

Notes from public transport meeting Port Chalmers Transition Town, 9 Sept

Nearly 30 people turned up to talk about public transport, including eight ORC, DCC or Chalmers Community Board candidates, along with apologies from others. Along with locals, we also had attendees from Get the Train and Transition Valley 473.

What was most exciting was that everyone there agreed that Dunedin city does need a new vision based on sustainability, and that from such a vision a whole series of integrated actions can follow.

Ideas and solutions included:

- Get the **vision** and then make incremental changes
- **Change to overall planning** (as per Living Streets) eg not great huge wastelands of car parks (Pak N Sav & Warehouse) – eg close off George St
- More appropriate for DCC to take over public transport for Dunedin - as it used to be city council responsibility (much discussion over this, including the probable requirement to sell Citibus to avoid conflict of interest)
- Look at getting logging on rail (just generally make road out here safer)

Ways to increase bus usage in particular:

- Greater involvement employers - Uni, Poly esp
- Do not raise bus fares when you raise parking charges (as happened last time)
- Park and ride on buses - but seems the Stadium parking already taken - idea being park on outskirts of town, bus in (free?)
- Education - so people learn about climate change, peak oil, pollution - overcome the 'stigma' of catching the bus - make it cool - change the culture
- Free transport for teens, students - adds to 'cool' and safety
- Monthly/annual/family fares (as discussed at last meeting)
- Smaller buses at non-peak hour traffic - not to save money but carbon emissions

Much discussion of course on not wanting to raise rates, and on how difficult it is to change the culture of the car – eg teenagers expect rides from parents. Hence particularly important to make the bus to school a more attractive option (especially financially for families).

For details of candidates' responses to our public transport questionnaire, go to <http://www.transitiontowns.org.nz/portchalmers>

For further info on the public transport Dunedin campaign go to:
<http://www.facebook.com/#!/pages/Vote-for-public-transport-Dunedin/124524617597890>
<http://www.causes.com/causes/521089>
<http://www.facebook.com/#!/profile.php?id=100001379012704> (PCTT Facebook page)