

MIN-3915 Meeting with Aotearoa Collective for Public Transport Equity and Free Fares NZ – Insights from the research on half-price fares.

26 July 2022

To support you in your meeting with Aotearoa Collective for Public Transport Equity and Free Fares NZ on 27 July 2022, you have asked for insights from the research being currently conducted into the impact on half-price fares.

Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency's response:

- Please see the attached document regarding the change in patronage since the introduction of half-price fares on public transport. This is based on a national survey that is weighted to match overall national demographics.
- The slide titled "Top-line findings – half price fares" provides you with the findings to date from data taken while monitoring the impact of the policy. Further pages display data with specificity to the survey questions asked.
- Among people who used public transport before COVID-19 but no longer do, 24% said that they will use public transport more if half-price fares remain in place. Other reasons why these people are using public transport less includes ongoing COVID-19 transmission risks; public transport crowding or reduced reliability and schedules; reduced traffic making walking and cycling more attractive; and reduced need to travel due to working/studying remotely.
- There has been an increase in affordability and convenience perceptions among bus and train users, with reliability perceptions up since March. However, compared to last year, there has not been as much improvement on COVID-related factors like hygiene and distancing.