus stops, i need to figure this out in advance (while in pain!!) and bring my walking frame with me so that i can sit on the seat bit of it while waiting. I'm not the only individual or only demographic who would really really benefit from bus stop seats; other groups who are reliant on public transport (eg, the elderly) require seating as a basic accessibility feature to enable them to even use the bus in the first place. Please please please can there be seats 🙏🙏🙏