



MERGING THE TWO DISTRICTS' ROUTES PROJECT

School Bus Logistics

Date: February 26, 2025

Version: 1.0

Prepared for: Minooka Community High School District #111 and Minooka
Community Consolidated School District #201



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1.0 COVER LETTER

Minooka Community High School District #111 and
Minooka Community Consolidated School District #201
Attention: David Barrett, Transportation Director
700 E. Minooka Road
Minooka, IL 60447

February 26, 2025

RE: Minooka Community High School District #111 & Minooka Community Consolidated School District #201 – Merging the Two Districts' Routes Project

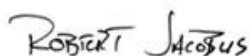
Dear Mr. Barrett,

As a leading provider of school district transportation consulting since 2010, we believe we are the right choice to support your district in providing a software implementation and route building project for Minooka Community High School District (MCHS) #111 and Minooka Community Consolidated School District (CCSD) #201. With more than 65 years of combined industry experience, our leadership team has a solid understanding of the needs of school districts looking for support and guidance. We are particularly qualified to perform the work for the following reasons:

1. *Professional Pupil Transportation Consulting Firm* – School Bus Logistics (SBL) and its employees have performed similar services either as a consultant or as district employees. SBL has a focus solely on pupil transportation routing and all the challenges it and school bus safety can bring to schools and the families they serve.
2. *Experienced Team, Industry Subject Matter Experts, and Strong Leadership* – SBL has assembled a solid team with extensive experience in their respective fields to perform the work. We are confident that we can work with MCHS #111 and CCSD #201 stakeholders to meet the necessary timelines and objectives.
3. *Demonstrated Superior Performance on Similar School Districts* – SBL has supported hundreds of local and national customers with similar projects. With a leadership team of experts in transportation routing operations experience, Rob Jacobus, Megan Snair, and Greg Jackson have helped several school districts improve student safety and find cost-saving techniques.
4. *Proven Results* – SBL has been known for proposing new routes and for being able to help implement and execute them. Drivers have shared with directors that SBL is helpful, considerate, and knowledgeable when it comes to understanding challenges related to reviewing and revising bus routes.

We appreciate your consideration of our proposal for merging the routes between MCHS #111 and CCSD #201 and look forward to continuing our dialog with you as we further refine and align our services to meet your community's needs.

Sincerely,



Robert Jacobus
CEO & Founder



2.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Minooka Community High School District 111 and Minooka Community Consolidated School District 201 currently operate separate transportation systems despite sharing a central transportation hub. With the upcoming consolidation of bus routes, School Bus Logistics (SBL) proposes a comprehensive route optimization and efficiency project to streamline transportation services. The primary goal is to integrate both districts' routing structures ensuring efficiency, cost-effectiveness, and improved fleet utilization while maintaining service quality for students. This project will also support negotiations with the drivers' union and enable the board of education to effectively communicate changes for the upcoming school year.

By partnering with SBL's experienced consultants, MCHS #111 and CCSD #201 will benefit from proven methodologies that have successfully improved transportation operations across the nation. Our team's focus will be on creating a plan that is flexible, comprehensive, and directly aligned with the district's goals for improving student safety, operational efficiency, and cost-effectiveness.

The solution we propose ensures that the MCHS #111 and CCSD #201 transportation system will operate more effectively, delivering long-term benefits to families and schools alike. Below, we provide a brief overview of SBL and our approach to this project.



3.0 PLAN/METHODOLOGY

3.1 Solution Overview

SBL will develop a combined and optimized routing structure utilizing the Versatrans Routing & Planning sandbox feature. By integrating both district's databases, we will create a seamless transportation plan that maximizes fleet and driver productivity. Our approach will ensure route efficiency by consolidating redundant services while aligning with district bell schedules to support smooth transitions between school tiers. This initiative will also address cost savings through optimized route packaging, reducing overloaded high school buses, and establishing a sustainable, long-term transportation model.

3.2 Project Approach

- **Data Consolidation:** Merging the separate routing databases for MCHS #111 and CCSD #201.
- **Route Optimization:** Developing efficient, consolidated routes that align with available fleet capacity and driver schedules.
- **Operational Efficiency:** Maximizing fleet usage while minimizing route redundancies.
- **Stakeholder Collaboration:** Working closely with district leadership and the transportation department to ensure alignment with district policies and driver agreements.
- **Implementation and Training:** Transitioning from the current system to the new optimized routes and providing necessary training for the transportation staff.

