



Achieving Operational Excellence within Transportation



Immediate Solutions and Long-Term Strategies

June 25, 2024



Agenda

- Opportunities
- 6 Components of Transportation
- Stabilization in 2024-25
- Communication & Engagement
- Next Steps
- Questions and Discussion



From Challenge to Opportunity

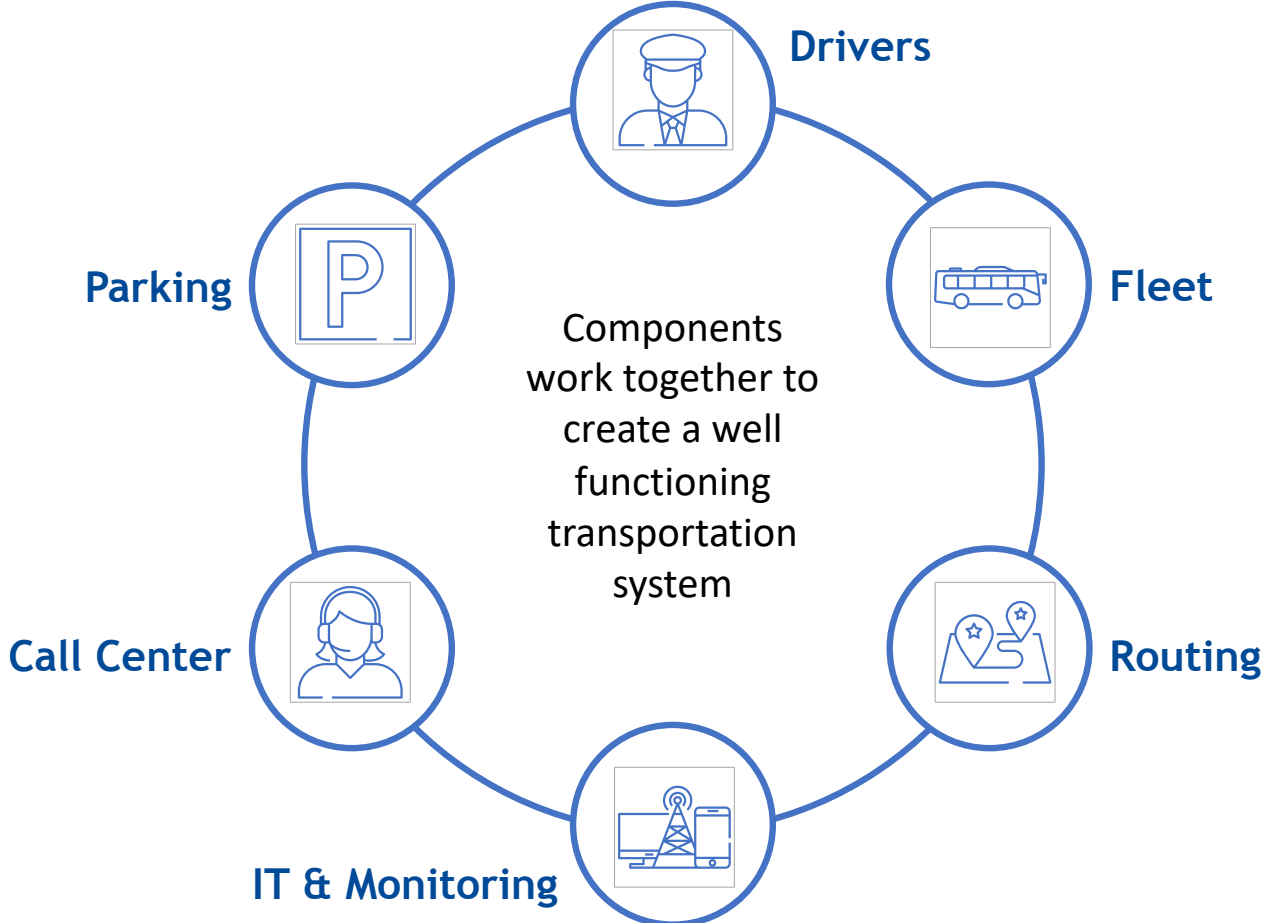
SLPS is implementing both immediate and long-term strategies to address current shortages promptly while planning for sustainable future improvements.

We are utilizing our current situation to:

- **Optimize Accountability** by strengthening our commitment to providing reliable transportation and transparency in this process.
- **Achieve Operational Excellence** through improving efficiency and effectiveness in our transportation services.
- **Maximize Public Funds** by ensuring thoughtful and efficient use of resources.



