



REPORT TO

## CORPORATE SERVICES, STRATEGIC PLANNING AND PROPERTY COMMITTEE

### TORONTO STUDENT TRANSPORTATION GROUP: ANNUAL REPORT 2018-19

*Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God. Romans 13:1*

Created, Draft	First Tabling	Review
March 3, 2020	March 12, 2020	<a href="#">Click here to enter a date.</a>

M. Loberto, Superintendent, Planning and Development Services

#### INFORMATION REPORT

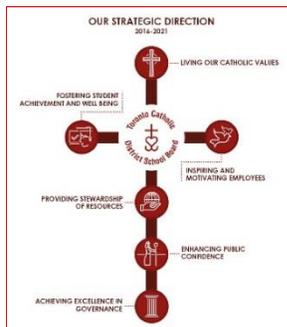
**Vision:**

*At Toronto Catholic we transform the world through witness, faith, innovation and action.*

**Mission:**

*The Toronto Catholic District School Board is an inclusive learning community uniting home, parish and school and rooted in the love of Christ.*

*We educate students to grow in grace and knowledge to lead lives of faith, hope and charity.*



Rory McGuckin  
Director of Education

D. Koenig  
Associate Director  
of Academic Affairs

L. Noronha  
Associate Director of Facilities,  
Business and Community  
Development, and  
Chief Financial Officer

## **A. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

This report provides an overview of the major activities and issues faced by the Toronto Student Transportation Group (TSTG) during the 2018-2019 school year. The attached TSTG annual report (*Appendix 'A'*) provides a summary of pertinent data, Key Performance indicators (KPI), challenges and successes over that same period.

TCDSB Transportation Policy S.T. 01, Evaluation and Metrics stipulates that staff provide an annual report on transportation statistics ranging from operational performance to policy adherence, and to include pertinent Key Performance Indicators (KPI).

*The cumulative staff time required to prepare this report was 5 hours*

## **B. PURPOSE**

1. To provide the Board of Trustees with a summary of data, Key Performance Indicators (KPI), activities, challenges, and successes of the Toronto Student Transportation Group (TSTG) during the 2018-19 school year.
2. This report addresses the requirement for an annual report, as found in **TCDSB Policy S.T.01 Transportation**.

## **C. BACKGROUND**

1. *The 2018-2019 Toronto Student Transportation Group Annual Report summarizes the consortium's activity over the previous school years, and provides information on what is anticipated in the next year.* The annual report was approved at the February 2020 Toronto Student Transportation Group Governance Committee meeting.
2. *2018-19 saw a record number inclement weather days.* The Inclement weather protocol was activated on eight occasions with transportation cancelled on four occasions. Additionally, on several days temperatures reached -30 degrees Celsius leading to difficulties starting diesel busses. Going forward we can expect an increase in year over year variances in inclement weather days due to climate change.

3. *A fire at York Memorial Fire Collegiate Institute on Macy 6, 2019 required the relocation of TSTG offices to the former Our Lady of Mount Carmel facility*, Staff have recently been able to move back to the Trethewey location.

## **A Look Ahead**

### **E-Application**

4. *The TSTG is in the process of rolling out an e-application for student transportation applications.* The software will allow for the seamless transfer of student data between School Boards and the consortium. The new application is expected to be online for September 2020.

### **Cost of Fuel**

5. *The cost of fuel saw a slight decrease year over year following an increase in previous years.* The five year trend shows a slow increase in fuel cost with large yearly variances.

### **Financial**

6. *The TCDSB received a 2018-2019 Transportation Grant of approximately \$25.7 million.* In comparison, The TDSB received a transportation grant from the Ministry of approximately \$53.6 million. The TSTG currently spends \$104 million on transportation services both the TCDSB and TDSB
7. *The gap between transportation expenditure and Ministry grants has continued to widen over the past decade.* The TSTG currently operates at a budget deficit.

### **Programming**

8. *A majority of transportation funding is directed toward student transportation services for students with special needs.* Unique needs, geography and modified program hours are some of the factors impacting transportation for this particular student population.

## **D. EVIDENCE/RESEARCH/ANALYSIS**

### **Key Performance Indicators (KPI)**

1. *The TSTG collects statistics, for the purpose of identifying trends with respect to service level, as part of their annual review of routes.* Technology including GIS Mapping and Google Analytics is integral to the collection of this data.
2. *In the 2018-19 school year the number of open routes (routes without a dedicated permanent driver) averaged 3.1%.* This is an approximately 50% increase in the number of open routes for the 2017-18 school year, which is indicative of the industry wide challenges in hiring and retaining drivers.
3. *In the 2018-19 school year, the spare pool of drivers (drivers without a dedicated permanent route who are employed to backfill regular routes) averaged 8.1%.* Operators are required to meet a minimum of 5% as per contract obligations.
4. *In the 2018-19 school year, the book off rate (drivers who are absent due to illness or personal appointments) averaged 4.7%, a significant increase from the 2.5% average in 2017-18.*
5. *Statistics collected by the consortium reveal that accidents involving school busses are on the rise.* While percentage of incidents in relation to the total number of routes remains quite low, the consortium has hired a new safety officer to work with operators to reduce accident numbers going forward.

**Please refer to the 2018-19 Toronto Student Transportation Group's Annual Report, found in Appendix 'A', for more detail on Key Performance Indicators and other pertinent information.**

6. *The 2018-2019 TCDSB Budget approved two changes to student transportation which will come into effect in September 2020:*
  - Revising the distance eligibility requirement for student transportation from 1.5km to 1.6km; and
  - Changing bell times at International Language Schools to optimize student transportation.

The estimated budget savings associated with these two changes is approximately \$1.8 million.

## **E. METRICS AND ACCOUNTABILITY**

TCDSB will continue to work closely with the Toronto Student Transportation Group to address areas of concern.

## **F. CONCLUDING STATEMENT**

This report is for the consideration of the Board.