3.3 Project Requirements

3.3.1 Service: Route Optimization and Efficiency Study

Deliverable 1 – Data Integration and Route Structuring

SBL team will:

- Import and integrate existing Versatrans Routing & Planning data from both districts into a single sandbox environment.
- Review current routes, bell times, and fleet availability to identify areas for optimization.
- Develop a consolidated routing plan that accommodates the entire PK–12 student population.
- Address challenges such as overloaded high school buses and double-run logistics for elementary and intermediate schools.



- Provide a structured report detailing optimized routes, anticipated cost savings, and efficiency improvements.

Deliverable 2 – Route Testing and Adjustment

SBL team will:

- Conduct scenario testing using the sandbox model to evaluate potential efficiencies and conflicts.
- Adjust routes to accommodate special transportation needs, including out-of-district routes.
- Ensure compliance with district policies and driver contract negotiations.
- Work with the district to develop an implementation plan including phased rollout strategies if necessary.

3.4 Schedule/Timeline

Weeks 1–2: Data Collection and Initial Analysis

- Receive and consolidate transportation data from both districts.
- Assess current routes, driver schedules, and bell times.
- Set up a sandbox environment in Versatrans Routing & Planning for route modeling.

Weeks 3–4: Route Optimization and Scenario Testing

- Develop optimized routes that integrate both districts' transportation needs.
- Conduct simulation tests to validate route efficiencies and troubleshoot potential issues.

Weeks 5–6: Review and Stakeholder Collaboration

- Present initial findings and optimized routing proposals to district leadership.
- Adjust routes based on feedback and stakeholder input.
- Ensure compliance with driver union agreements and operational policies

Weeks 7–8: Finalization and Implementation Plan

- Finalize route adjustments based on stakeholder feedback.
- Develop communication plans for drivers, parents, and district staff.
- Provide training sessions on new routes and operational procedures.

Week 9: Implementation Readiness and Support

- Assist in transitioning the district to the new routing plan.
- Provide ongoing support and troubleshooting as needed.
- Deliver final reports and documentation to the district for long-term reference.



4.0 QUALIFICATIONS/EXPERIENCE

4.1 Brief Company Profile

Based in Denver, CO with regional offices in New York, Indiana, Florida, Illinois, and Texas, SBL delivers route planning solutions, route efficiencies, boundary analysis, route optimization, bell schedule analysis, and fleet utilization studies. Throughout his years as President and CEO, Robert Jacobus, and Megan Snair, director of route logistics, have gone into several school districts and found ways to improve student safety and service while reducing transportation budgets to help districts save money. Greg Jackson, director of business development, has led and developed the operations for multiple school districts' transportation departments in the Denver metro area. Our solutions tackle key issues pertaining to ways to improve the efficiency and cost effectiveness of the delivery of the student transportation services for MCHS #111 and CCSD #201.

School Bus Logistics is an organization of professional consultants who:

- Have proven track records to improve student safety and efficiency
- Know how to reduce overall routes and implement savings to districts
- Possess the experience necessary to analyze and pinpoint the specific challenges facing departments or districts
- Offer ways to improve communication with schools, drivers, and families
- Deliver results for bell changes and support the execution of the new routes
- Are experts in managing school start support plans and deliverables
- Find and present ways to address our country's national school bus driver shortage
- Provide knowledgeable industry expert in developing transportation departments operations

At SBL, we are committed to our clients' success and empower them with a plan to help realize savings and improve student safety and service. We have helped hundreds of school districts around the country save thousands of dollars by evaluating and proposing new route planning and operational development.

We work with districts under the guidance of our core values:

Safety – We put ourselves in the driver's seat, so you know your routing plan has been thought through in a realistic, applicable manner. A driver's number one goal is safe — and on time — arrivals, and we exist to support that.



Trustworthiness – With vast experience, our team has seen — and solved — just about every issue you can think of. Because of this, we are often able to see problems before they arise so you can feel confident that your transportation department is on the best — and most efficient — route possible.

