

Recommended approach

50% fare concession, any time

CSC holders would receive a 50% concession off base fares, throughout the day.

Hold off on dependents

Data would need to be collected before including. Most already travel with concessions.

Use existing travel cards

Link CSCs with registered travel-cards in each region. Eligibility processes would be automated.

Funding system

Fare subsidies

Funded by the Crown, similar to the SuperGold card approach.

Administrative costs

Funded through the NLTF, from 1 July 2021.

Additional services

Funded through the usual NLTF processes, with the Crown contributing an additional portion of each fare.

Implementation timeline

Mid 2021

Suggested target date

Advantages: would provide time for councils to prepare, although this is still an ambitious timeline. Mid 2021 aligns with the next GPS and integrated ticketing in Wellington.

Risks: councils have so far been supportive, however are concerned about implementation pace and costs as they are still working through recent legislative changes and other challenges.

Risks

Subsidy costs could be higher or lower than estimated

Reason: no data available on CSC public transport usage, and the estimates are based on assumptions about how much public transport use could rise when fares fall. Cost should be reviewed after the first year of implementation.

Some CSC holders may criticise the scheme if they are unable to access public transport services

Reason: this may include CSC holders with disabilities, and CSC holders living in areas without a regular public transport service.

SuperGold card holders with a CSC are likely to advocate for inclusion in the scheme

Reason: if included, this would increase costs significantly. Clear communication will be vital.

Fraud issues could attract negative publicity

Reason: some fraudulent use of the scheme will be unavoidable. This could be managed by requiring CSC holders to carry their CSC with them while travelling, and by considering the appropriateness of existing penalties for fraudulent card use.

Next key steps

Advise us of your preferred approach

Report back to Cabinet on the approach

We will advise on \$4.64 million Budget funding allocation

We can advise stakeholders

After Cabinet decision

Estimate additional costs

Negotiate funding agreement with councils

Develop implementation plan

Develop Budget bids

Integrate into next GPS

