



STEPHENVILLE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT  
TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT  
2680 West Overhill Drive, Stephenville TX 76401  
(254) 968-3759



20 February 2017

MEMORANDUM THRU

Stephenville Independent School District Executive Director of Finance & Operations, Ms. Deborah Hummel  
Stephenville Independent School District Superintendent, Mr. Matthew Underwood

FOR Stephenville Independent School District (SISD) Board President And Members

SUBJECT: Identifying SISD Hazardous-Traffic Areas Within A Two-Mile Radius of Campuses

1. Texas Education Agency (TEA) Policy. The TEA does not fund busing services for students who live within a two-mile radius of the campus unless the school board adopts a local policy identifying hazardous-traffic areas.

2. Background. The Transportation Department provides busing services within a two-mile radius of the campuses to reduce students crossing hazardous roads on foot to and from school. High traffic areas without designated or manned pedestrian crossing points isolate every campus from residential areas. Students who live in a residential area and attend a campus where a hazardous-traffic does not have to be crossed will not be afforded district transportation. All special education students are afforded district transportation in accordance with state and federal regulations regardless of where they live. Hazardous-traffic areas have not been documented in order to be eligible for additional funding from the TEA.

3. Education Code 42.155 (d). The District may apply to the Commissioner of Education for an additional amount of up to 10 percent of its regular transportation allotment to be used for the transportation of students living within two miles of the school they attend who would be subject to hazardous traffic conditions if they walked to school. The Board shall provide to the Commissioner the definition of hazardous conditions applicable to the District and shall identify the specific hazardous areas for which the allocation is requested. A hazardous condition exists where no walkway is provided and students must walk along or cross a freeway or expressway, an underpass, an overpass or a bridge, an uncontrolled major traffic artery, an industrial or commercial area, or another comparable condition.

4. Identified Hazardous-Traffic Areas. See Enclosure 1.

a. HWY 988/Northwest Loop. This road allows driver to drive 45 mile per hour on the northwest curve and provides one traffic light at the N. Harbin Drive intersection primarily utilized to control vehicular traffic and is not conducive to pedestrian crossings. Traffic density increases every morning and afternoon during bus route hours of operation.

b. HWY 377/67/South Loop. This is a four-lane road utilized by the citizenry and people who want to by-pass the downtown area. Traffic remains steady throughout the day and is not conducive to pedestrian crossings.

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c. Business HWY 377/Washington Street. This is a heavily congested two-lane road that opens up to four lanes supporting local commerce and Tarleton State University students. It borders directly next to Central Elementary that educates pre-kindergarten and kindergarten children.

d. North Harbin Drive. This two-lane road divides the school district with three campuses on each side. It has one four-way stop sign intersection across the from the Tarleton campus. The pedestrian crossing is not manned nor does it have pedestrian crossing signs. The road is continually traversed by citizens and college students alike.

e. HWY 8/Lingleville Road. This four-lane road supports local commerce with steady traffic. There are no manned pedestrian crossings. The traffic lights are designed to regulate vehicular traffic with less emphasis on pedestrian crossings.

f. HWY 108/Graham Street. This two-lane road supports local commerce and runs directly through downtown Stephenville. The hospital and post office are also located on this road adding to congested traffic daily. Pedestrian crossings are not manned and are located on the city square.

g. HWY 281/Morgan Mill Road. This highway goes from two to four lanes supporting the region's north/south vehicular traffic to include large commerce trucks. It does not support pedestrian crossings.

h. HWY 281/East Road. This highway goes from two to four lanes supporting the region's north/south vehicular traffic to include large commerce trucks. It does not support pedestrian crossings.

5. The point of contact for this memorandum for approval is Mr. David Woods, SISD Director of Transportation at 254-968-3759 or david.woods@sville.us





