

Transportation Report October 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.

The Transportation department uses Versatrans as its student transportation software. The department is busy building and/or updating about 430+ routes, many field trips and coordinating with Voyageur. There are *many* updates daily. 51 field trips happened in October and there are currently 22 'on the books' for November.

As you have heard, there is a shortage of bus drivers. Transportation has recently hired two more drivers. It will be about a month before they can actually start driving routes (training program, testing, permitting and licensing). The Transportation department plans daily for bus driver shortages and adjusts routes as needed. This is a very large and complicated process. All drivers received first aid and CPR training this past month (requirement).

COVID is still a valid concern and the Transportation department currently follows all COVID protocols; masks are mandated for students and drivers while on the bus (with exceptions as needed). Drivers have access to a Hudson sprayer with Virex, and 2 electrostatic sprayers to be used between routes for disinfections. Additionally, they have alcohol wipes for their own driving area.

Routine general bus maintenance is ongoing (wiring/electrical, brakes, stop arms, belts, etc.).

With the addition of the two new buses mentioned above, the average fleet age is 6.4 years. Current average mileage is 70,851 (goal is 50,000 – 60,000).