

Friday, May 2, 2025

# Draft Regional Public Transport Plan 2025-2035 Feedback form

Unique ID

RPTP-0512

## Contact details

Name:

Jinty MacTavish

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:

Emphasis should be on priorities 4&5. Delivering a network with reasonable coverage and good frequency that remains reliable and affordable for people will deliver the other priorities.

## 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:

Kids and families need more reliable services to and from key after school and weekend activity hubs eg Edgar Centre, Logan Park.

## 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:

ORC has delivered great improvements to the service in recent years which have collectively grown patronage. Key amongst these have been the flat \$2 fare. It would be really sad to see the patronage gains reversed through fare changes, especially amidst a cost of living crisis (and a climate crisis). Keeping fares low and flat delivers strong social and environmental benefits at a time when they are really needed.

## 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:

As above. Flat fares support residents that are disadvantaged by distance, and incentivise use of public transport for longer distance trips, which has significant benefits for emissions reduction.

## 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:**

Would also support extending the free fares for youth 13-18. This is a critical time in development of travel habits and also desire for greater personally mobility. Unlocking alternative travel options for kids also enables parents to avoid the need to drop off at schools.

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

Yes

**Tell us more:**

As above.

## 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.**

Thank you for the improvements to the service in recent years. Please hold the line on these gains - it would be such a shame to see things go backwards in the face of (hopefully temporary) central government policy changes.