6 Components of Transportation



6 Components of Transportation

Drivers	Fleet	Routing	IT & Monitoring	Call Center	Parking
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Solicited interest from current staff to support student transportation and building out process for hiring our own pool of drivers	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Working with multiple vendors for the 2024-25 school year, adjusting service based on quality received▪ Exploring the acquisition of our own vehicles to minimize dependencies on vendors	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Partnered with 4MATIV to increase route efficiency▪ Transitioning routing in-house to allow the District to adjust as needed to meet student and family needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Working with vendors to implement tracking and monitoring across vehicles▪ Exploring additional tools for families and schools to track District transportation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Building out the call center with improved customer service to better manage parent questions and concerns	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Exploring options for housing vehicles as we look to acquire them for student transportation



6 Components of Transportation

Coordinating across all components ensures a well-functioning transportation system that meets the needs of students, families, and the community while being efficient with district resources

Our areas of focus across the 6 components allow us to:

- Reduce dependence on vendors, increasing accountability and service quality
- Improve operational efficiency and reduce costs
- Enhance communication with schools and families, reducing staff workload to focus on additional service improvements



Stabilization in 2024-25



- **The Board has authorized 19 vendors to provide transportation services**, including yellow buses and smaller vans which all meet required credentials.
- **SLPS has partnered with transportation solutions firm 4MATIV** to analyze data and simulate vehicle reduction.
- **We will need to reduce routes by 70** to align with current resources.
- **Our approach ensures transportation for students with the highest needs**, including those with IEPs and students in transition. Students receiving ELL services are provided transportation based on districtwide policies.
- **We've prioritized solutions which align with long-term goals** and fiscal responsibility.



Proposed Solutions



- 1 **Align bell times:** Balance tiers for efficiency and ensure 65 minutes between tiers
- 2 **Public transit shift:** Use public transit for high schoolers if route meets specific criteria
- 3 **Opt-out campaign:** District initiative for eligible students not planning to ride the bus
- 4 **Stop consolidation:** Reduce the number of stops to decrease run time
- 5 **Strategic routing:** Ensure high-capacity vehicles are assigned the most students



Process for Building Recommendations

Despite limited bus resources, these solutions minimize impacts on families and ensure transportation for those in need. Our collaborative decision-making includes:

- **Balancing and Minimizing Impacts:** Balance the number of people impacted and the extent of the impact
- **Acknowledging Varied Impacts:** Recognize different effects on families, schools, and the city
- **Gathering Feedback from School Leaders and Partners:** We've shared these proposals with school leaders and partners such as St. Louis Metro who have raised concerns that will shape our implementation plan
- **Continued Collaboration:** We commit to ongoing collaboration with key partners including families for a successful school start and stable service year-round





Anticipated Benefits

We've identified potential benefits of this plan in addition to reducing the overall vehicle need.

- **Overall Improvement in On-Time Performance:** More time between bell times means buses are less likely to run late to their next run.
- **Metro Cards for High Schoolers:** High school students will receive metro cards that can be used outside of school hours for travel to activities and work opportunities.
- **Shorter Trip Duration:** Stop consolidation will reduce travel time for some students.
- **Efficient Use of Resources:** Vehicle use and routes will be optimized for greater efficiency which will reduce the district's overall cost on transportation.



Mitigating Impact

After discussing these potential changes with Network Superintendents and school leaders, and analyzing other feedback from families, we've begun to identify and plan for addressing potential concerns:

- **Before and Aftercare:** Bell time adjustments should have minimal impact on before and aftercare, but we are working to ensure that providers are aware of changes after decisions have been made so they can plan
- **Transit Impacts:** We are working with Metro to determine the level of ridership that the system can hold to ensure we don't overload their buses. We are also working to ensure additional safety and support at certain transit stops and routes.
- **Safe Passageway Campaign and Staff Training:** We will be launching safety initiatives and providing training to enhance transportation safety protocols for students and staff.



Communication Plan



June

- Present recommendations at June 25th Board Work Session
- Communication goes out to schools and families immediately following meeting
- Talking points provided to school leaders
- “Let’s Talk” set up for schools, families, and the community to provide feedback and ask questions

July

- Plan details provided to schools and families; Targeted communication provided to families most impacted by changes
- Virtual town hall to discuss plan specifics
- Final proposal presented for approval at July 9th Board Meeting
- Continued communication of updates on the website and social media channels
- Update at July 23rd Board Work Session

August

- District will create a “How to use the Metro” video for students
- Routes communicated to families
- Continued communication of updates on the website and social media channels

September

- Conduct follow-up metrics checks on effectiveness of plan
- Continued communication of updates on the website and social media channels



Next Steps



- Determine scenario to move forward for School Board approval on July 9th
- Gather and incorporate feedback for implementation plan
- Communicate changes to schools and families
- Begin implementation
- Continuous communication to schools and families leading up to the start of school



Questions and Discussion





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