

## **Transportation Report January 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- They are being built this month and are due to arrive March 14th.

The transition to “Student Transportation” formerly Traversa for routing started last week with the administrative side of the setup. We will begin training from the second week in February through March. The training is twice weekly for an hour and a half each time.

Our department continues to navigate daily changes in routing per school requests.

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

### Staffing (comments and concerns)

- We have been interviewing a few potential employees and have hired a mechanic.
- I have an upcoming interview for a driver. I’m hopeful we can get more applicants.
- We had a promising interview for an assistant supervisor but it fell through because the pay wasn’t enough for the applicant.

### Bus Maintenance

- Scheduled maintenance will be moving forward once the new mechanic starts.
- Multiple jump starts have occurred and we have even had to borrow a few buses from Voyageur due to cold weather.
- Maintenance has been slowly progressing as Glenn can manage between route coverage.
- Glenn has been replacing a lot of brake lines due to rust, with a fleet that’s aging and Minnesota winters it’s inevitable.

The average fleet age is 7.5 years. Current average mileage is just shy of 92,000 (goal is 50,000 – 60,000).

We are doing everything we can to keep up with the demands of routing and bussing students and we are just managing with the current staff but everyone is getting tired due to the long hours every day. I assure them we will get through this together as a team.