

Wednesday, April 9, 2025

## Draft Regional Public Transport Plan 2025-2035 Feedback form

Unique ID

RPTP-0214

### Contact details

Name:

Tessa Smith

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 have had multiple terrible experiences on the Dunedin City busses, to the point where I was unable to continue using them for my grocery shopping as any chilled or frozen goods would be inedible by the time I finally arrived home. This is disappointing to me as a student, as I do not have an alternative method of transport aside from my bicycle. I would like to see consistency in the bus arrivals, as I feel I cannot trust the bus schedule given that many busses do not arrive or arrive late, making it a form of transport that is completely unhelpful for trying to get to anywhere on a set timeframe. I would also really like to see sustainability and eco-friendly bus services made a priority as put forward here, since cleaner and more reliable public transport would be a hugely valuable asset to Dunedin as a city.

### 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:**

Cheaper trains!! The train system at the moment is geared towards tourists, but as a university student who has to regularly travel between Dunedin and Christchurch it would be great to have a better train network in the South Island. At the moment the trains are far too expensive to be worthwhile as a student, and do not go anywhere particularly helpful for commuting, but this would be great to improve.

### 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 Bee Card fare is already nearly twice what I pay on the Christchurch bus system - one that seems much more efficient and reliable! Many of the high traffic Christchurch busses are run on the fifteen minute, they have a bus that goes to and from the airport, and a safe and central bus hub that does not feel dangerous to linger in longer than five minutes. I am not convinced that a raise in prices would improve the situation, given how much better other bus systems in the country are without prices so high as to make commuting both ways for a week cost 25 dollars. By increasing prices, passengers will be driven away from the service, and even less revenue will be generated. This would be a shockingly poor choice.

### 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

### Topic 5: Should we keep our free fares for children (5-12 years)?

**Our proposal:**

- 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:**

Free fares is hugely important for younger school students and allows them to commute via bus when it would otherwise be impossible for their family to get them to school in time (both parents working/no car/school not within walking distance).

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

Yes

**Any other comments?**