Invercargill
CITY COUNCIL

Wednesday, January 29, 2014

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ATTENTION: CHIEF REPORTERS
CIVIC REPORTERS

Bus fares in city to increase by 20 cents

The Invercargill City Council is increasing its bus fares by 20 cents from February 17 to ensure Council keeps pace with increasing costs in fuel, maintenance and labour, Russell Pearson, Council's Roading Manager said today.

"This increase has been flagged in Council's Annual Plan since July 2013, but we decided it would be better to implement early in the new year and by waiting till all the kids are all back at school gives them and their parents more time to allow for the price increase," Mr Pearson said.

Mr Pearson said small incremental increases to bus fares would be planned at regular intervals rather than waiting several years and then putting it up in one big amount.

"Council is required to maintain the bus users proportion of the financial contribution to the overall cost of the bus service."

He said a key measure of performance for Council was farebox recovery.

"Currently Council is recovering $0.33 of farebox for every dollar spent on public transport. Council's long term goal is to maintain or increase this percentage.

"Small incremental increases to the bus fares at regular intervals will assist in the realisation of this goal," Mr Pearson said.

The new fares from February 17 are: Peak Travel: Under 5 years – free, Child 5-15 years - $1.70, Adult - $2.60, Senior Citizen - $1.70 and Super Gold Card Holder - $1.70. Off Peak Travel: Under 5 years – free, Child 5-15 years - $1.20, Adult - $1.20, Senior Citizen - $1.20 and Super Gold Card Holder - free.

Mr Pearson advised people that the best way to minimise the effect of this increase was to purchase a BusSmart Card, as all users received a 10% discount on all fares.

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