

The title 'Transportation Update' is centered on a large yellow circle. The text is in a bold, blue, sans-serif font. To the left of the yellow circle, there is a light gray ring and two overlapping circles, one dark red and one bright red.

Transportation Update

Transportation Update

- Recruitment efforts have generated additional applicants
- No permanent drivers are assigned to 6 morning and 6 afternoon routes
- Long-term substitute drivers are assigned to 4 morning and 3 afternoon routes
- 2 morning and 2 afternoon routes were canceled for several days last month
 - Cancellations impacted 675 students at five schools (Bailey, Red Rock, Nuevas Fronteras, Woodbury Middle and East Ridge)
- To create an efficient and sustainable transportation system, we need to reduce 10 morning and 10 afternoon routes for the 24-25 school year
 - If unable to do so, will need to outsource (contract) routes
 - Estimated cost for each contracted route (AM or PM) is \$56,000/year

Goals of Transportation Steering Committee



- To create an efficient and sustainable transportation system for the next five years to accommodate future growth in SoWashCo Schools
- To reduce the number of bus routes needed (10 morning and 10 afternoon)
- To increase the accuracy of ridership
- Explore the radius method for measuring transportation area distances
- Clearly define what a hazard is and review current hazardous areas

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- Clearly define what a hazard is and review current hazards.



Options Considered



- Continuation of Opt-in 2024-25 with ongoing rider adjustments with the implementation of the rider accountability bus pass
- Increase transportation zone mileage to 2.0 miles for all levels and implement radius method for measurement
- Continue with current mileage and existing Hazards; implement radius method for measurement
- Continue with current transportation zone mileage, make hazard adjustments; implement radius method for measurement
- Ongoing work to balance our three tier system by reviewing school start times at all levels
- Considering the creation of centrally-located bus stops
- Combined bus routes for St. Ambrose and Valley Crossing Elementary School
- Change start time for Red Rock Elementary School, moving it from Tier 1 to Tier 3
- Change middle school transportation zone mileage to 2.0 miles
- Remove Hazard classification for East Ridge High north of Bailey Road
- Remove Liberty Ridge Elementary School Hazard (Work with city on road improvements)
- Remove Park High School Hazard over Highway 61 (sidewalk over highway)
- Discontinue Pine Harbor Christian Academy Transportation

Steering Committee Recommendations for 2024-25 School Year



- **Require Opt-in**
 - Significantly helped in eliminating 10 routes for the 2023-24 school year
 - Hope to maintain, and possibly increase, responses for 2024-25 school year
 - Opt-in campaign for 2024-25 school year will begin after Spring Break
- **Implement a Hazardous Area Change for East Ridge High School**
 - Remove hazardous area north of Bailey Rd.
 - A controlled intersection at Pioneer Dr. and Bailey Rd. exists, as does a pedestrian tunnel near Radio Dr. and Bailey Rd.
- **Start Time Change for Red Rock Elementary School to balance our three tiers**
- **Create Station Stops for Nuevas Fronteras (Woodbury Middle School runs)**
 - Creating more distance between stops should reduce the overall runs needed
- **Discontinue bus transportation for Pine Harbor Christian Academy students**

A combination of implementing these recommendations will result in a reduction of 8-10 routes for the 24-25 school year.

Opt-In & Student Tracking



Student Tracking

- Combining student ridership tracking with Opt-In will ensure all routes are as efficient as possible
- Opt-In for high schools (2nd tier) resulted in 60% ridership on buses; 80% or more is needed to ensure efficient routing
- Consolidation of bus stops will further reduce 2nd tier runs
- In total, estimate 8-12 bus runs reduced for 2nd tier