Accountability – There are a lot of moving pieces in pupil transportation. We have our eye on even the smallest detail to ensure safety, accuracy, and reliability. Through internal collaboration, our team is constantly learning and adapting to maintain our expertise in being the bridge between your routing system and day-to-day operations.

4.2 Company Leadership

4.2.1 Robert Jacobus – CEO & Founder



Rob is a professional pupil transportation consultant with more than 23 years of experience focusing on route planning, efficiencies, boundary analysis, route optimization, bell schedule analysis, and fleet utilization studies. In addition to being an expert router, he brings a wide range of experience working on complex routing and varying bell schedules from many school districts around the country.

4.2.2 Megan Snair – Director of Route Logistics



Megan brings more than 26 years' experience in school bus transportation and logistics to the team. She is well versed in route efficiencies, software training and implementation, project management, bell time analysis, redistricting, and route management. Megan has worked with more than 125 school districts nationwide during her career.



4.2.3 Greg Jackson – Director of Business Development



As a former executive transportation director, Greg knows his way around the logistics, best practices, and legislation of student transportation. With more than 20 years' experience, Greg has the understanding and skills to guide districts to find efficiencies in their routing and operations while maintaining a safe environment for students.



5.0 PAST EXPERIENCE

Jefferson County Public Schools, CO

TASK: ROUTE EFFICIENCIES AND BELL STUDY

- Evaluated load counts and reduced 90 bus runs from the 1,585 total
- Proposed new bell schedules for 156 schools to bring secondary students in later
- Reduced 15 routes from 257 routes as a result of bell time changes

Barrow County School System, GA

TASK: NEW HIGH SCHOOL AND BELL TIME STUDY

- Used Versatrans RP to add district-wide high school
- Worked with stakeholders to propose a bell time change for high school students
- Identified gaps and proposed best practices to transportation department

Boulder Valley School District, CO

TASK: ROUTE EFFICIENCIES AND BELL STUDY

- Standardized school day bell schedules
- Presented a neutral transportation cost to move bell schedules for elementary and middle schools
- Resolved late running buses into high schools in the afternoons

Lewisville Independent School District, TX

TASK: NEW ROUTE MANAGEMENT SERVICES CLIENT

- New startup client with North America Central School Bus Company: 20-21 school year
- Removed virtual students from routes and only routing in-person for two-a-seat per bus
- Built in cleaning times and extra loading/unloading at schools
- Worked with district to change bell times at last minute to lengthen the day to meet COVID-19 needs

Cumberland School Department, RI

TASK: BELL TIME STUDY

- Provided on-site school board presentation for bell time study results
- Durham School Services provided bus service

San Juan Unified School District, CA

TASK: BELL TIME STUDY

- Created new routes to allow middle schools to start after 8am and high schools after 8:30am

New Canaan Public Schools, CT

TASK: BELL TIME STUDY

- Validated district outcomes to add routes for later school start for high school students
- On-site school board presentation

Lake Washington School District, WA

TASK: COVID-19 ROUTING OPTIONS/TRAINING

- Worked with routers to re-route students to five days a week with less drivers
- Provided support to pair new route packages
- Provided Versatrans software training

Widefield School District 3, CO

TASK: COVID-19 ROUTING OPTIONS

- Worked with stakeholders to provide hybrid options impacting transportation
- Produced improved results

East Ramapo Central School District, NY

TASK: TRANSPORTATION CONSULTING

- Provided transportation consulting for services impacted by driver shortage
- Versatrans routing services

Holyoke Public Schools, MA

TASK: ROUTE SUPPORT

- Durham School Services provides bus contract
- Annual school start support

McHenry School District 15, IL

TASK: ROUTE EFFICIENCIES AND BELL TIME STUDY

- Performed four scenarios of bell time options
- Rerouted schools for efficiencies

Douglas County Schools, CO

TASK: COVID-19 DRIVER SHORTAGES

- Reduced 26 routes from three bus terminals
- Increased walk zone limits and removed 3,550 students from routes