David Woods.  
Director of Transportation

Enc 1: SISD Hazardous-Traffic Areas

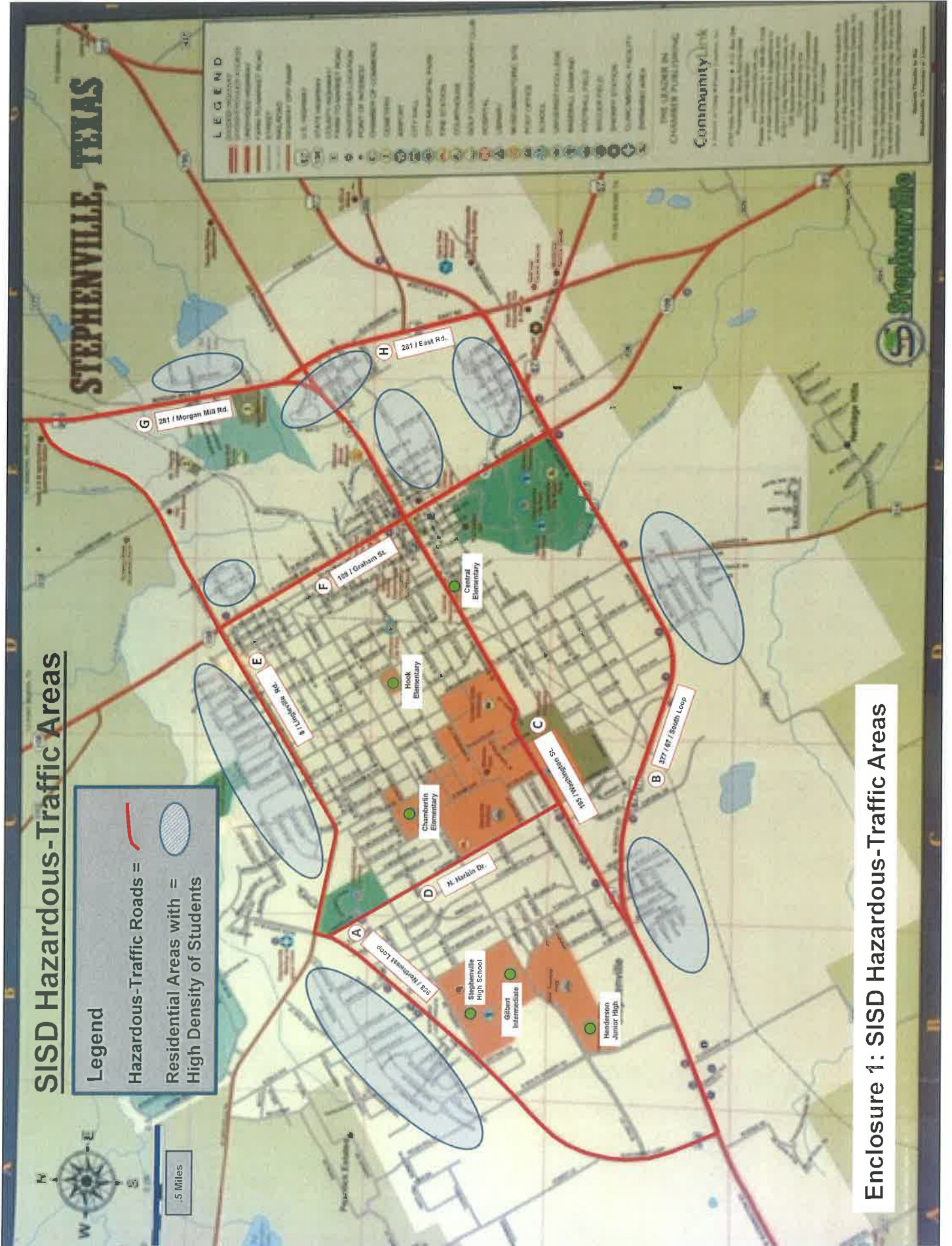
# SISD Hazardous-Traffic Areas

**Legend**

Hazardous-Traffic Roads = 

Residential Areas with High Density of Students = 

Enclosure 1: SISD Hazardous-Traffic Areas



TRANSPORTATION MANAGEMENT  
STUDENT TRANSPORTATION

CNA  
(LEGAL)

DEFINITIONS

For purposes of this policy:

1. "Bus" means a motor vehicle used to transport persons and designed to accommodate more than ten persons, including the driver.
2. "Passenger car" refers to a motor vehicle, other than a motorcycle, used to transport persons and designed to accommodate ten or fewer passengers.
3. "Passenger van" means a motor vehicle, other than a motorcycle or passenger car, used to transport persons and designed to transport 15 or fewer passengers, including the driver.
4. "School activity bus" means a bus designed to accommodate more than 15 passengers, including the operator, that is owned, operated, rented, or leased by the District and is used to transport public school students on a school-related activity trip, other than on routes to and from school. The term does not include a chartered bus, a bus operated by a mass transit authority, or a school bus.
5. "School bus" means a motor vehicle that was manufactured in compliance with the federal motor vehicle safety standards for school buses in effect on the date of manufacture and that is used to transport preprimary, primary, or secondary students to and from school or on a school-related activity trip other than on routes to and from school. The term does not include a school-chartered bus or a bus operated by a mass transit authority.
6. "Motor bus" means a vehicle designed to transport more than 15 passengers, including the driver.

