

Tuesday, April 8, 2025

Draft Regional Public Transport Plan 2025-2035 Feedback form

Unique ID

RPTP-0206

Contact details

Name:

Jennifer Cattermole

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:

Yes, to an extent. Regarding priority 1, I'm really not so fussed about quality and comfort - I just want a cheap way of getting from A to B. Regarding priority 3, I think it would be a good idea to consider passenger volume flows, and to consider using smaller (cheaper to run) vehicles for bus runs that consistently have low passenger numbers.

As a cyclist, I'll also make a plug here (regarding priority 3) - please end the bike rack ban!

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?

No

Are there other initiatives or programmes that you think Council should be considering?

No

Tell us more:

I think these kinds of programmes are better being generated by and for those communities themselves, without ORC involvement.

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:

Cost is - for myself at least - the biggest access enabler or barrier. The fares should be kept to a minimum. As I said above, I don't care if it's a no-frills service, so long as it gets me where I want to go.

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 hate this idea because it would directly disadvantage me. It would leave me financially worse off. It's often those who live farther from the city centres who are financially disadvantaged and can least afford to pay more.

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 would have been useful to have had more info on the current disparity, which would have made comparison with the proposed concession discount possible.

Any other comments?