

Minutes
Transportation & Infrastructure Committee Meeting
East Helena Public Schools District No. 9

The East Helena Public Schools Transportation & Infrastructure Committee met on Thursday, September 24, 2026 at the EHPS Central Office.

Vice-Chair Murfitt opened the meeting at 7:16 a.m.

In Attendance: Vice-Chair Murfitt (Via Zoom), Trustees Stacy Baird and Brandon Hansen, Superintendent Dan Rispen, AD/Transportation/Facility Use Director Shaun Murgel, Transportation Supervisor Kirk Hedrick and District Secretary Jen Cordell.

Hear the Public:

No one addressed the Board

Bus Barn Parking Issues and Proposal

The Committee talked about the parking issues at the bus barn. The additional drivers, buses and staff has created parking congestion that has become a big issue. The space and parking is also shared with the Prickly Pear Co-op staff. Expanding the parking lot into the far east portion of the Eastgate playground could potentially ease some of that problem. The group talked about costs and logistics of the project.

Valley Drive Bus Ingress/Egress Issues at EHHS and PPE and Culvert Extensions

The discussion was about issues with buses being able to enter the EHHS entrance and the PPE Entrance from north on Valley Drive, specifically the turn radius being too short at these spots for buses to safely navigate without crossing into traffic or dragging rear wheels through the ditch.

Potential System Upgrade Utilizing Software that Assists with Bus Student Registration, Location, and Routing

The Committee discussed the software company Transfinder and what it could offer the District and Transportation Department. They discussed the upfront cost as well as the costs to maintain the system.

Fleet Review and Potential Expansion

The Committee discussed the current fleet and the potential for adding an additional route bus.

Bus Barn Upgrades

The Group discussed the possibility of insulating and eventually adding heat to the bus barn. This could eliminate the need for plugging in block heaters potentially saving electrical costs as well as wear and tear on equipment.

Diesel Fuel Costs and Projections

When the transportation budget was set for the year, it included a sizable increase. Some of the transportation projects were intended to be funded from the increase.

The Committee discussed prioritizing the projects and determining what could be placed on the back burner as they determine what's on the horizon with fuel costs.

The meeting concluded at. 8:19am

FUTURE MEETING DATES:

Regular Meeting – Monday, October 12th, 2026 5:30 @ East Valley Middle School

Submitted By: J. Cordell
District Secretary, Jen Cordell

Date: 9-24-26

Approved By: Tyrel Murfitt
Vice-Chair, Tyrel Murfitt

Date: 10/12/2026