

Transportation Report April 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 – The second one is done and is in our possession. We need to get the inspection for wheelchairs done and the cameras installed before they go out as route buses.

We are planning on 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.

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 have one driver in training and a possible applicant but we do not have spare helpers so drivers end up covering helper shifts as well.
- We have a new assistant supervisor starting later this month which should help the department move forward. The prior applicant ended up not accepting the job last minute.

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 a line on 4 off lease buses if we can work out funding for them to replace some of the oldest ones in the fleet.

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 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 continue to assure them we will get through this together as a team.