



# Transportation Update



July 23, 2024



# Agenda



- Update on Implementation of Approved Strategies
- Communication & Engagement
- Next Steps
- Questions and Discussion



# Approved Strategies



- 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



# Bell Time Changes



- **Communication with families:** Notifications sent to all families regarding changes; targeted communication to Roosevelt, Sumner, and Vashon regarding the 50-minute bell time change
- **Feedback Collection:** Let's Talk set up to receive feedback and questions on the approved changes; 14 comments received to date
  - **Positive Feedback:** Some families are pleased with the bell time changes
  - **Concerns:**
    - Safety concerns around the later start for elementary schools, especially with darkness in winter
    - Teachers and staff worried about managing personal appointments and family responsibilities with new bell times
    - Healthy Start Times not being implemented this year



# Opt-Out Campaign



- **Communication to families**
  - Created and distributed a shorter opt-out survey to all families
  - Received 370 opt-out responses so far and aiming to increase responses to achieve necessary ridership reduction
  - Additional outreach planned via social media and in-person events to encourage families to opt-out if they do not need transportation



# Stop Consolidation & Public Transit

## Stop Consolidation & Routing

- Routing completed and currently reviewing additional efficiencies to reduce vehicle needs
- Final routes and stops to be communicated to families beginning of August

## Public Transit

- ~1700 students meet the no transfer, walk distance, and commute time criteria
- Communication will be sent to these students by the end of this week which will include other resources on how to ride the metro
- Ongoing safety meetings between SLPS and Metro



# Safety Planning Updates



A cross departmental team has been meeting to develop and implement a Transportation Safety Plan across the district.

## Stop and Route Safety

- Have identified areas of concern and are developing plans to patrol these routes
- Mobile SLPS officers will scope areas around certain bus paths in the morning and afternoon
- Created custom vests for volunteers and staff who will be on the streets supporting these efforts

## Metro Safety

- SLPS will provide security at stops located at schools with the most students riding public transit
- Metro Public Safety will monitor trips and routes involving students
- SLPS is developing a safety program which would provide additional monitoring on buses



# Additional Updates



- Finalizing agreements with all vendors and actively preparing for a strong start of school
- Identified ~1,500 students were identified:
  - Magnet schools
  - ELL or SPED services,
  - Outside neighborhood boundaries
  - Received transportation last year

These families will be notified that they will no longer receive transportation since they do not meet the policy requirements.

- Ensuring all vehicles transporting students are equipped with GPS and effective communication tools to track vehicle location and student journeys
- Implementing SLPS signage on all non-bus vehicles for enhanced student safety
- Working with before and after-care team on transportation for these programs





# Communication Plan



## June

- ✓ Present recommendations at June 25<sup>th</sup> 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

- ✓ Final proposal presented for approval at July 2 Board Meeting
- ✓ Plan details provided to schools and families; Targeted communication provided to families most impacted by changes
- Video presentation on changes to SLPS website & social media
- ✓ Continued communication of updates on the website and social media channels
- Update at July 23 Board Work Session

## August

- Transportation Community Meeting on August 6
- Creation of “How to use the Metro” video for students
- Routes communicated to families
- Continued communication of updates on the website and social media channels

## September & Beyond

- Conduct follow-up metrics checks on effectiveness of plan
- Continued communication of updates on the website and social media channels
- Gather feedback from schools and families and act on insights as possible





SAINT LOUIS PUBLIC SCHOOLS

# TRANSPORTATION SOLUTION

Community Problems, Community Solutions

JOIN US QUARTERLY BEGINNING

## Tuesday, August 6 | 6 PM

Vashon High School | 3035 Cass Ave.



# Next Steps



- Communicate updates to students who will not be receiving transportation or will be receiving Metro cards
- Finalize safety plans across use of Metro and SLPS stops and communicate updates to schools and families
- Finalize transportation plans for before and aftercare programs
- Transportation Solution meeting on August 6th
- Continuous communication to schools and families leading up to the start of school





# Questions and Discussion





[SLPS.org](http://SLPS.org)