

Thursday, May 1, 2025

Draft Regional Public Transport Plan 2025-2035 Feedback form

Unique ID

RPTP-0456

Contact details

Name:

D Hayman

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 do not agree with the electrification of buses because the technology is not cost effective yet. More carbon is spent building and supporting the batteries and they cost more than fuel engines. I would rather have a more reliable and cheap bus service.

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?

No

Tell us more:

Any spend on rural spending should be proportionate to the rate payers in the area.

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:

The ORC and the DCC need to have aligned directions, and as DCC is continuously making it harder for cars to be the mode of transport into and around the centre of Dunedin, the ORC needs to ensure the alternative is not price inhibitive. Keeping fees as low as possible should be the priority. This can be made possible by not electrifying the buses and using cheaper alternatives.

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:

Buses are a better substitute to driving for longer journeys than for shorter ones. I would be more likely to take the bus to go to the beach than to pop to the supermarket. I think if you want to encourage more people using the bus then you are going to get more buy in from those who travel long distances if the cost is beneficial to them.

The bus from Waikouaiti to Dunedin is full every weekday because it is cheaper than driving, but if the cost was \$5 each way then it no longer becomes a preferred option.

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?

Let us know if you have any other comments or ideas on the topics discussed in the Draft Regional Public Transport Plan.

In line with the wider need of central and local government to focus on core services, as well as the high cost of living right now, there is a social responsibility for ORC to ensure only costs associated to core services are maintained. Not only should each project be assessed through this lens, but so should current headcount, contractor costs and overheads. In the current climate I would rather a reduction or maintenance of services than an increase in rates. Thanks