

Thursday, April 24, 2025

Draft Regional Public Transport Plan 2025-2035 Feedback form

Unique ID

RPTP-0317

Contact details

Name:

Natacha Murphy

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:

I agree that these are the focus areas however 'A connected and integrated network' is an area that could do with improvement in the Whakatipu.

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

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:

If this increase drives improvements, then absolutely.

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:

I think we need to incentivize using public transport over personal vehicles as much as possible. For example, someone living in Arrowtown would end up paying more as they are the furthest away from Queenstown CBD; however, keeping the fares the same, would potentially encourage choosing the bus which lowers emissions and vehicles entering the CBD. Someone who lives a few km's away from the CBD probably wouldn't drive anyway so a lower bus fare wouldn't encourage a change in behaviour. The people who live further away, in a Whakatipu context, need better public transport and if it is more expensive, they may not adopt the services.

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:

Keeping the cost of transport low for families with children improves equity of access and potentially reduces the amount of personal vehicles on the road taking children to school.

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.**

1. Something that might benefit the Whakatipu and Upper Clutha would be smaller but more frequent buses. Often buses are travelling with only a few people and are hourly, so it might be indicating that they are not a desirable option for passengers. I don't know the feasibility of smaller and more frequent buses but it could be a different approach.

2. It would be great if we could bring dogs on the bus. In Brisbane, Australia, dogs are allowed on the ferry as long as they are wearing a muzzle and this seems like a good balance of ensuring passenger safety while also allowing dogs (without a carrier) onto the bus. The Whakatipu is a population with a lot of dogs and if you could take them on the bus to take a trip into town; it might incentivize increased bus use and lower car use.