



**Transportation Issues Study Committee  
The 176th Meeting  
July 28, 2010**

**Next Meeting: September 22, 2010 9:00 a.m. -10:30 a.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  
Jan Vanderwall, Roseville Schools  
John Thomas, Eastern Carver County Schools  
Dave Peterson, St. Paul Schools  
Sergeant Chad Dauffenbach, Minnesota Department of Public Safety (DPS)  
Shelly Jonas, Minnesota School Bus Operators Association (MSBOA)  
Randy Dukek, Rosemount Schools  
Rob Anderson, Minneapolis Schools  
Rich Enga, St. Francis Schools  
Derrick Agate, Hopkins Schools  
Kurt Schumann, First Student Brooklyn Park

**Summary:** The summary of the May Transportation Issues meeting was approved.

**Special Education Transportation Committee:** Nothing to report.

**Minnesota Department of Education:** [The forms and instructions for the Open Enrollment/Charter School and Post Secondary Enrollment Options \(PSEO\) Mileage Reimbursement Program](#) have been posted to the MDE Website. The income levels used to determine eligibility for these programs are the same income guidelines that were in effect during the prior school year.

[The Reference Guide to Special Education and Special Transportation](#) has been posted to the MDE Website. The guide provides information on the differences between special education transportation and special transportation. It contains a frequently asked questions section, a discussion of various situations and who is responsible for transportation costs and how special education and special transportation is funded. The Reference Guide also includes a glossary of terms and a simplified flow chart on MARSS coding.

Kelly explained the Complete Streets Legislation. It was signed into law by Governor Pawlenty as part of the omnibus transportation policy bill during the 2010 legislative session. Complete Streets is a term used to describe transportation planning and design processes that emphasize safety and accessibility for all users of roadways, which includes drivers, pedestrians, transit riders, bicyclists and others, regardless of age or ability.

The Minnesota Council on Transportation Access was established in law during the 2010 legislative session. The council was established to study, evaluate, oversee and make recommendations to improve transportation services provided to the transit public. The council is composed of thirteen members, one of which will be a representative from MDE. One of the many duties assigned to the council is to encourage the use of public school transportation vehicles for the transit public. It was mentioned that the Issues Committee would be interested in a summary of the progress of the council.

There was a discussion about the Minnesota Department of Human Services' (DHS) bulletin "Educational Stability for Children in Foster Care." The bulletin describes the federal Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008. The act was adopted to improve education stability for children in foster care. The act requires child welfare agencies to provide a plan to ensure educational stability for foster children which includes reasonable travel for children to remain in the school in which they are enrolled at the time of placement.

The group had many questions about the act, especially regarding the issue of transportation. Some questions were; who is responsible to provide the transportation, who is eligible to make a claim for reimbursement and how is this different from McKinney Vento Homeless Act?

Kelly will contact Maxie Rockymore, supervisor, Family Support and Placement Services, Child Safety and Permanency Division, DHS to invite her to a future Issues Study Committee Meeting. She may be able to provide some clarification on the subject.

Kelly provided the group with the [Minnesota Physical Activity e-newsletter](#) that the Minnesota Department of Health puts out. The newsletter has information on Safe Routes to School, youth programs, bicycle safety and much more. You can sign up to receive the newsletter by sending an e-mail to [health.activeliving@state.mn.us](mailto:health.activeliving@state.mn.us) and request to receive MN PA e-news. Please include your name, address, and phone number to be added to the database.

Kelly reminded the group that the paper Annual Report on Student Transportation is due to MDE on August 15, 2010.

Metro Transit's DVD video titled "Patience, Bike & Bus Safety" was shown. It provides Metro Transit's views and policies on how they instruct their drivers to drive around bicyclists.

Rob Anderson mentioned that Minneapolis Schools has a curriculum on Safe Walks to Schools. He is willing to share the curriculum with others.

### **Office of Student Transportation Safety:**

Sergeant Chad Dauffenbach reported that some districts and contractors in the southern region of the state continue to struggle with vehicle maintenance issues and maintaining driver files. There was an incident with one district that was cited for several violations, including having an emergency door taped shut and incomplete driver forms. DPS gives fair warning to the districts before they issue citations. DPS is willing to provide assistance and training so that the district can improve their student transportation program. DPS will continue to conduct random inspections and look into driver files in order to get compliance. DPS inspection reports are public information.

Some reasons for noncompliance include: the lack of funds; that often the duties, like maintenance of driver's files is an ad-on responsibility that the person assigned to do the work is not familiar with those tasks or not trained in them.

It was also suggested that key student transportation personnel should attend conferences provided by Minnesota Association of Pupil Transportation (MAPT) and MSBOA to obtain more knowledge on student transportation.

**Legislative:** John Thomas reported that four state specifications that are not entirely in sync with the National Student Transportation Specifications and Procedures (NCST). One is that Minnesota has nine standards relating to battery placement while NCST has only one statement. The second issue is with the amount of black around the lamps and signals. The third is an issue on a fan added to the front windshield. The fourth item is that NCST does not have a standard relating to video camera placement. The suggestion was made to rewrite state law to allow video cameras but only in the front and rear compartments of the bus.

There was a discussion on cameras with recessed lenses although they are not available now. This subject will be discussed further and brought to the Pupil Transportation Stakeholders Meeting in September.

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

September 22, 2010 9:00 a.m. -10:30 a.m. Minnesota Department of Public Safety, State Patrol  
1110 Centre Pointe Curve, Mendota Heights, MN 55120

October 27, 2010 Education Conference Ctr A., Rooms 1 & 2, 9:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m.

**Adjourn:** 11:30 a.m.