

Friday, April 18, 2025

Draft Regional Public Transport Plan 2025-2035 Feedback form

Unique ID

RPTP-0264

Contact details

Name:

Paulette Quartermaine

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?

No

Tell us more:

I fully support the bus system in Dunedin. It works very well for me - so well done and thank you!

What I AM concerned about is that when the Bee Card is transferred to the new Motu Move system in late 2025-2026, any balance left on the Bee Card would not be refunded or could not be transferred to the new Motu Move card!

I am a Pensioner and have Gold & Community Services cards. I have \$26 on my card at present and can't see how I can take 26 'paying' rides (\$1) between now and 2026. I may end of with \$5-\$10 left on my card by then.

There are 280,000 Bee Cards in circulation in NZ (if what I read in the paper is true) so if every card had \$1 on it, you would pocket \$280,000! But some cards will have more than that (a bus driver friend told me some have as much as \$80!)

Also, having spoken to several friends about this, I find they were not aware they will lose their remaining balance!

When I mentioned this at a recent ORC drop in session I was told it was 'probably a finance thing and too expensive to administer'! I was appalled by this response!

Then to top it off I am asked if an increase in bus fare is reasonable?
In isolation, I would say yes - but not when you have just stolen my money!

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 don't know what - but Council should never stop looking for ways to do things better, and provide more services for the community.

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:

As mentioned above - Council have announced that the Bee Card will be taken out of service and replaced with a Motu Move card in late 2025 / early 2026 in Dunedin.

When that happens, any balance left on the Bee Card will not be refunded and cannot be transferred to the new card.

How can you justify increasing the bus fare when you have openly stated you will keep the balances left on our cards! Is this not daylight robbery?

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 works well in the UK (London in particular).

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

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

Yes

Any other comments?