

FWCS Transportation Department

Exploring the Past, Present, and Future.



FWCS Transportation Department
February 26, 2024

Needs Identified Spring 2022

- The size of the bus fleet needed to be realigned
- Update department technology that would include a student ridership program
- Combine transportation centers and reevaluate/realign the office & garage staff positions
- Provide transportation solutions for growing McKinney-Vento population
- **Attract and retain bus drivers**



BUS FLEET

May 2022: 361 total buses in FWCS bus fleet

- January 2023: Reduced fleet by 62 buses = \$590,300 revenue
- August 2023: Reduced fleet by 23 buses = \$256,100 revenue

January 2023: 10 Type A yellow buses added to FWCS fleet

- Repurposed video and radio equipment for cost savings of \$82,825.00 (10.5%)

January 2024: 175 total yellow buses in FWCS bus fleet

Examples of additional unrealized savings:

- Vehicle insurance
- Vehicle maintenance
- Required inventory
- Bus replacement cost reduction (2024 = \$1,500,000)



TECHNOLOGY UPDATES

Routing Software:

- Old: VersaTrans Routing and Planning (20-year-old technology)
- New: VersaTrans Transversa Student Transportation (Spring 2024)

Onboard Technologies:

- Camera Systems: Inspected and updated
- Two-Way radios: software updated, dispatch equipment upgraded, faulty equipment replaced
- Piloting driver tablet for future implementation
- 50 buses equipped with stop arm cameras

Electronic Bus Request Form:

- QR Code allows for easy access and immediate delivery of requests





COMBINED TRANSPORTATION CENTERS

- District considering options for STC building and land
- Utilities & maintenance of facility and fuel islands
- Repurpose new bus wash from STC to NTC
- 50 % Less office and garage inventory
- Reduced office and garage staff by 12 allocations




ATTRACT AND RETAIN BUS DRIVERS

Number of Bus Drivers for Previous School Year Start of School:

- 2021/2022 Start of School: 97 bus drivers with 3 on sick leave (94 on road)
- 2022/2023 Start of School: 103 bus drivers with 2 on sick leave (101 on road)
- 2023/2024 Start of School: 106 bus drivers with 3 on sick leave (103 on road)

02/26/24

- 118 bus drivers with 2 on sick leave (116 on road)
- 6 trainees in the baby bus program
- 3 Candidates in the hiring process with licenses and endorsements
- 6 Candidates in the hiring process with CDL w/o endorsements
- 3 Candidates in the hiring process who will need complete training
- 6 substitute drivers
- Total new this year = 17



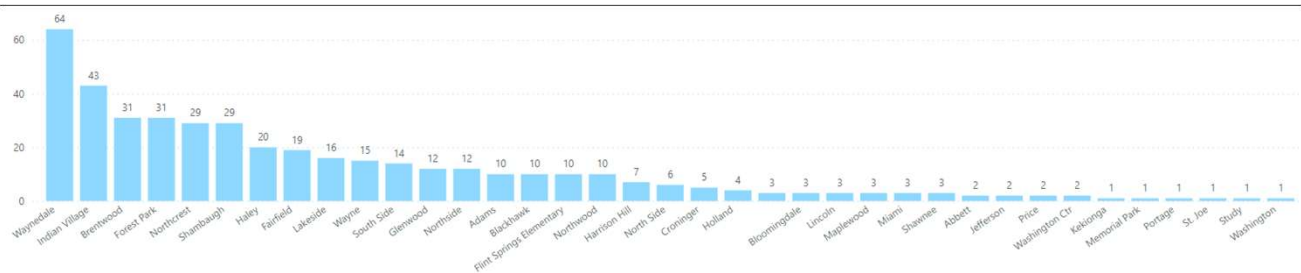
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HIRING PROCESS CHANGES

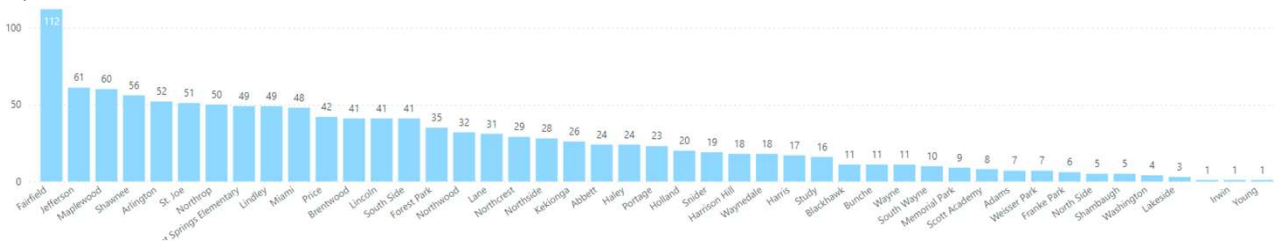
- Utilizing baby buses to supplement training pay
- Increase in driver starting wages
- \$5000 Hiring stipend for new driver w/ CDL and endorsements (4/3)
- Redesigned the perfect attendance bonus program (77/54)
- Holiday pay for consistent substitute drivers
- Complete CDL training for office and garage staff who help with vacancies
- Reimplemented the employee referral program
- Targeted part of our hiring campaign toward Ft. Wayne Fire Fighters and met with the Fort Wayne Fire Chief


MCKINNEY-VENTO FUEL VOUCHERS

2022/2023 = 429 Vouchers



2023/2024 = 1213 Vouchers





ROUTE CHALLENGES AND CHANGES

MAY 2022:

- Ended the school year with 14 three-tier vacant routes

MAY 2023:



- Ended the school year with 1 vacant elementary route

AUGUST 2023: (After Change from 3 to 2 Tier)

- Started the School Year with 5 vacant middle school routes and 20 loops

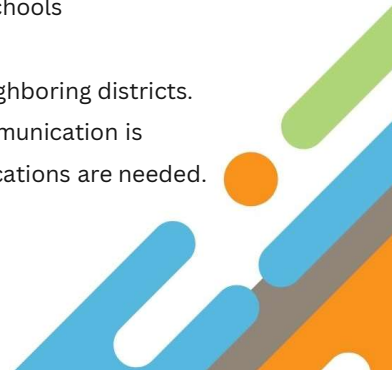
TODAY:

- 2 open routes-1 middle school route
- 12 loops remaining

ROUTE CHALLENGES AND CHANGES

- Added routes and additional buses at schools to improve the level of service to families. (i.e. Started the school year with only 6 buses serving Weisser, Bunche, Irwin, and Young. Resulting in long route times. We now have 10 buses serving those buildings)
- Route cancellation implemented on rotation through schools
- 16 middle/high schools have had route cancellations
- Small percentage of cancellations in comparison to neighboring districts.
- Partnering with Technology and schools to ensure communication is successful and families are aware of when route modifications are needed.



WHAT'S ON THE ROAD AHEAD

- **Target: 150 full-time drivers**
- Add onto NTC to accommodate driving staff
 - Biggest needs:
 - Bathrooms
 - Training Area
- Kick-off Student Ridership Program
- Enhance professional development for drivers and bus assistants
- Establish summer pay for bus drivers / how do we reallocate their pay year-round
- Purchase 10 more baby buses
- Partner with The Safety Village to include bus evacuation in their safety training for elementary students
- CDL Physicals available at District clinics for employees



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