*Education Code 34.003; Trans. Code 541.201*

AUTHORITY

The District may establish and operate an economical public school transportation system in the District or outside the District, if the District enters into an interlocal contract as provided by Government Code Chapter 791. For that part of the system that the District operates directly, it shall employ bus drivers certified by the Department of Public Safety. *Education Code 34.007*

TRANSPORTATION  
FUNDING FOR  
ELIGIBLE STUDENTS

If the District operates a transportation system, the District is entitled to a state transportation allotment. The allotted funds are based on the cost of providing transportation services to students who live two or more miles from the school they attend. The Commissioner of Education cannot reduce the allotment because the District provides transportation for an eligible student to and from a child-care facility instead of the student's residence, if the

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transportation is provided within the approved routes of the District for the school the student attends. *Education Code 42.155*

The Board may require payment of a reasonable fee for transportation to and from school of a student who lives within two miles of the school the student attends. However, the Board may not charge a fee for transportation for which the District receives a transportation allotment under Education Code 42.155(d). *Education Code 11.158(a)(14)*

If the District does not receive any funds under Education Code 42.155 and does not participate in a county transportation system for which an allotment is provided under Education Code 42.155(i), the Board may require payment of a reasonable fee for the transportation of a student to and from the school the student attends. *Education Code 11.158(a)(16)*

HAZARDOUS  
CONDITIONS

The District may apply to the Commissioner of Education for an additional amount of up to ten percent of its regular transportation allotment to be used for the transportation of students living within two miles of the school they attend who would be subject to hazardous traffic conditions if they walked to school. The Board shall provide to the Commissioner the definition of hazardous conditions applicable to the District and shall identify the specific hazardous areas for which the allocation is requested. A hazardous condition exists where no walkway is provided and students must walk along or cross a freeway or expressway, an underpass, an overpass or a bridge, an uncontrolled major traffic artery, an industrial or commercial area, or another comparable condition. *Education Code 42.155(d)*

BUS OPERATION

A person may not operate a school bus if:

1. The door of the school bus is open; or
2. The number of passengers on the bus is greater than the manufacturer's design capacity for the bus.

*Trans. Code 545.426(a)*

TRANSPORTING  
STUDENTS TO  
SCHOOL

School buses or mass transit authority buses shall be used for the transportation of students to and from schools on routes having ten or more students. Passenger cars may be used on routes having fewer than ten students. *Education Code 34.003(a)*

BUS PASSES OR  
CARDS

The District may use the state transportation allotment to provide a bus pass or card for another transportation system to each student who is eligible to use the regular transportation system of the District but for whom the regular transportation system of the District is

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2. If the homeless child lives in a district other than that in which the school of origin is located, the district of origin and the district where the homeless child is living shall agree upon a method to apportion the responsibility and costs for providing the child with transportation to and from the school of origin. If the districts are unable to agree, the responsibility and costs shall be shared equally.

*McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Improvements Act of 2001, Secs. 722, 725; 42 U.S.C. 11432(g)(1)(J)(iii)(I), (II)*  
[See FDC]

SCHOOL ACTIVITIES When transporting students in connection with school activities other than on routes to and from school:

1. Only school buses or motor buses may be used to transport 15 or more students; and
2. Passenger cars or passenger vans may be used to transport fewer than 15 students.

*Education Code 34.003(b)*

The operator of a passenger car or passenger van used to transport students to school or to a school activity shall ensure that the number of passengers does not exceed the designed capacity of the vehicle and that each passenger is secured by a safety belt.  
*Education Code 34.003(c)*

ACCELERATED  
INSTRUCTION  
PROGRAMS

The District shall provide students required to attend the accelerated programs described in policy code EIE with transportation to those programs if the programs occur outside of regular school hours. *Education Code 28.0211(j)*

TRANSPORTATION  
COMPANY OR SYSTEM

The Board may contract for all or any part of its public school transportation with a mass transit authority or commercial transportation company, provided that the authority or commercial transportation company:

1. Requires its school bus drivers to have the qualifications required by and be certified in accordance with standards established by the Department of Public Safety;
2. Transports 15 or more students only in school buses or mass transit authority buses that meet or exceed safety standards for school buses established under Education Code 34.002;
3. Conducts all the following education programs with Board approval:

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CNA  
(LEGAL)

- a. A program to inform the public that public school students will be riding on the authority's or company's buses;
- b. A program to educate drivers of the buses to be used under the contract of the special needs and problems of public school students riding on the buses; and
- c. A program to educate public school students on bus riding safety and any special considerations arising from the use of the authority's or company's buses.

The Board may supplement the state transportation cost allotment with local funds necessary to provide complete transportation services.

*Education Code 34.008*

CAREER AND  
TECHNOLOGY  
PROGRAM

The District shall be reimbursed the cost of transporting career and technology program students to another campus within the District, to another secondary public school or an area career and technology school, or to an approved postsecondary institution under a contract for instruction approved by TEA. *Education Code 42.155(f)*

CRIMINAL HISTORY

For provisions pertaining to criminal history record information on contractors providing transportation services, see CJA(LEGAL).