

Monday, May 5, 2025

Draft Regional Public Transport Plan 2025-2035 Feedback form

Unique ID

RPTP-0538

Contact details

Name:

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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 think that these are great areas of focus. I'd like to suggest that having a goal to help users to consider using public transport over the long term is also important. Any major swings in public transport policies can impact public transport user behaviour e.g. large price fluctuations can influence usage - large increases can put people off considering public transport and can be challenging to encourage future use.

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:

This is particularly important with our aging population.

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?

Tell us more:

Has there been any survey of current users to see how this increase would affect their public transport usage? E.g. some larger households might consider reducing public transport use if it no longer was the most cost effective means of transport.

For a family of 4 this increase equates to \$20 more per week. Total spend would be \$100 for 4 people x 5 days by bus. I would consider switching to driving/carpooling if it was more economical and fit the family schedule.

This potentially would counter efforts to have more public transport use in the long term.

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 this has been one of the initiatives that has increased bus use over long distances. I'd rather pay a higher rates to subsidise the cost for others and keep the flat fare.

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:

I agree this will help encourage long term public transport use for youth. My children see buses are a viable transport option for school and recreation.

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.

15 years ago, it was more convenient for me to walk 5.5km from the university to Halfway Bush to get home after work. The improvements with live bus information means that catching the bus is sometimes a more convenient option. Improved frequency and the simplified bus fare have made catching the bus a viable option too.

I use the bus when weather conditions make walking or biking unfavourable but with the above improvements I now recommend bus usage to others who may not have previously considered it.