



Transportation Strategy Engagement Workshop

David Thompson School

April 12, 2016

17 Participants

Interests	# of Participants
My child takes transportation arranged by the Calgary Board of Education to get to school (yellow school bus, handybus etc.)	12
My child gets to school in another way (walks, private vehicle, public transit etc.)	7
My child attends an alternative program (language, Montessori, science, TLC) or complex needs program	5
I currently have no children in the Calgary Board of Education system	2



David Thompson School Flip Chart Summary

Travel Distance

Preserve

- Shorter distances.
- More stops to make it closer for families to drop their children at bus stops. Some people don't have vehicles and to walk young children in winter is not feasible.
- Need to look at providing stops at child care locations rather than based on home address to possible avoid multiple drops.

Flexibility

- Older children having the ability to travel longer distance on buses and to bus stops.
- Supporting an increase in fees to get better stops.

Bus Ride Time

Preserve

- Younger children, shorter bus rides.
- Reasonable ride time for alternative programs. (Think about locations for alternative programs)
- Keep shorter rides times with fewer stops.

Flexibility

- Longer ride time – up to 45 minutes.
- Older children may be longer.

Observation

- Preserve alternative to ride and times to allow adequate sleep for brain development (esp. middle school) 6-7am bus times are too early.



Eligibility for Ridership

Preserve

- Keep 7-9 on yellow buses as city transit currently doesn't set dedicated routes for them or enough stops to ensure students meet class times.
- Keep CBE flexibility in determining walk zones to allow for unique community situation (i.e. traffic circles, major roads).

Flexibility

- Remove yellow bus for grade 7-9 riders – Transit Alternative if ride time is reasonable and no transfers.
- If younger student has older sibling in higher grade maintain bus eligibility for older sibling.
- Put Public and Catholic students on same buses.

Observation

- Calgary Transit for 7-9 in alternative programs would make those programs inaccessible to the many children.

Bell Times

Preserve

- Attention to bus route time along with class start/end times so students are not always in the dark to and from bus/school.

Flexibility

- Need to set bell times based on ages and sleep needs for brain development (not just what fits bus availability).
- Younger children should have later start time especially in situation of long bus rides.
- Not doing the partnered situation at the expense of the kids.



Number and Location of Pick-Up Stops

Preserve

- Short bus ride times.
- Close to home, esp. K-4.
- Maximum number of kids at a stop (some buses filled at one stop).
- Mark bus stops for safety.
- Use Calgary Transit stops when available – bus zones help with safety/visibility/manoeuvrability for buses.
- Walk distance to stops should match walk distances for walk area families. No more, no use.

Flexibility

- Closer to home.
- Off the main road → especially in new communities with incomplete road structures.
- I would not pay more to have a stop to closer to home.

Observation

- Coordinate bus tops or location for all schools servicing one community.

Access to Waivers: *No input was received for this factor.*



User Fees

Preserve

- Proper routing software to maximize route and efficiency and eliminate useless routes.
- Equal access to same education for all students regardless of program.
- Fee freeze until long term plan set.
- Monthly payment option.

Flexibility

- Contribution to cost to possibly somehow relate to annual family income.
- For families with 2 or more students -> family rate.
- Late fee not registering for bus contract on time.

Observation

- Equal access to programs regardless of where a family lives. It is especially challenging when schools programs change.
- Should alternate schools fall under the CBE transportation umbrella? This schooling is a choice not a need.
- As a family with a higher income I don't believe that I should pay a higher fee strictly because I make more money.
- Should busing be based on a two-tier system?
- I don't want fees to come out of class room dollars.
- Continue use fees per child, without family maximums.
- Keep fees per user. Discounting for families with multiple children will compound the deficit issue.
- Increase fees for those who chose alternate programming.
- Don't penalize those who were promised community school that's not built.



