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Submission: I have attached my opinion on the proposed changes to the OPAL fare restructure.

- Maintain the 8 trips benefits, with free subsequent trips for travel within 1 week
- Introduce the multi-mode fare for a single trip completed within 1 hour
- 40% discount for off peak travel

OPAL CARD fare restructure 2016

With the current fare structure, after 8 trips within a week, subsequent trips are free. This encourages people to use the public transport network. If this structure is to change to charging for the 10 longest trips and then subsequent trips which are the cheapest will be credited back. It will not post any benefit to the person that takes only the train to work, they will have to pay for the full five days. Whereas previously, the fifth day would be free – an incentive to use the public system. The new proposed fare structure discourages the use of public transport and may cause more people to drive to work, creating congestion to the current road network.

The proposal for multi-mode fares is good, as this eliminates the current double dipping of charging for bus + train. A new fare structure will be needed.

The proposal for increase in off peak discount to 40% would be welcome. But if higher fares are charged for single mode of transport, it defeats the increase off peak discount. E.g. Travelling during off-peak in the morning and peak in the afternoon, if single peak fare increased by more than 10%, there is no difference in the total return fare paid.

Opal card fares were only cheaper than paper tickets with the 8 trips incentive. I would hope that this incentive is maintained, with fares re structured, multi-mode fares and 40% discount off-peak introduced. Increases in daily and weekly cap are inevitable.