



REPORT TO

CORPORATE SERVICES, STRATEGIC PLANNING AND PROPERTY COMMITTEE

TORONTO STUDENT TRANSPORTATION GROUP ANNUAL REPORT 2021-2022

“And people will come from east and west, and from north and south, and recline at table in the kingdom of God.” Luke 13:29

Drafted	Meeting Date
March 1, 2023	March 22, 2023
J. Howley, Sr. Manager, Planning and Accountability M. Loberto, Superintendent, Planning and Development Services	

INFORMATION REPORT

Vision: *IN GOD'S IMAGE: Growing in Knowledge, with Justice and Hope.*

Mission: *Nurturing the faith development and academic excellence of our Catholic learning community through the love of God, neighbour, and self.*



MULTI-YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN
2022 - 2025

IN GOD'S IMAGE: Growing in Knowledge, with Justice and Hope



Brendan Browne
Director of Education

Adrian Della Mora
Associate Director of Academic
Affairs & Chief Operating Officer

Derek Boyce
Associate Director of Corporate
Services and Chief Commercial Officer

Ryan Putnam
Chief Financial Officer and 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 2021-2022 school year, as required by *Policy S.T. 01 Transportation*. The attached TSTG Annual Report (*Appendix 'A'*) provides a summary of pertinent data, Key Performance Indicators, challenges and successes over that same period.

The cumulative staff time required to prepare this report was 6 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 2021-2022 school year.
2. This report addresses the requirement for an annual report, as outlined in TCDSB *Policy S.T.01 Transportation*.

C. BACKGROUND

1. *The 2021-2022 Toronto Student Transportation Group Annual Report summarizes the activity of the consortium over the previous school year, and provides information on what is anticipated in the following year. The annual report was approved at the February 2023 TSTG Governance Committee meeting.*
2. *The COVID-19 pandemic continued to pose challenges for student transportation and resulted in the temporary suspension of bus routes.* The absence of a sizeable spare pool of drivers resulted in the need to temporarily suspend bus routes for up to a week at a time when drivers caught COVID-19, and there were available spare drivers to cover the service. As a result, over 250 routes were temporarily suspended for up to five days throughout the school year due to drivers testing positive for COVID-19.

Financial

3. *In 2021-2022, the cost of fuel saw a significant increase* year over year, with the five-year trend continuing to show an increase in fuel cost with large yearly variances with the impact of current world events, *which has negatively impacted the Transportation budget.* Increased fuel costs contributed to a gap in the budget versus the true cost of fuel at the end of the year.

4. ***The TCDSB received a 2021-2022 Transportation Grant of approximately \$33 million.*** In comparison, the TDSB received a transportation grant from the Ministry of approximately \$63 Million. The TSTG had budgeted \$103 million to supply transportation services for both the TCDSB and TDSB in 2021-2022. With continuing issues resulting from COVID-19 and service reductions, expenditures reached approximately \$97 million.

Programming

5. ***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.

Active Transportation

6. ***In partnership with the City of Toronto, an Active Travel Supervisor was hired to help assist families who are not transported via school bus.*** Both school boards have worked with the City of Toronto over the years to address safe student travel. This temporary position is funded by the City, and will work with school communities to identify barriers that inhibit families from choosing active modes of travel for the school commute. The position will also facilitate School Travel Committees, and work within the city and schools to support the Vision Zero mandate of improving safety for all.

D. EVIDENCE/RESEARCH/ANALYSIS

1. ***The TSTG collects statistics to identify 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. ***Driver turnover remains a concern*** as it has risen year over year, resulting in bus companies having to recruit and train more drivers at an accelerated pace.
3. ***Traffic remains the leading source of school bus delays.*** Driver absences is the second leading cause of delays. On time performance was marginally lower in 2021-2022 than it was in 2020-2021.
4. ***Statistics collected by the consortium reveal that accidents involving school busses were up in 2021-2022. These statistics fluctuate greatly year over year.*** TSTG reviews accident statistics with the aim of reducing these occurrences and improving the safety of students in and around the school bus.

5. ***TSTG has initiated the procurement process for the provision of student transportation services to begin in September 2024.*** There is a focus on addressing ongoing issues which affect students and schools. As part of the procurement, there will be further emphasis on driver capacity to meet obligations as well as technology improvements to provide stakeholders with more accurate and timely information on transportation services.

Please refer to the 2021-2022 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.