Niagara Falls City School District, NY

TASK: SCHOOL BUILDING GRADE RE-CONFIGURATION

- Re-created routes for schools with new grade centers
- Adjusted walk zones for eight elementary schools from one-and-a-half miles to three-quarters

Montgomery Township Public Schools, NJ

TASK: BELL TIME STUDY

- Maintained a three-tier bus schedule and altered the high school bell time to a later start

Duneland School Corp, IN

TASK: SHIFTED BELL SCHEDULES AND RECONFIGURED ROUTES TO REMOVE SHUTTLES AT ALL SCHOOLS

- Created first tier of routes for high school and middle school
- Created second tier of routes for intermediate and elementary schools
- Used proposed bell times provided by the district to allow time between tiers

Aurora Public Schools, CO

TASK: MAGNET SCHOOLS FIVE-YEAR TRANSPORTATION PLAN

- Provided transportation impact analysis to roll out a five-year plan for district-wide magnet schools
- Designed and created a transportation plan for any child to attend any magnet school in the district

Kankakee School District 111, IL

TASK: COVID-19 ROUTING

- Used Versatrans RP to design and implement for the 20-21 school year COVID-19 routing
- Worked with bus company and district to implement student bus schedules for various schedules

Darien Public Schools, CT

TASK: EFFICIENCIES AND WALK ZONE REVIEW

- First Student was bus contractor
- Policy review and recommendations
- Walk boundary review
- Compared surrounding district policies and procedures
- Bus utilization review

Mesa County Valley School District, CO

TASK: WALK ZONE ANALYSIS

- Adjusted middle and high school walk zones from three miles down to two
- Adjusted elementary walk zones from two miles down to one
- Route efficiency review to reduce routes by evaluating load counts

Metropolitan School District of Washington Township, IN

TASK: ROUTE EFFICIENCIES AND BELL TIME STUDY

- Performed six scenarios of bell time options
- Rerouted all schools for efficiencies
- Provided school start support for the 2022-23 year

Monroe County Community School Corporation, IN

TASK: ROUTE EFFICIENCIES AND BELL TIME STUDY

- Performed two scenarios of bell time options
- Rerouted all schools for efficiencies
- Provided school start support for the 2022-23 year

Leander Independent School District, TX

TASK: ROUTE EFFICIENCIES AND BELL TIME STUDY

- Performed two scenarios of bell time options
- Rerouted schools for efficiencies

Guilford County Schools, NC

TASK: ROUTE EFFICIENCIES AND SOFTWARE IMPLEMENTATION

- Reviewed routes for efficiencies
- Provided consulting services to review routing department
- Supported the implementation of new routing software: Bus Planner

Fremont Unified School District, CA

TASK: BELL TIME STUDY

- Created new routes to allow middle schools to start after 8am and high schools after 8:30am



6.0 REFERENCES

We are committed to our clients' success and empower them with a plan to help realize savings and improve student safety and service. We have helped hundreds of school districts around the country save thousands of dollars by evaluating and proposing new route planning and operational development. The following are some examples of districts that have benefitted from our consultation services in recent years.

Reference 1: Zachary Kelly

Waterloo Community Schools
1516 Washington St.
Waterloo, IA 50702
kellyz@waterlooschools.org
319-433-1800

Reference 2: Nicole Portee

Charlotte - Mecklenburg County Schools
PO Box 30035
Charlotte, NC 28230
nicoley.portee@cms.k12.nc.us
980-343-7414

Reference 3: Rebecca Holody

Niagara Falls City School District
630 66th St.
Niagara Falls, NY 14304
rholody@nfschools.net
716-286-4211

Reference 4: Dana Chandler

Medina Valley Independent School District
8449 FM 471 S
Castroville, TX 78009
dana.chandler@mvisd.org
817-239-1944



7.0 PRICE AND FEE SCHEDULE

Software Implementation & Route Building (includes Project Initiation/Data Analysis)	
<i>\$110 Hourly Rate with an estimated 370 hours of work</i>	\$40,700
Project Management Fee	
<i>\$110 Hourly Rate with an estimated 20 hours of work</i>	\$2,200
One Time Administrative Fee	
	\$2,500
TOTAL COST OF PROJECT	\$45,400

Travel Expenses:

Cost will be provided, if travel is necessary.

