

Sunday, March 30, 2025

# Draft Regional Public Transport Plan 2025-2035 Feedback form

Unique ID

RPTP-0132

## Contact details

Name:

Sean Lennon

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

## 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

## 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:**

We need more people to use public transport, not just because it is important for the environment, but it will also make public transport more economically viable. Increasing the price will only discourage people.

## 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:**

The zones were one of the most off putting part of the bus system when I first starting using the bus. This would honestly be one the worst things you could do. As a social scientist, I can tell you that people like simple and certainty. Getting on a bus and knowing it costs \$2 provides certainty. If I want to catch a bus I have to 1) work out what bus/es I have to take, 2) where the stops are, 3) timing of the trip (When do I have to be at the bus stop? Make sure I am early so I don't miss the bus, because the next bus will be too late. Make sure the bus will arrive early at the destination if it is a time-sensitive trip because I cannot rely on the bus not being late). Working out what zone you are in, how many zones you will go through, and how much it will cost is a total pain. It might be fine for people with money, but if you don't have a lot of money, the extra money spent on the buses really adds up. I used to walk into the next zone, and it would still cost me way too much to get across town. When you live on the outer parts of Dunedin, and you have to make 6, 7, 8 trips a week, that is potentially 16 times you are going to be charged more. Terrible idea.

## 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

**Tell us more:**

It should be free for anyone 18 and under. We want young people to gain the habit of using public transport and make it the norm for them so they continue using it as they get older. If not free it needs to be cheaper

**Any other comments?**