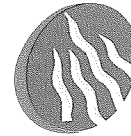




Hon Rachel Nolan MP
Member for Ipswich



**Queensland
Government**

Our ref: MC39094

Minister for Transport

04 JUN 2009



Mr Neil Laurie
The Clerk of the Parliament
Parliament House
George Street
Brisbane Qld 4000

Dear Mr Laurie

I refer to a petition 1048-08 lodged with the Legislative Assembly by Ms Vicky Darling MP, Member for Sandgate on 7 October 2008 regarding the lack of an off peak fare structure under the *go* card system.

TransLink endeavours to offer commuters a choice of a number of ticket options, based on their requirements. Consequently, a phased approach has been taken to the introduction of fare products to the *go* card system.

As of 4 August 2008, TransLink introduced changes to the *go* card fares by introducing an up-front discount of between 20-35%, depending on the zones travelled. There is also a frequent user scheme to reward frequent travellers with an additional 50% discount on top of *go* card fares once they take more than 10 trips in a week (Monday to Sunday).

The off-peak daily ticket allows commuters unlimited travel in the nominated zones between 9am and 3.30pm, and after 7pm, as well as on weekends and gazetted public holidays. Comparing this to the current *go* card fare structure shows that, for one zone journeys for example, the first three journeys on a weekend with the additional 50% discount applied, would actually be cheaper per journey than the off-peak daily ticket.

Public transport is already heavily subsidised, with every \$1 spent by commuters on public transport attracting approximately \$3 in government-provided subsidy. In other words, if the fare costs \$3.50, the real cost of the trip is more like \$14, with the government-provided subsidy covering \$10.50 of that amount.

Further to this, travelling by public transport is still the most cost effective method of getting around compared with the costs of running a car.

Capital Hill Building
85 George Street Brisbane 4000
PO Box 2644 Brisbane
Queensland 4001 Australia
Telephone +61 7 3237 1111
Facsimile +61 7 3224 4242
Email transport@ministerial.qld.gov.au
ABN 65 959 415 158

The following is a price comparison on a 12km or three zone trip on the TransLink network, between two types/sizes of private vehicles, taxis and public transport.

Example: Fig Tree Pocket to the CBD – (3 zones/approximately 12 km), sourced from RACQ Facts on Private Vehicle Expenses.

Mode of transport	One way fare	Return fare
Private car (Ford Focus Hatch 2.0L)	\$6.87	\$13.74
Private car (Holden Commodore Sedan 3.6L)	\$10.24	\$20.48
Taxi (from online estimator)	\$27.00	\$54.00
Public transport (TransLink fares)	\$2.72	\$5.44

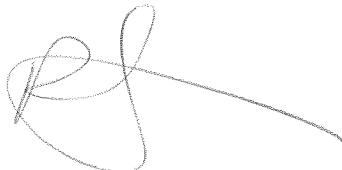
Note: private vehicle costs do not include parking charges or toll fees.

Even with decreasing price of fuel, public transport is still significantly cheaper than driving.

TransLink considers providing additional services and more frequent and reliable services to be a better way of enhancing customers' travel. TransLink will continue to evaluate and phase in new product offerings on the go card.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely



RACHEL NOLAN MP
Minister for Transport