



Renfrew County Joint Transportation Consortium

Bus News

Fall 2010

Welcome to the second year of the RCJTC "Bus Stop News". This newsletter is intended to be a publication that will be distributed to all stakeholders to keep them informed of all ongoing or upcoming operational items.

Transportation Software Evaluation

During the past few years it has become apparent that transportation software has changed since initial implementations. The modifications/updates have included integration of GPS, notification system via voice or email services, along with secure web portals for all stakeholders to gain access to their own information.

Some of the advantages of these new technologies are:

1. real time observation of where vehicles are at on the route;
2. verification that students got on or off at correct stops;
3. monitor compliance that drivers have walked through the vehicle after each run;
4. notification to stakeholders when vehicles are late/early/cancelled via different media;
5. auto look up features that allow parents and other key stakeholders to know who to call in particular circumstances.

To this end, the Consortium will be evaluating some of the current software available in the market place and making recommendations on next steps.

Staggered Bell Phase II Implementation

Overall, September start up went well. Very few concerns were expressed by stakeholders, considering the magnitude of change in the Arnprior and Renfrew family of schools. Thank you for your cooperation with this successful implementation.

RFP

By the 2012-13 school year, the Ministry expects all boards and consortia to have at the minimum initiated competitive procurement of student transportation services as it will take a full year to go through the process. It is expected that by 2013-2014 all consortia will have implemented their procurement process. An implementation timeline for the transition is included. The Ministry believes that a planned transition timeline is important in terms of building capacity in the system as well supporting an orderly transition across the province.



...the journey of a thousand miles begins with one step

Appendix A – Transition Timeline

	2010												2011												2012												
	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	
Development of Tools and Templates																																					
Orientation																																					
Develop Tools and Templates																																					
Stakeholder Consultations																																					
Presentation on 2-Stage Approach																																					
2-Stage Pilots																																					
Pilot- 2 Stage Option (up to 3 Consortia)																																					Contracts for the 2011/12 school year
Stage 1-pilots																																					
Stage 2-pilots																																					
Evaluation and Lessons Learned																																					
Update/Refine RFP Tools and Templates																																					
Transition Sites (6-8 Consortia)																																					
Declare Procurement Option																																					Contracts for the 2012/13 school year
2-Stage Procurement Option																																					
Stage 1																																					
Stage 2																																					
RFP Option																																					
Sector Wide Training for Remaining Sites																																					
Training for Consortia																																					Contracts for the 2013/14 school year

Two-Stage Procurement Pilots

The Ministry has agreed to provide external procurement expertise to support the development of a two-stage competitive procurement approach for student transportation contracting practices and to provide a supporting resource guide with tools and templates. The Ministry has identified two sites that will participate in a Two-Stage Pilot Project to develop the two-stage process and to test the tools and templates to be developed in support of this approach:

1. North-East Triboard Student Transportation consortium and,
2. Northwestern Ontario region which is comprised of Rainy River Transportation Services, Northwestern Ontario Student Services Cooperative, Student Transportation Services of Thunder Bay, and East of Thunder Bay Transportation Consortium.

Q-Strait Demonstration

We will be hosting a wheelchair securement seminar at the Cobden Fire Hall on Tuesday December 14, 2010. A representative from Q-Strait will be demonstrating current practices on how to ensure that wheelchairs are correctly secured into the vehicles.

Safety Reminder

Make sure after each run drivers walk through their vehicles to ensure there are no passengers left on the vehicle.



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SCHOOL BUSES GO HAND IN HAND IN EDUCATION. THANKS FOR BEING IN PUPIL TRANSPORTATION.



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