

Transportation Report January 2021

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.

School District transportation services include to-and-from-school routes, special education routes and accommodations, extra-curricular, sports, and field trips, along with other program or district specific transportation needs.

Last spring the COVID-19 pandemic created both challenges and opportunities in the Transportation Department. While in emergency distance learning, regular school bus routes were not needed, but the District was able to support students and families by creating meal pick up hubs throughout the city and then adding curriculum packet pick up and drop locations. Transportation staff were also able to provide facilities support in our buildings by helping with COVID cleaning.

This fall, during hybrid learning, we had elementary to and from routes along with some limited meal pick up hubs. Once a targeted services plan was created for secondary students, a new hub route was created to bring students to the secondary buildings. Transportation staff are still able to support our facilities with cleaning in our buildings.

Continuing and upcoming projects in transportation include:

- Finalizing an upgrade and conversion from analog radios to digital radios in our District bus fleet and school buildings, with funding provided by the St. Louis County CARES Grant.
- Allowing our transportation and student software to “speak” to each other in order to create efficiencies communication, documentation, and route creation.
- Monitoring and updating our bus fleet to keep within adequate “average miles”.
 - Average fleet age 7 years
 - Average Mileage is 75,391 (goal is 50,000 – 60,000)
- Maintenance work includes repair and replacement of parts on several buses to maintain longevity, snow removal with our fleet being outside, and general ongoing routine maintenance checks.

Additional information:

- The District manages over 430 individual routes in all transportation service areas.
- The addition or changes of learning models, along with the updated extra-curricular offerings means more updates and changes to transportation schedules and planning.
- The District also provides transportation services to students attending non-public schools.
- Our drivers disinfect and sanitize our buses after each route to keep within COVID-19 guidelines.

More information will be shared in next month’s report.