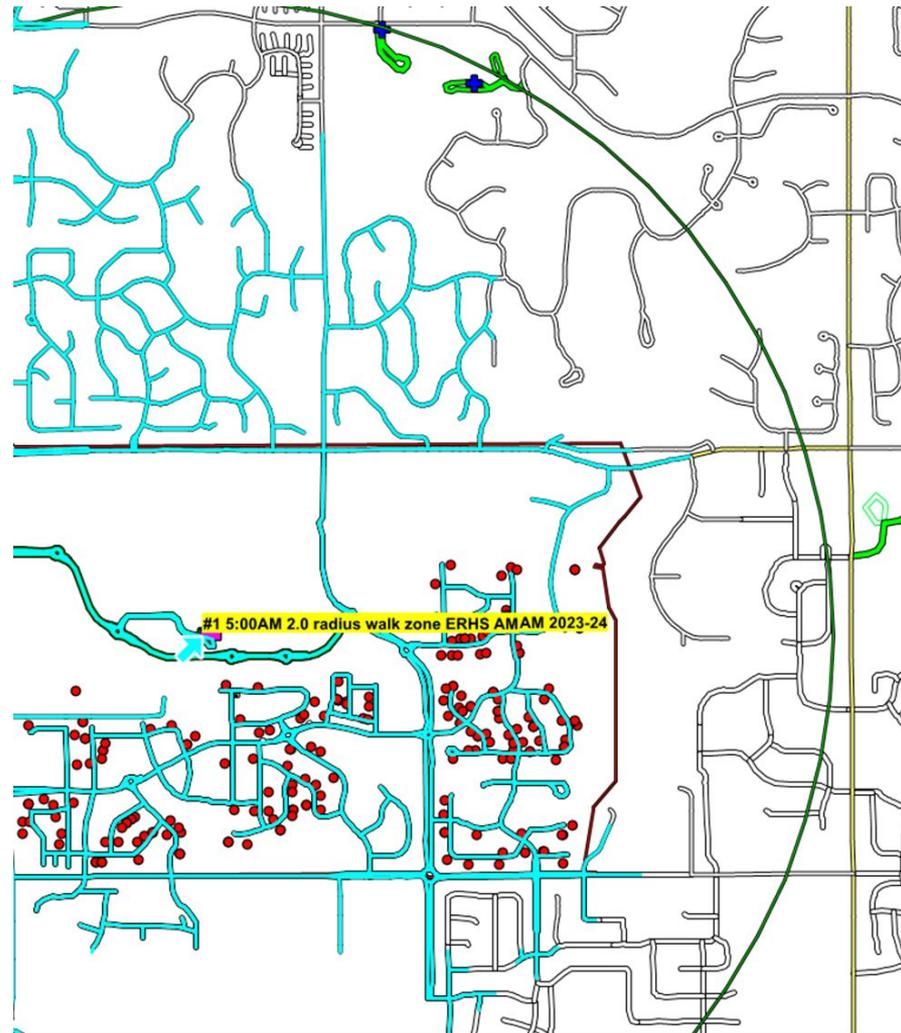
Transportation Opt-in Timeline

- Transportation Opt-In campaign for the 2024-25 school year will begin March 13 and close on March 29

Recommended Hazardous Change

East Ridge High School

- Implement change due to enhancements in roadways and availability of pedestrian tunnel
- Area north of Bailey Road
- 120 students impacted
 - Result in reduction of 1-2 bus runs for the second tier



