

From: Environment Canterbury
Sent: Wednesday, 16 March 2022 1:51 pm
To: Have your Say
Subject: Submission on draft Annual Plan 2022/23

Anonymous User just submitted 'Draft Annual Plan 2022/23 submission' with the responses below.

First name

Helene

Last name

Mautner

Email address

Phone number

Are you submitting on behalf of an organisation?

Yes, I'm submitting on behalf of an organisation

Which organisation are you submitting on behalf of?

Age-Friendly Spreydon Cashmere Committee

Which age category are you in?

65+ years old

Do you wish to speak to your submission at a Council hearing?

Yes

Which bus fare structure option would you like to see trialled?

I don't have a preference

Upload any supporting documents (if applicable)

[ht](#) Attachment appended
[al](#) to end of submission
[7/](#)

[ction-251/original/1647391813/1bf40408f7a59b09489an_2022_2023.pdf?1647391813](#)

Where did you hear about the consultation?

Word of mouth

Environment Canterbury Draft Annual Plan 2022 – 2023
Submission March 2022
Age-Friendly Spreydon-Cashmere Committee, Transportation Subcommittee

Introduction

The Age-Friendly Spreydon Cashmere Committee would like to thank Environment Canterbury for the opportunity to make a submission to the Annual Plan 2022 to 2023.

The Age-Friendly Spreydon Cashmere Committee appreciates Environment Canterbury's ongoing support for public transport which has included the opportunity for our committee to participate in the online transport meeting on bus fare structure, and to present our views and to share information.

We welcome the proposals to support students, the under 25s, people with disabilities (Total Mobility Care) and people needing the Community Services Card. However, it was disappointing that the Draft Annual Plan 2022 – 2023 contains no proposals to improve the transport needs of older adults.

The community of older adults is diverse. In order to understand, serve and support their transportation needs, it is necessary to understand the wide continuum that describes their diverse life styles and life abilities. Older adults are very mobile, and in need of support care. They are financially secure, and struggling to make 'ends meet'. They are healthy and active, and experiencing illness and in need of medical assistance. They and their communities are diverse. The adage 'house rich and income poor' is descriptive of how older adults may be ineligible for some benefits.

For the older adult, a bus system is more than just being able to go from one location to another and return again. It is a ticket to cultural and social activities, to accessing supermarkets, health services, libraries, recreation, entertainment, religious events, friendships and family. It reduces isolation and promotes emotional well-being.

For many older adults, public transport is a necessity and *not a choice*. Aotearoa-New Zealand is expecting the number of older adults to double in the next 20 years.¹ And, as we see the

proportion of older adults growing within our community, it is our responsibility to serve them with dignity.

To the Age-Friendly Spreydon Cashmere Committee, it is unfair when people are excluded from participating in society as fully as they can, or as they wish to do, because they might not fit into the current design of public transportation services.

Submission Proposals

The Age-Friendly Spreydon Cashmere Committee would like to submit the following proposals to the Environment Canterbury Draft Annual Plan 2022 – 2023

1. Reinstate some bus routes eliminated in the 2012 review.

Particularly routes to hospitals and amenities where older adults frequent.

2. Reinstate hill bus routes.

For older adults who are without cars, the loss of hill bus service may result in significant difficulty accessing supermarkets, health services, libraries, recreation entertainment, and a loss of connection to religious, cultural and other social activities.

Moreover, loss of hill bus routes can create barrier for family and friends who are dependent on public transport, in being able to visit older adults living on hill properties, which can affect emotional well-being,

3. Extend Super Gold free travel times to between 9am to 4:30pm.

Currently, free bus travel by Super Gold Card users is from 9am to 3:00pm. Extending the end time to 4:30 would have little or no negative impact on rush hour bus usage but would have a positive social effect for older adults as well as concomitant economic and environmental benefits for Christchurch as a whole.

It would allow older adults to:

- Participate more fully in social, cultural and religious activities, with the benefit of increasing socialisation and reducing isolation
- Increase the opportunities for active volunteering - enable flexibility in time, which will benefit the community as a whole.

It would have a positive economic effect:

- It would have a positive economic impact on the rejuvenation of the city centre by making it easier, and a more attractive destination to enjoy the amenities of the city, e.g., shopping, dining, movies, theatre, events, etc. It would also give a much needed boost to local retailers who would certainly welcome increased patronage.

It would have a positive environmental effect when more older adults travel by bus resulting in:

- lower gas emissions, and
- ease of traffic on our roads.

4. Reducing the minimum top up amounts on bus cards.

- This is not a change in fare amounts, but simply makes it more affordable for older adults on limited incomes to pay their bus fare.
- Although a proposed phone app is under consideration allowing automated card top-ups, these technological advances are not always possible for some older adults.

Thank you for the opportunity to make this submission,

Dr Helene Mautner

Jenny Goodman

Dr David Troughton

For the Transportation Subcommittee of the Age-Friendly Spreydon Cashmere Committee

References:

¹Parr-Brownlie, L.C., Waters, D. L., Neville S., Neha, T., Muramatsu, N. (2020). Aging in New Zealand: Ka haere ki te ao pakeketanga. *Gerontologist*, 60(5), 812–820.
<https://doi.org/10.1093/geront/gnaa032>