



REPORT TO

CORPORATE SERVICES, STRATEGIC PLANNING AND PROPERTY COMMITTEE

TORONTO STUDENT TRANSPORTATION GROUP ANNUAL REPORT 2020-2021

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

Drafted

March 1, 2022

Meeting Date

March 10, 2022

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.



Brendan Browne

Director of Education

Adrian Della Mora

Associate Director of Academic
Affairs & Chief Operating Officer

Derek Boyce

Associate Director of Facilities,
Business & Community Development

Ryan Putnam

Chief Financial Officer & Treasurer

A. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report provides an overview of the major activities and issues faced by the Toronto Student Transportation Group (TSTG) during the 2020-2021 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 2020-21 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 2020-2021 Toronto Student Transportation Group Annual Report summarizes the consortium's activity over the previous school year, and provides information on what is anticipated in the following year.* The annual report was approved at the February 2022 TSTG Governance Committee meeting.
2. *COVID-19 continued to pose unique challenges leading up to and throughout the school year.* Uncertainty surrounding the format of a return to in-class learning and the accompanying restrictions delayed much of the Transportation planning that takes place from March to July of any given school year to the final weeks of the summer of 2020. Throughout the year, COVID-19 cases on buses mirrored case rates throughout the

broader community. There were however, no confirmed cases of spread on buses themselves.

3. ***The phasing-in of student transportation service in September 2020 proved to be a success.*** To ensure a smooth delivery of service in the opening weeks of September 2020, bus service was phased in beginning with students with special education needs prior to service beginning for all eligible students. Feedback from families, schools and bus operators was overwhelmingly positive and the phased-in approach was retained for the 2021-2022 school year.

Cost of Fuel

4. ***The cost of fuel saw an increase year over year following a year of reduced demand due to Covid-19.*** The five year trend continues to show a slow increase in fuel cost with large yearly variances. It is anticipated that fuel costs will rise in the near future due to current world events.

Financial

5. ***The TCDSB received a 2020-2021 Transportation Grant of approximately \$33.1 million.*** In comparison, The TDSB received a transportation grant from the Ministry of approximately \$63.4 million. The TSTG spent \$89 million of a \$110 million budget on transportation services for both the TCDSB and TDSB. The savings in 2020-2021 were derived from a combination of one-time grants and paying operators at an 85% rate during periods of remote learning. Additionally, bell time adjustments at TSDB schools generated substantial savings over previous years.
6. ***2020-2021 was an anomaly in that the gap between transportation expenditure and Ministry grants did not widen.*** Historically the TCDSB has been underfunded in comparison to transportation expenditures.

Programming

7. ***A majority of transportation funding is directed toward student transportation services for students with special education needs.*** Unique needs, geography and modified program hours are some of the factors impacting transportation for the 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. *Traffic remains the leading source of delays.* Driver absences and mechanical breakdown are the second and third leading causes of delay.
3. *High driver turnover and difficulty retaining drivers remain a challenge across the industry.* The tight labour market and part time nature of the work are also challenges in recruiting and retaining new drivers. Two carriers reported annual turnover over 10%.
4. *Route time, or the time a student spends on the bus each day, is an area of concern.* As many students are transported great distances to attend specific programs, they spend significant amounts of time on the bus. In 2020-2021, over 50% of students spent an average of an hour or more on the bus each day.
5. *Statistics collected by the consortium reveal that accidents involving school busses are down, but experience significant year over year fluctuation.* While percentage of incidents in relation to the total number of routes remains quite low, the consortium retains a safety officer to work with operators to reduce accident numbers going forward.

Please refer to the 2020-21 Toronto Student Transportation Group's Annual Report, found in Appendix 'A', for more detail on Key Performance Indicators and other pertinent information.

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 information of the Board.