Elementary Bell Time Change

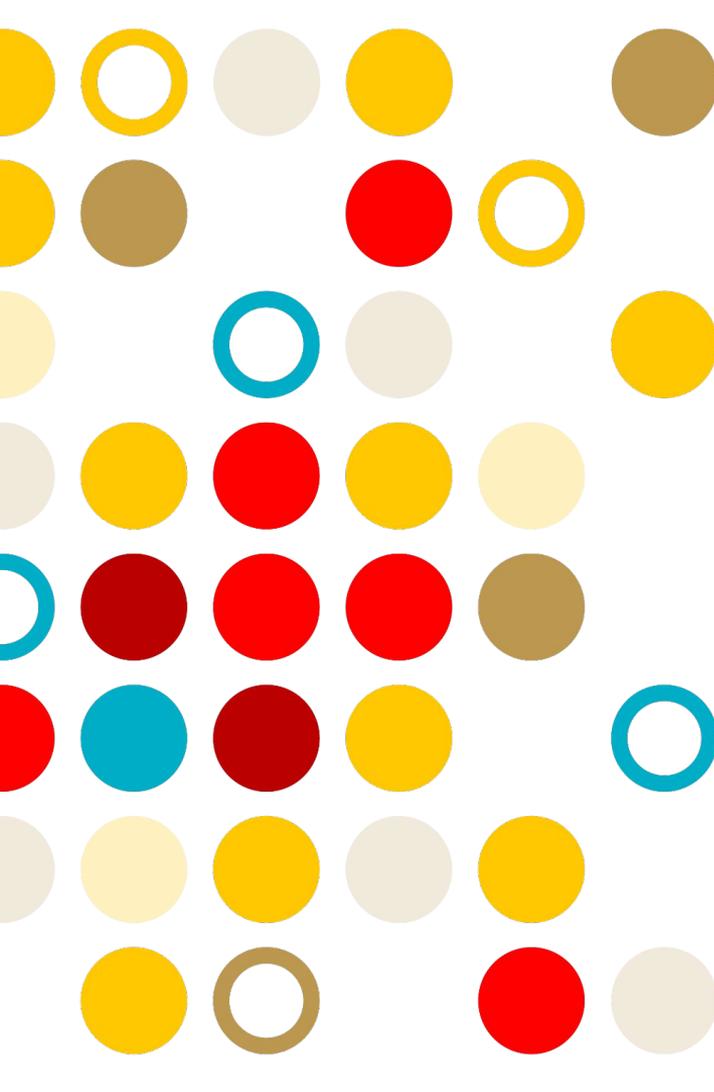


Tiered routing restructure

- Third tier bus runs are light
 - 15 fewer 3rd tier runs
 - Resulted from opt-in efficiencies and combining Valley Crossing and St. Ambrose routes together for 2023-24 school year
- Second tier runs have flexibility for ridership efficiencies
 - High school bus runs have low ridership percentage and can be consolidated
- First tier runs are heavy for ridership and challenging to further reduce

Elementary Bell Time Change Options

- Consider moving first tier elementary school(s) to third tier to help balance tiers and reduce number of bus routes
- First tier elementaries:
 - Crestview Elementary School: 2 runs
 - Newport Elementary School: 4 runs
 - Red Rock Elementary School: 8 runs
 - Royal Oaks Elementary School: 3 runs
- Pair elementary change with 2nd tier efficiency changes to hazards and high school ridership
- Creates more routes that have 3 tiers and results in fewer routes overall

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Red Rock Bell Time Change

- Families and staff have been notified
- Highest population of students on buses
- Highest number of bus runs for 1st tier elementaries
- Eliminates problematic A/B (double-back) runs in afternoon
- Shifting the 8 Red Rock bus runs will ensure transportation tiers are balanced and bus routes are as efficient as possible

Bus Stop Efficiencies

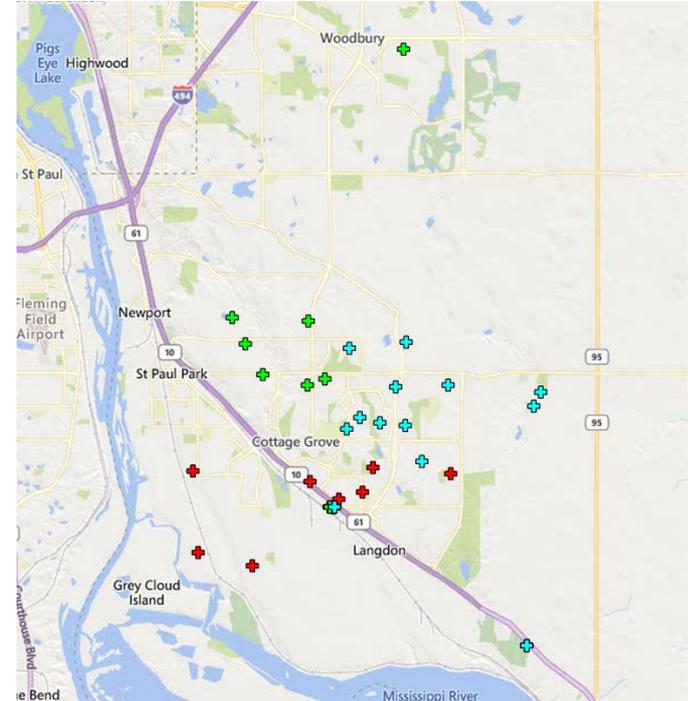
Routing considerations: Districtwide Routes

- Spanish Immersion runs (8) for Woodbury Middle School are light for ridership due to the timing constraint and geographical coverage of the entire district
- Establishing centralized group stops may reduce the time required for Immersion runs and reduce the number of runs needed
 - Impact: Walks are longer from home to bus stop
- Average bus roster has 40 students per bus
 - Ideal ridership is 52 students per bus

Pine Harbor Christian Academy Transportation



- Exploring the discontinuation of bus transportation for Pine Harbor Christian Academy students
- Need to reduce school bus routes
- Pine Harbor Christian Academy is located in the Hastings School district
- SoWashCo Schools is evaluating the relevant factors to determine if there is an appropriate non-public school within the district that maintains the same grades and departments



Next Steps

- Opt-in campaign begins after Spring Break
- Communicate change in hazardous area with East Ridge High School families who are impacted by the change
- Host a Zoom meeting with Red Rock Elementary School families
- Continue to review hazardous areas and determine if modifications to those areas are warranted
- When routing for 2024-25, consider farther distances between bus stops
- Make ongoing bus rider adjustments to create efficiencies
- Staffing: Continue enhanced recruiting efforts, staff referral bonus, increased wages
- Explore and evaluate the relevant factors to determine if there is an appropriate non-public school within the district that maintains the same grades and departments as Pine Harbor Christian Academy with the potential of asking the School Board to approve a resolution in March.

Questions?