

Author name: Anonymous

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Submission: Main points:

1) Using the most expensive trips would also remove the price signal about off-peak.

2) There is an assumption most full-time workers would take 10 trips anyhow for work and so there is no need to subsidise this group as they would use public transport anyhow. However, this is not at all confirmed and what actually may happen is that a portion of this group will stop using public transport as it will be cheaper to drive and there will be no incentive to take public transport to work or throughout the week for other uses. For example, someone who used to drive to work every day, if they have access to public transport, would be more likely to take public transport to work every day and also use public transport for extracurricular activities if they are paying less. Similarly for Sundays, why would a family or a group of friends all take public transport (\$7.20 each) when they could all drive or take a taxi?

3) This report focuses heavily on the fact that single trips will become cheaper, but doesn't emphasise that frequent users will certainly pay more as their 10 most expensive trips will be counted. I understand the shift to most expensive instead of earliest to prevent the 'gaming' issue. However, the increase to 10 trips removes all incentive for additional public transport travel. I suggest, as we are moving to the most expensive trips, it should go down to 7 so that frequent users aren't punished for saving the environment, improving the traffic, etc.

4) The proposal to credit users at the end of the week instead of calculating during the week will be quite annoying, especially for those with automatic top-ups or those who are on a tight budget. We are already pre-paying by loading the Opal, this takes it a step further as we are now pre-paying for trips we should not be paying for. Surely, if the move to most expensive trips is confirmed, it would be feasible to program the fare calculator such that it

*Checks whether this is one of your x most expensive trips so far that week.

If no, calculate \$0.

If yes, check whether is it one of the first x trips.

If yes, calculate full fare.

If no, calculate fare as the difference between this fare and the x-th most expensive fare this week (that is, replacing the lowest of the most expensive fares).

This is programmatically feasible and would be better for users than end-of-week credits.