

## **Transportation Report April 2021 Activities**

The ISD #709 Transportation Department manages both a district owned fleet of vehicles and district employees, including bus drivers, monitors, and mechanics, along with the coordination of contracted transportation services through Voyageur Bus Company.

Two new Left buses were ordered and will be added to the fleet soon. This will help decrease the current average fleet age 7 years and current average fleet mileage of 77,382 (goal is 50,000 – 60,000).

The Transportation department uses Versatrans as its student transportation software. The department has been busy maintaining its 434 individual routes with many, many various changes as students return from distance learning to in person, sports return, etc. Planning for summer school has begun.

Staffing has been a challenge due to illnesses, retirements, etc. Two new hires have started training and should hopefully take their tests in May. Bus staff have also worked at several building on various projects when needed.

The Transportation department is still following current COVID guidelines for spacing on buses with mandated face coverings (with exceptions). Seating charts are being developed for contact tracing.

Bus maintenance is ongoing with the fleet. Items completed on various vehicles this month include brake work, tire replacement, electrical maintenance, inspections, emissions work, stop arm and crossing arm replacements, and lift repairs.