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Submission: I oppose increasing Gold Opal fares for Seniors and Pensioners on the grounds that doing so will encourage seniors (such as myself) to travel by car instead of public transport. This will increase road congestion and air pollution, and will also result in more accidents, as seniors have slower reflexes and poorer visual and auditory acuity.

At present I rarely use my car, but this will change if Opal fares rise.

There may be a case for charging seniors more for travel at peak times, but research is needed to ensure that this would not deter seniors from volunteer work which makes a valuable contribution to our society.

I also oppose fare rises for pensioners, on the grounds that they already face financial hardship and risk social isolation and ill health, if travel becomes more expensive for them.