

Wednesday, April 23, 2025

# Draft Regional Public Transport Plan 2025-2035 Feedback form

Unique ID

RPTP-0302

## Contact details

Name:

Alexander Heyes

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:

Great to focus on passenger experience, connectivity and environment. Was going to suggest removing tag-off requirement, given all fares are same price currently, but sounds like that may changing with zones. Suggest being explicit about priority demographics - who are the transport disadvantaged? What are their unique needs? Telling that story well will be critical to get support from wider community.

## 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:

This feels like a very badly worded question. Without context, I can't understand why you need to increase fees. I assume everyone will say no!

Personally, I think you should keep fees as low as possible to support your objective of passenger experience, especially for disadvantaged groups. I would be more supportive of an increase if it did not affect these groups e.g. community card holders.

### 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?

Yes

#### Tell us more:

This is fine, as long as it is very clear to passengers during transit what the zones are, and when the fare will increase. Digital displays, simple clear maps, or driver announcements. Needs to be very simple as well, tied directly to the tag on tag off system.

### 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:**

Absolutely.

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

Yes

**Any other comments?**