

## Make Submission

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### Public Transport Options

Public Transport is one of the programmes in the Transport and Urban Development portfolio. For the first year of the Long-Term Plan 2018-28 we are proposing changes to the Public Transport programme as outlined in the **Consultation Document**.(on page 14)

To make comment on the Public Transport proposed changes please complete the selection panel below.

To make comment on the the whole Transport and Urban Development portfolio, please use the tab on the left.

**Please review the options in the Consultation Document and indicate which option you support:** Option 4 – none of the above. (Please provide comment/ideas for an alternative solution)

### Public Transport Comments

#### Please provide any comments.

The three proposed solutions to addressing the \$4m shortfall in the public transport budget all result in users paying more for a worse service. This does not seem to be a particularly sustainable solution that will increase patronage or offer opportunities for improving services over the long term, both of which are needed for the city.

I therefore propose an alternative solution, based on overseas experience.

Option 4 - introduce "free public transport" for all tertiary students in the region, paid for by way of a mandatory, subsidised lump sum payment from each enrolled student per semester. This payment would be collected via tertiary establishments as part of their in-built student services levies.

This system was in place in a Canadian city I lived and studied in with similar population and public transport infrastructure to that of Christchurch. Students at the city's two universities paid approximately

CAD\$50 per semester as part of their university fees, in return for free use of the city's bus services (showing student ID). It was a popular scheme that resulted in widespread use of the bus service and reduced transport costs for students.

In addition to providing a large, stable source of revenue for the Council (with which it might be in a position to improve services over the long term), such a strategy would serve to encourage more sustainable transport choices for the region's student population, in line (I am sure) with the overall sustainability goals of tertiary establishments themselves.