Low Ridership Routes

Preserve

- Need to keep less than max utilization situations available to communities who are forced to be bused out of their area due to not having available alternative programs like French Immersion. Or then CBE needs to provide more French immersion programs closure to home.
- Use smaller buses to provide service to these low Ridership routes.

Two- or Three-Year Implementation Plan for Changes

Preserve

- Weaning off a bus driven system back to community centered schools.
- Proper planning/optimization software that will plan effectively for most reasonable amount of years to come.
- More alternative programs to newer community schools to decrease amount of kids on bus.

Flexibility

- Transition to more efficient plan as quickly as cost saving/revenue generation makes sense.



Other

Preserve

- Driver training.
- Operation adhesion to Alberta driver law.

Flexible

- Meet staffing suggestions to increase efficiently at all levels of the Transportation Department.
Ex: take .5 out of it and place that person into Transportation Department.
- More audits competitions of service providers by CBE staff. Currently done by Service Providers.
- Transportation needs to be higher on the Boards Awareness.

Observation

- Remove yellow bus from (7-9) change to Transit.
- Public Transit Gr. 10-12.
- Slowly stop outsourcing to private bus companies.
- Look at community needs for underutilized schools. i.e.: School that was K-4 now 5-9 as greater need.
- Work with City Transit to provide better routing to allow more student and families an option.
- Shared cost of complex needs with other portfolios such as social services and Alberta Health etc.
- A lot more accountability for bus drive times, stops and parents -> staying too long at one stop waiting for kids or parents.
- Stronger contract regarding adhesion to law and appropriate operator behaviour (carrier contracts).
- The location of alternative programs, especially language programmes, seem to reflect the need to fill schools in areas with declining populations and do not seem to value placing programmes close to the children/families.



Public and Parents Engagement Evaluation – David Thompson School

To what extent do you agree with each of the following statements:

P1) I was encouraged to share my thoughts and/or feedback during this engagement.

8 Agree 4 Somewhat Agree 0 Somewhat Disagree 1 Disagree 0 Not Applicable

P2) I was able to ask questions and learn about the opportunity for input/feedback prior to my participation in this engagement.

4 Agree 8 Somewhat Agree 1 Somewhat Disagree 1 Disagree 0 Not Applicable

P3) I had the information I needed to participate in a meaningful way.

6 Agree 5 Somewhat Agree 1 Somewhat Disagree 1 Disagree 0 Not Applicable

P4) I was able to provide input on the best way for me to share my thoughts and ideas.

5 Agree 6 Somewhat Agree 2 Somewhat Disagree 0 Disagree 0 Not Applicable

P5) I clearly understand all of the factors being considered in the decision making process and which of these factors I can and cannot influence.

6 Agree 6 Somewhat Agree 1 Somewhat Disagree 0 Disagree 0 Not Applicable

P6) My input was documented as part of the engagement process.

9 Agree 4 Somewhat Agree 0 Somewhat Disagree 0 Disagree 0 Not Applicable



P7) What did you like most about this engagement?

- Discussion Q & A's
- I liked that I could voice my opinion and explain that I am not happy that my child is walking to the bus stop for 30 minutes by herself.
- I appreciated the range of workshops available.
- Comment pages at tables.
- The enthusiasm of presenters and attendees.
- The opportunity to give ideas to close the gap will help in other areas.
- Friendly discussions.
- Group discussion.

P8) What did you like least about this engagement?

- Structure of the night limited my opportunity to just come and be informed.
- Nothing at all – all good.
- There was not a coordinator at each table. There are some people with strong personalities that dominate and passively intimidate.
- Needing someone to keep table on task (tables went off task a lot).
- Not enough time.
- CBE staff playing politics
- More suggested solutions from CBE on budget efficiencies or stronger ability to lobby City/Province to gain more control of assets to manage effectively.
- Short discussion, lack of data, too many tables, not enough participants.
- All participants should be provided with research + data relevant to conversation instead of only relying on opinion.