



**Transportation Issues Study Committee  
The 178th Meeting  
November 24, 2010**

**Next Meeting: December 13, 2010 10:30 a.m. -12:00 p.m.**

**Minnesota Department of Public Safety, State Patrol  
1110 Centre Pointe Curve, Mendota Heights, MN 55120**

**Present:**

Keith Paulson, Anoka-Hennepin Schools  
Kelly Wosika, MDE Program Finance/Transportation  
Lisa DeRemee, MDE Program Finance  
John Thomas, Eastern Carver County Schools  
Dave Peterson, St. Paul Schools  
Shelly Jonas, Minnesota School Bus Operators Association (MSBOA)  
Brad Lundell, Minnesota Association of Pupil Transportation (MAPT) Lobbyist  
Lieutenant Ed Carroll, Minnesota Department of Public Safety (DPS)

**Summary:** The summary of the revised September Transportation Issues meeting was approved with clarifications on the discussion of the Fostering Connections Act.

**Special Education/Safety Committee Transportation Committee:** The November meeting was held at the new Mankato Diver Exam Facility. The meeting was held this time in the southern tier of the state to accommodate the transportation directors, special education transportation specialist, safety directors and other interested parties that are located in that area.

John reported that the group watched an informative video about ability awareness titled "I Am Tyler." The movie was created by a student with cerebral palsy. It is available on the internet for a donation. The video's web address is [imtyler.org](http://imtyler.org).

Most of the meeting was taken up by a discussion on transporting students with disabilities that have a companion animal.

The next Special Education/School Bus Safety Committee meeting will be held at MDE, Conference Center B, room 18 on December 15, 2010 at 9:00 a.m.

**Minnesota Department of Education:** Kelly introduced Lisa DeRemee, the new MDE Program Finance, Financial Management, Facilities and Transportation Supervisor to the group. MDE Program Finance Division went through reorganization recently and Lisa was promoted to a supervisor position.

Kelly is a member of the Minnesota Council on Transportation Access. One of the initiatives the group is working on is to design and develop a model contract for providing coordinated transportation services. [Information on the Minnesota Council on Transportation Access can be viewed on the Minnesota Legislative Website.](#)

There is a new bicycling event at the Mall of America scheduled for March 18-20, 2011, a busy spring break weekend. Important bicycle safety information for kids and a Safe Routes to School message will be provided.

Kelly said that the Minnesota Department of Transportation would be a good source for information on navigating a traffic Roundabout. For more information on Roundabouts go to [www.lrrb.org](http://www.lrrb.org) or call 651-366-3768.

Districts should be working on reporting their final transportation data to MDE. The data is used to compile statistics and calculate funding in areas such as nonpublic student transportation, special education transportation and desegregation transportation. The data submitted by a district in MARSS, UFARS and the paper Pupil Transportation Annual report goes through 285 edits to assure proper reporting.

Dave asked if MDE has put together a response regarding the Minnesota 2020 Report. The report had some glaring mistakes regarding transportation requirements and funding issues. Kelly said student transportation financial information was given to the communications department at MDE to form a response. Kelly is still waiting for a response.

**Office of Student Transportation Safety:** Lieutenant Ed Carroll reported that DPS looks into calls about buses carrying more students than the capacity limitations allow. Most times the bus is within the limitations. Early in the school year, school districts often manage to fill buses but as the year goes on, students find other ways of getting to school and the buses become less crowded.

Lieutenant Ed Carroll would like to form a committee of members of MSBOA and MAPT to take a look into changing DPS rules on student transportation. Many of the rules need updating. John suggested setting a timeline on this initiative.

Lieutenant Ed Carroll would like to get rid of the temporary pass process and adopt a pass/fail system similar to the commercial carrier inspection process.

There will be a report at the next Office of Student Transportation Safety Stakeholders (OOPTS) meeting on what DPS found during the School Bus Safety Week as a result of their enforcement. The next OOPTS meeting will be a joint meeting with the Issues Committee. The meetings will be held at the Minnesota Department of Public Safety, State Patrol, 1110 Centre Pointe Curve, Mendota Heights, MN 55120 on December 13, 2010 at 9:00 a.m.

**Legislative:** Brad said that it would be best if student transportation initiatives were presented to legislation in two separate bills, one for education and one for transportation issues.

There will be a lot of transition activity with the turnover in personnel and election of a new governor. Brad said he is looking forward to developing a good relationship with the new state representatives early in the session.

There is a general approach of the legislation to reduce mandates, for example the two mile transportation requirement. Special education transportation is a federal mandate; however, and state legislation cannot change that.

Brad mentioned that there is a survey underway of Minnesota special education directors. One of the items on the survey is about issues regarding students attending care and treatment. Brad will share the results of the survey with the Issues Committee once they become available.

Legislative session 2011 starts January 3, 2011.

The MAPT Board of Directors 2011 Legislative Statement (as of October 26, 2010), was presented and discussed. The statement included initiatives on funding, seatbelts on school buses, shared services, school bus construction standards and other possible legislative changes and concerns.

Dave suggested that last year's amendment of a bill that deals with student transportation issues be presented again during the 2011 legislative session. The amendment provided changes to issues regarding area learning centers, training program, cost of a lift bus for a field trip and loading and unloading of students from a Type III vehicle and other items.

It was suggested that state legislation be adopted that is in line with the National School Bus Standards. Older buses would be grandfathered into the old (existing) standards and new bus purchases would need to be compliant with the new standards.

Dave would like to revisit some of DPS's rules that were previously identified as needing updating. They were presented at a prior OOPTS Stakeholders meeting, and included the Minnesota Statute 169.441, School Bus Identification and 169.445 Cooperation with Law Enforcement; Information; Rules. Lieutenant Ed Carroll will talk to Sergeant Davis about them and bring it up at the next OOPTS meeting.

The MAPT Board brought up and discussed crossing arm requirements at their most recent meeting. The board does not want to move it forward as a legislative requirement, but rather keep it as an optional feature. MSBOA would like it to be a required component. It was mentioned if it was require; it would only be effective as a safety device on Type C buses.

Brad will work with the House Research Committee to draft a legislative amendment version to present at the 2011 legislative session.

**Miscellaneous:** There was a discussion on motor coach seats and that some of them now meet the compartmentalization requirements for transporting students. The group decided to continue the conversation about this topic at the next meeting.

**Future Meetings:** Future meeting dates are:

December 13, 2010 10:30 a.m. -12:00 p.m. Minnesota Department of Public Safety, State Patrol  
1110 Centre Pointe Curve, Mendota Heights, MN 55120

January 26, 2011 Education Conference Ctr A., Rooms 1 & 2, 9:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m.

**Adjourn:** 11:10 a.m.