



**Transportation Issues Study Committee
The 180th Meeting
April 27, 2011**

**Next Meeting: May 25, 2011, 9:30 a.m. -11:30 a.m.
CC- 3 and 4, Minnesota Department of Education (MDE)
Roseville, Minnesota 55113**

Present:

Derrick Agate Sr., Hopkins Schools
Fran Wilke, Minnetonka Schools
Jan Vanderwall, Roseville Area Schools
Kelly Wosika, MDE Program Finance/Transportation
John Thomas, Eastern Carver County Schools
Shelly Jonas, Minnesota School Bus Operators Association (MSBOA)
Lieutenant Ed Carroll, Minnesota Department of Public Safety, Minnesota State Patrol (MSP)
Keith Paulson, Anoka-Hennepin School District
Denny Coughlin, School Bus Training Company
David Peterson, St. Paul Schools

Summary: The summary of the November and February Transportation Issues meetings were approved.

Special Education Transportation and School Bus Safety Committees: The April School Bus Safety Committee and the Special Education Transportation Committee meetings were held at the Anoka-Hennepin School District. The School Bus Safety Committee selected the winners of the poster contest. Cindy McKay will work on presenting the awards to the students. The Special Education Transportation Committee selected the winners of the Special Education School Bus Driver and Assistant Awards. Kristen Johnson will work on presenting the awards to the recipients.

The next meeting for the two groups will be held at the Pine City School District in May. There will be a discussion how the joined meeting at various locations across the state is working out and if this practice should be continued next year.

Office of Student Transportation Safety: The next Office of Student Transportation Safety Stakeholders (OOPTS) meeting is scheduled for May 2, 2011, at 9:00 a.m. It will be held at the Minnesota State Patrol Office in Mendota Heights.

About 80 carriers responded to the Stop Arm Violation Survey. Sergeant Chad Dauffenbach will provide the results of the survey once all the data has been submitted, probably in about six months.

Legislative: Dave Peterson provided information from an article Brad Lundell wrote for the Minnesota Association of Pupil Transportation (MAPT). The article touched on student transportation issues that are before the Legislature this year.

The booster seat issue as it relates to Type A buses (HF 1214/SF 1124) has some funding implications for the Department of Public Safety. DPS would be ineligible to receive federal dollars if the language in the bills does not pass. The bills would require that all Type A buses under 10,000 pounds would have to comply with the booster seat law and use a booster seat when transporting small children who require a booster seat when transported in a passenger car.

There is a bill (HF 392/SF 992) requiring that all new buses manufactured for use in Minnesota after January 1, 2012, have a crossing control arm on the front bumper. There have been concerns from the field whether or not a non-working crossing arm would be an offense that puts the bus out of service.

There are a couple of bills in regards to education-related proposals and vehicle and training standards (HF 1179/HF 939/HF 1181) that going to heard during the legislative session.

The cost allocation provision proposed by MAPT has made it to the MDE's omnibus policy bill (HF 1381/SF 1167).

Minnesota Department of Education: FY 2010 Pupil Transportation Statistics on the MDE website. In addition, there are two spreadsheets that include information on cost per student and the total number miles, hours or routes for each district.

Kelly presented a new format of pupil transportation statistics. She is looking for feedback on the value of the information and how to present it in a more user friendly manner. If you have any suggestions on the new format, let Kelly know.

Links to Student Transportation News:

The Nation Center Safe Routes to School is seeking applications for \$1000 grants.

There is a Bicycle and Pedestrian Curricula Guide available to help district provide bicycle and pedestrian safety training at this link: http://www.saferoutespartnership.org/sites/default/files/pdf/Curr_Guide_2011_lo.pdf.

The Safe Routes to School National Conference is scheduled for August 16-18, 2011 at the Minneapolis Convention Center (http://www.saferoutespartnership.org/sites/default/files/pdf/Curr_Guide_2011_lo.pdf). This would be a good conference for school district personnel to attend.

The National School Bus Loading and Unloading Survey on the Kansas State Department of Education website (<http://www.ksde.org/Default.aspx?tabid=346>).

There are a few charter schools that will be opening this fall. Kelly reminded the group to be aware of charter schools that are physically located within their districts. The district should be receiving the Charter School Transportation Survey from the charter school each year. The Survey is the form the charter school uses to inform the district and MDE of their choice on transportation.

Kelly explained that only the trip from the nonpublic school to the site where the student is receiving their special education services is considered special education transportation. The trip to and from the home to the nonpublic school is considered nonpublic student transportation and does not qualify for special education aid entitlement.

District should be sending in their district-owned school bus transaction forms indicating new purchases, trade-ins, sales, etc. so that a complete updated school bus inventory listing will be included when the paper annual report is sent out. Please make sure the form is completely filled out.

It has becoming increasingly difficult for districts to determine what a student's resident district is. There is a new form that districts may use to get help in determining what a student's resident district is. A district should first refer to the MARSS Manual Appendix K and K1. If after referring to the Appendixes, the resident district cannot be determined, the district may submit the form to MDE for assistance.

Future Meetings:

May 25, 2011, 9:30 a.m. -11:30 a.m. Education Conference Center A., Rooms 3 and 4

Adjourn: 11:15 a.m.