

Transportation Report May 2023 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.

Latest update on the new buses - Both new buses have been certified for wheelchairs and the new cameras were installed. They have been in use since.

We are using the new routing software to plan summer school. Our department continues to navigate daily changes in routing per school requests in the older software. During the month we will be moving to the new software as the old one ends its service June 30.

There are daily changes on a total of 434 individual routes (routing, day changes, time changes, etc.).

Staffing (comments and concerns)

- Staffing has continued to be a challenge as we are still a few drivers short and the current ones are getting worn out from the long shifts.
- We do not have spare helpers so drivers end up covering helper shifts.
- We have now begun looking for a supervisor instead of the assistant to try to fill the needed position since we were not getting quality candidates for the assistant mostly due to a low wage for the work and responsibility.

Bus Maintenance

- Scheduled maintenance is mostly caught up at this time
- We continue to deal with an aging fleet and the many issues that brings, we have multiple buses that are scheduled for larger repairs with Mid state but they are still backlogged and can only get one done every few weeks for us.
- We have two buses with bad engines, two that are getting new turbos due to failure and a lot of brake jobs and ABS modules being replaced. The two with bad engines may just go to scrap as I don't think they are worth the money to fix.

Our oldest bus is a model year 2010 and the next oldest are three 2011's. Current average mileage 94,000 (goal is 50,000 – 60,000).

We are a few days from the end of the regular session for this school year and I'm happy to say we made it even under some extreme conditions this year, we have a great team of dedicated drivers and helpers that put in the extra effort to make it through.