

Transportation Report March 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 - First one is done and in our possession. Second one is still in progress.

The transition to "Student Transportation" formerly Traversa for routing has been going through the training stages and will be completed this month after which we will transition over. 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 not getting applicants for the open positions
- I have one driver that went through training at an amazing pace and is now licensed and driving. Unfortunately, we had a driver resign so we are still 5 drivers short.
- We did hire a bus helper though and she has been a big help.
- We have a new assistant supervisor starting this month which should help the department move forward

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.

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 managing with the current staff. 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.