



Transportation Strategy Engagement Workshop

Sir John A. Macdonald High School

April 7, 2016

7 Participants

Interests	# of Participants
My child takes transportation arranged by the Calgary Board of Education to get to school (yellow school bus, handybus etc.)	6
My child gets to school in another way (walks, private vehicle, public transit etc.)	6
My child attends an alternative program (language, Montessori, science, TLC) or complex needs program	6
I currently have no children in the Calgary Board of Education system	1



Sir John A Macdonald School Flip Chart Summary

Travel Distance

Preserve

- Don't increase it from current.

Flexibility

- K-3, 4-6 different distances?
- Ok to increase it.
- Congregated stops are good.

Bus Ride Time

Flexibility

- No ride times over 60 minutes.
- Average time could increase a little (40mins)



Eligibility for Ridership

Preserve

- Everyone outside of walk zone should be eligible.
- Preserve conditional riders rules.
- Equal opportunity to ride for all (educational philosophy)
- Preserve well-utilized routes for any program.

Flexibility

- If more students on Calgary Transit can the service keep up?
- Middle School (grade 7 and up) ok for transit.
- High School and up.
- Depends on demographics on public transit.
- Consider Edmonton Public's system for alternative programs (bus only for specific area-then can attend but have to get there).

Bell Times

Flexibility

- Some bell times too early for kindergarten.
- Consider appropriate bell times by age/grade.
- Adjust bell times to partner more buses.



Number and Location of Pick-Up Stops

Preserve

- Walk distance.

Flexibility

- Congregated stops work.

Access to Waivers

Preserve

- Maintain waiver system.

Flexibility

- Scalable waiver -> pay what you can.
- Payment plan.
- Pay a reduced fee based on ability to pay.



User Fees

Preserve

- Keep user fees.
- Keep same fees for everyone regardless of program.
- Change the spending model to reflect the funding model.

Flexibility

- Higher fees for alternative program riders. (But shouldn't be more if community school is full.)
- What would the impact of higher fees for alternative be?
- Bring back the transit rebate to increase interest in students on transit.
- Per ride based fees?
- Distance based fees?
- I'm ok to pay more for same/better service.
- Family maximum.

Low Ridership Routes

Flexibility

- When exam breaks for high school, stop the service or use min bus (Jan and June).
- Reduced schedule or mini bus.
- Consider discontinuing routes with less than ? full (explore this) -> based on age/grade.



Two- or Three-Year Implementation Plan for Changes

Flexibility

- Close the gap sooner (all changes at once).
- Longer implementation because of complexity.

Other

Preserve

- Alternative programs are targeted -> they keep community schools from going over capacity, thus bussing regular program students to the alternative locations.
- Discount for early registration.

Flexibility

- Partner with Calgary Catholic.
- Any cost savings in parents providing alternate address for bussing? -> two addresses?
- More partnership with Calgary Transit.
- More notice for bus route information to parents.

Observation

- It is an infrastructure issue too -> Consider that alternative programs keep inner city schools open.



Public and Parents Engagement Evaluation – Sir John A. Macdonald High School

To what extent do you agree with each of the following statements:

P1) I was encouraged to share my thoughts and/or feedback during this engagement.

6 Agree 1 Somewhat Agree 0 Somewhat Disagree 0 Disagree 0 Not Applicable

P2) I was able to ask questions and learn about the opportunity for input/feedback prior to my participation in this engagement.

3 Agree 3 Somewhat Agree 1 Somewhat Disagree 0 Disagree 0 Not Applicable

P3) I had the information I needed to participate in a meaningful way.

5 Agree 2 Somewhat Agree 0 Somewhat Disagree 0 Disagree 0 Not Applicable

P4) I was able to provide input on the best way for me to share my thoughts and ideas.

6 Agree 1 Somewhat Agree 0 Somewhat Disagree 0 Disagree 0 Not Applicable

P5) I clearly understand all of the factors being considered in the decision making process and which of these factors I can and cannot influence.

3 Agree 3 Somewhat Agree 1 Somewhat Disagree 0 Disagree 0 Not Applicable

P6) My input was documented as part of the engagement process.

7 Agree 0 Somewhat Agree 0 Somewhat Disagree 0 Disagree 0 Not Applicable



P7) What did you like most about this engagement?

- Our small format (group only 7 attendees).
- Freedom to give my input without fear or favour.
- Small group – lots of space/time for input.
- Small group allowed for facilitation led which was good. Skilled facilitator.
- External facilitator.
- The way that everyone was able to share their opinions in an open dialogue.

P8) What did you like least about this engagement?

- Nothing.
- Less time as the topics are broad. More of this engagement.
- Wish more parents were involved.
- This topic is so huge and complex –people’s opinions vary greatly based on their situation and location in the city.
- Small group, really surprised by low turnout.
- I was disappointed that more people did not show up.