

White Plains City School District Transportation Efficiency Study



Paul Overbaugh, Transportation Coordinator
Greg Diefenbach, RSBA



“On the Bus”
Transportation Planning
Franklin Essex Hamilton BOCES

Charge:



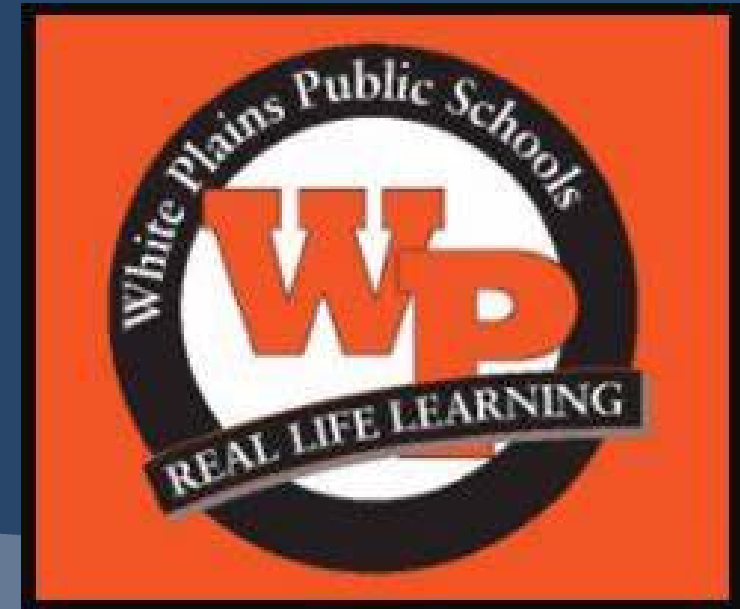
1. to complete a transportation study to evaluate the safety and efficiency of the services provided and recommend improvements
2. to create a request for proposal (RFP) to secure a new transportation contractor for the district

Site Visits:

November 20, 2023

March 1, 2024

March 26, 2024



WPCSD

- Public school, grades K-12
- Daily transportation for 6300+ students
- White Plains Bus Company (WPBC) owned and operated under the National Express LLC transit division
- Contractor owned and maintained buses
- Contractor provides 110 buses daily
 - 72 big buses, 38 vans on a two-tier system

Discoveries

Contractor inadequacies
resulting in unreliable
transportation services

- lack of bus driver staffing
- not driving the district-prescribed routes



Historical Perspective

WPCSD - fully contracted operation for many years

2016 Dr. Ann Vaccaro-Teich, Assistant Superintendent for Business and Operations, identified the high transportation costs and insufficient oversight as significant issues

- Clear contract language
- Accurate billing

Mr. Sergio Alfonso was hired as the Transportation Coordinator

- Reduced the number of total buses from 124 to 110
- Reduced the number of bus monitors by combining van routes

Contractual Needs

School	School day
4 Elementary	8:40-3:20
Church St Elem	8:15-2:55
Eastview MS gr. 6	7:35-2:30
Highlands MS gr. 7/8	7:35-2:30
High School gr. 9-12	7:40-2:29
Alternative HS gr. 9-12	8:30-2:42

Contractual Needs

Extra run	Time	# Buses
WPHS Activity Bus*	3:30	2
WPHS Activity	4:00	4
HLMS Activity Bus*	3:30	2
HLMS Activity Bus	4:00	4

Ridership

School	Number of buses	Ridership %
WPHS	27	50 %
HLMS	18	68 %
EVMS	9	64 %
RW ELM	15	65 %
PR ELM	12	69 %
MAS ELM	14	66 %
GW ELM	14	76 %
CS ELM	14	68 %
ROCH ALT HS	2	

Opt in/Opt out



Jr and Sr
Opt In



K-10
Opt Out

Efficient Routing

TIER ONE							
Name	AM arrival	Class start	PM Dismissal	Big bus	Vans	Students Routed AM	Students routed PM
WPHS 9-12 grade	7:30-40	7:40	2:29PM Activity 3:30Pm 4:00 late 5:00 Sport	27	4	2073	2073
HLMS 7-8 grade	7:35-40	7:44	2:30 Activity 3:15(3:30) 4:00 late	18	3	894	899
EVMS grade 6	7:25-40	7:35	2:30PM 4:00 late	9	2	386	396
RAHS	8:25	8:30	2:42 PM	2	0	45	45
Church Street Elementary School	7:55-8:00	8:15	2:55 PM	13	4	542	571
Non-Public				3		276	276

Efficient Routing

TIER TWO							
Name	AM arrival	Class start	PM Dismissal	Big bus	Vans	Students Routed AM	Students routed PM
Mamaroneck Ave Elementary School	8:25	8:50	3:00-3:10PM	13	4	539	544
Post Road Elementary School	8:25	8:40	3:10-3:20PM	12	1	497	506
Ridgeway Elementary School	8:20-8:25	8:40	3:10PM	15	4	546	556
George Washington School	8:30AM	8:40	3:10PM	14	3	562	566
Total big buses		72					
Total big routes		126					

Efficient Routing

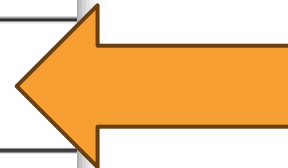
Proposed for School Year 2025-2026

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Total big buses	59	(13.00)					
Total big routes	114	(12.00)					



