

Arrowtown Village Association
Submission to Otago Regional Council Draft Public Transport Plan
May 2021

Introduction

The Arrowtown Village Association (AVA) is a volunteer-run incorporated society that works in an energetic, co-operative and organised way for the benefit of the village of Arrowtown. The AVA is a recognised community association by the Queenstown Lakes District Council and is the appointed guardian of the *Shaping Our Future Arrowtown (SOF) 2017 Report*. SOF is the most recent visioning document for the future in Arrowtown compiled following intensive community consultation.

The AVA extends our thanks to the ORC in providing the highly subsidised public transport bus service for Queenstown and surrounding areas including Arrowtown. We are further thankful of the extended generosity during our national lockdown periods (and beyond) when our bus services were free of charge. The significant increase in patronage since the subsidies were introduced is proof enough that a well-priced public transport offering is a valued service to our residents.

We commend ORC on a particularly comprehensive Transport Plan and appreciate the wide consultation process that preceded this.

We do believe, however, there is more that can be done to improve the public transport network that services Arrowtown and the greater Queenstown area.

Our submission to the Transport Plan 2021-31 requests the consideration of the following issues that are important to the AVA members, being the residents of Arrowtown:

PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Direct SOF statements relevant to our submission include:

- Community Key Objective: A regular cost-effective public transport system that enables easy access between Arrowtown and other districts in the region

AVA request the following for inclusion in the finalised Transport Plan 2021 - 2031:

- Increased funding and initiatives to encourage a modal shift and step change to improve usage of the public transport network including education on the benefits of a highly utilised public transport network (environmental, economic, social)
- Expansion of the current public transport networks to include:
 - A direct bus service via Malaghan's Road from Arrowtown to Queenstown via Arthur's Point - the current circuitous route is deemed too long for direct work or business purposes. This could be managed by having two bus routes continually travelling a circular route in opposite directions.

- Increased bus services and routes to and from Arrowtown, including designated services from Lake Hayes Estate and Shotover Country. We would also like to see a stop at Ladies Mile in each direction
- Improvement of the wait time for interconnections at Frankton. These are often 45 – 60mins when commuting from the airport or Five Mile
- Buses keeping to the time schedule at Frankton where certain buses are known to depart early.
- Later services to be introduced on weekend evenings to encourage residents and visitors to enjoy Arrowtown's restaurants, bars and other entertainment options
- Targeted service to special events such as New Year's Eve Fireworks in Queenstown
- Introduction of bus services to the ski fields during the ski season at a reasonable price on a convenient schedule
- Improvement of safety initiatives for bus drivers. Our wider district has undergone widespread speed limit changes over the past 12 months, the bus drivers should be ambassadors of safety and adherence to the new speed limits, especially in the Arrowtown CBD where our speed limit is 30 km/hr as well as adhering to the wider 40 km/hr
- A significant time saving bus route in Arrowtown CBD that doesn't double back on itself through Ramshaw Lane but does one circuit of Arrowtown rather than coming back around and picking up visitors and residents from the same stop a few minutes later. We are aware of the requirement of specific start and finish points, but in light of efficiency and a decrease in emissions we believe this is a very worthy request. AVA is also aware of the confusion this creates for some people who think they have missed a bus when it is actually returning in the other direction minutes later.
- The AVA supports the signalled introduction of a ferry service on Lake Wakatipu, the sooner the better.

Arrowtown Village Association acknowledges that some of our points raised are contained within the framework of the proposed Transport Plan and request that the finer detailing be considered for inclusion.

We may wish to speak to this submission depending on the timing, but also express a desire to remain involved as a stakeholder in future community consultation.

Yours faithfully,

Susan Rowley

Chairperson

Arrowtown Village Association