

Transportation Advisory Committee—September 8, 2008

Observations of the Current Reality

Cubs

- Map of other districts-compared to similar enrollment, what are they doing there? What is the same and different?
- Parental reimbursement-paid to parochial students (flow through)
- Snack provisions- use lunch account
- Are old buses kept in the fleet? Kept for parts?
- What about contracting fuel? 11,000 gals last 25 driving days
- Is there a way to decrease number of bus stops in Prairie Heights neighborhood? Could decrease time also- route efficiency?
- Utilize before/after school time/money in a more efficient way
- Staggered times already exist for Heights
- AM bus drop off zone- that is a lot of wait time/bottleneck of traffic. Part of the problem is each bus has a single drop
- Drove around elementary buildings noted chaotic areas in back lot of high school and entrance to 76th Avenue. Dismissal time a smoother transition
- Seems to run efficiently at dismissal. Let's ask the question –do older kids want or would they consider working at late bus programs?
- Observed on rainy day and noticed back up of busses-frustration levels up. Asked younger kids how they felt about busing and complained about High School behavior- Actually rode bus and talked to the kids
- Observed Middle School and spoke with kids and para's. Transition seemed smooth, one child missed bus that day. Spoke with last bus kids at View and majority prefer to go home right after school.

Bob

- Just because it is organized and a good system it doesn't make it ok
- High School kids speeding
- Pretty organized
- Some had to walk further
- Organized getting too buses
- Buses lined up and getting out was organized
- Need general rules to assure behavior control
- Need consistency of bus driver expectations and behavior of the bus driver
- Really liked the idea of having families in double routes chose late bus or early bus
- Little ones were more diligent about getting on the bus
- Concerned with how system works during bad weather
- Organized chaos-the kids know the routine, but there are kids who deviate
- Not enough adult supervision-very concerned about kids safety or accountability
- Didn't see too many people with walkie talkies
- 3 minutes for all 35 buses to get out- wasn't a backup of traffic on 76th
- It's amazing how no one gets lost
- Better to have kids warehoused than having the kids home alone
- What took the longest was kids from Ridge and Middle School
- Most traffic already gone before buses hit 76th
- Cross Country event prevented buses from going to any building so saw kids gather at buildings and then walk over to loading zone
- Talked to some kids and they don't mind late bus
- Saw some pushing and shoving
- Late bus left at 4:15
- Organized chaos-systematic

- Kids were all inside, put a rope up so kids wouldn't get too close to bus
- Felt a lot of tension, small area
- Felt bad for para's- they had to be hard nosed to keep order
- Warehousing of kids
- 6 kids left after buses left and were waiting for rides
- High School late bus no supervision

VCR

- Elementary buildings organized chaos
- Making the best of what they have
- Morning calm-----more overwhelming
- PM-organized –loud
- Activities, games, supplies available
- Supervision ratios
- Waiting/sitting time in PM
- School designs at Ridge had space capabilities –Crest and View is more confined
- Safety issues in bus loading AM/PM can be overwhelming
- Energy release during in climate weather
- Longer wait with new school
- Last time in 2001, Brain Research was brought in. Do we have access to that?
- What about the buses in the pen during loading times –Why aren't they in use?
- How does wait time change with new school in AM/PM?
- Do the Iowa City schools stagger? What do they do?

Orange

- Current system ran smooth -not sustainable with addition of new Middle School
- Observations/thoughts- not kid friendly (warehousing)
- More bus? Warehousing? New schools?

Randy

- Impressed with organization in loading zone, early morning bus-student activities, comfortable and kids know what to do and where to go
- Impressed with afternoon loading –organized chaos
- Good supervision in loading zone
- Bus drivers know their kids so nobody gets left
- View, Crest, Heights- parents drop kids off early
- Middle School after school- organized/play outside/homework
- Ridge- Impressed- organized chaos
- Other land for bus loading
- Use of City buses
- Walking distance from Middle School and Ridge to loading zone (mostly bad weather)
- Late bus supervision- tired/long day- staff training
- Daycare issues-child safety
- More daycare at each building
- Adjust start/end times for Heights and Prairie Point to offset the congregation of students

1927

- Buses not following designated drop off routes
- Crest bottleneck from daycare (ECC) drop off and parent drop off traffic
- Abuse of early/late drop off by parents

- Some kids are on the bus too long 45 minutes to 1 hour
- Saw kids engaged at View- buses were orderly
- Weather slowed down buses with extra stops
- Late bus more behavior issues

Aces

- Organized chaos loading zone
- Warehousing(maybe)
- Unsafe
- Long day for kids and staff
- Long walks- bad weather
- Inefficient- wasted time waiting for drop off
- Middle School kids have high energy after school. Concerns about those waiting for late bus- too long of day
- Problems/concerns with late bus kids being picked up-not by 3:30 but before bus-parents take advantage of the systems
- Elementary kids learning inappropriate stuff on the bus