



BRCT submission on the Draft Otago Regional Public Transport Plan

22 August 2014

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Attention: Draft Regional Public Transport Plan

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We wish to speak to our submission.

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Executive Summary

We are supportive of the majority of the objectives in the Draft Otago Regional Public Transport Plan. It complements other City strategies such as the economic development strategy, the social wellbeing strategy and of course the Spatial Plan. We anticipate that it will also contribute to meeting Energy Plan objectives as well. We get the impression, in this draft, that planners have been listening to community. We approve the simplification of the system, and provision of greater regularity of service for the Blueskin settlements (northern services), and use of main routes with a simpler fare structure, and reduction in fare for Blueskin residents using the service. We would like

to see additional provision of Weekend/ Late night weekend provision of service as well, to provide independent mobility for youth in particular.

Transport is key to achieving resilient communities, through providing lifelines in the event of disaster, maintaining economic resilience through providing connections and ease of exchange to reinforce and strengthen communities whose centres have been in economic decline or stasis for a long time (due in part to unsuitable transport infrastructure). Transport links build greater social connectivity and strengthen identity. We give our strong support for attention to be given to the development of a transport 'circulatory system' not just a 'heart line'.

1. Increase in frequency of Service

The proposal to increase the service frequency on the northern services (Waitati, Evansdale, Karitane, Waikouaiti and Palmerston) is something we strongly support. We support the proposed increase in frequency to a 2-hourly service from 7am to 7pm on weekdays.

We request that provision is also made for evening and weekend services (Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings in particular) which will help improve youth mobility in particular.

2. Bus Fares

We support a simplification of the bus fare system and establishment of a three-zone fare system.

We support the reduction in fare for Blueskin residents, which we understand will be approximately a 25% reduction in fare.

3. New Ticketing System & Central City Hub

We support a ticketing system that simplifies transfer between routes.

We strongly support the development of a central city bus hub, known to all, where residents can access buses at regular intervals using simple routes. An ideal location would be somewhere in close vicinity to Dunedin Public Hospital.

4. Integrated System

We strongly support the development a bus service that can accommodate bicycles, prams and walkers.

We also support planning for 'Park & Ride' options and provision of car parking near key bus stops.

Thank you for this opportunity to submit on the Draft Otago Regional Transport Plan.

Yours sincerely,



Scott Willis
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