Routing/Ridership

Significant
cost savings
can be
realized by



1. Changing Church Street School bell times to align with other elementary schools
2. Consolidating bus routes to increase ridership %
3. Eliminating the 3:30 pm High School and Middle School activity buses

Cost Savings

Current 2024-25	72 big buses	38 vans	110 total
Potential 2025-26	59 big buses	35 vans	94 total

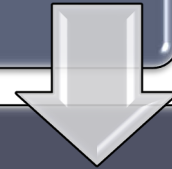
Type of Vehicle	# of Vehicles	Projected Cost Increase 2025-26		# of Vehicles	Projected Cost Increase 2025-26 with Recommended Reduction in Buses	
		30%	40%		30%	40%
Big Buses	72	\$7,821,878	\$8,423,481	59	\$6,409,594	\$6,902,575
Vans	38	\$3,677,184	\$3,960,086	35	\$3,386,880	\$3,647,448
Attendants	25	\$821,340	\$884,520	22	\$722,779	\$778,378
Total	110/25	\$12,320,402	\$13,268,087	94/22	\$10,519,253	\$11,328,401
Total Savings		\$1,801,149 @ 30%			\$ 1,939,686 @ 40%	

School Site Safety

Increased Consistency



Reduced Campus
Congestion



Increased Safety

Contractor's Fleet

Row Labels	Count of Capacity
Full	82
Van	44
W/C	14
Grand Total	140
Mean age	11.91
Median age	13
standard deviation	4.35



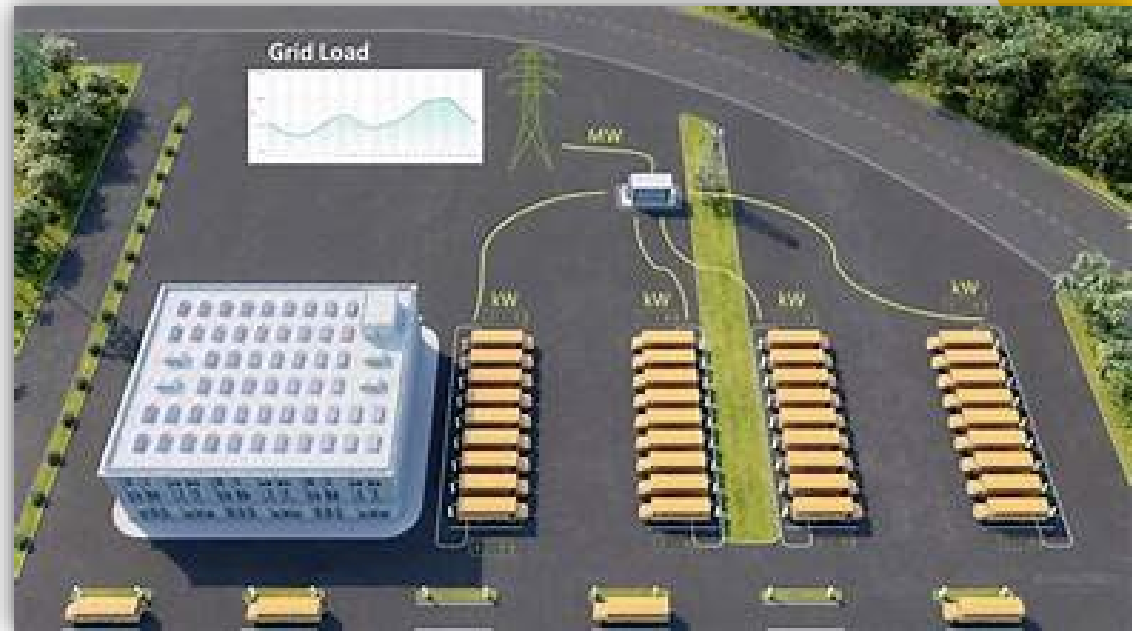
Electric Vehicles

- Create long-range conversion plan
- Secure a site for bus parking/charging
- Begin conversations with
 - Infrastructure providers
 - Electricity providers
 - Grant agencies
- Watch for changes in mandated deadlines



School Bus Parking

- Buses are close/accessible
- Lowers the cost of new contract
- Develop as charging stations



Contractor's Practices

- Changing routes and stops
- Missing buses
- Driver shortage
- Difficulty scheduling field trips and athletic trips
- Unable to perform “off schedule” runs
 - Weather delays
 - Early dismissals



Transportation Office

Current

- Transportation Director
- Transportation Assistant
- Substitute Office Assistant



Recommended

- Transportation Director
- Assistant Director
- Transportation Assistant
- FT Office Assistant

Recommendations



- ❑ Maintain current contractor with increased oversight for 2024-2025
- ❑ Publish an RFP for 2025-2026 and beyond, with explicit language for district oversight
- ❑ Align elementary school arrival and dismissal times
- ❑ Implement opt-in and opt-out program
- ❑ Consolidate routes based on actual ridership
- ❑ Eliminate MS and HS 3:30 Activity Routes
- ❑ Increase Transportation office staff to accommodate increased oversight duties



QUESTIONS