

Welcome Task Force Members & Guests

A few notes prior to the meeting starting:

Task Force Members please have your camera on, audio muted, and relevant documents available at the beginning of the meeting.

- Welcome to the public who are watching the meeting via Live Streaming.
- If the public has any questions or comments regarding *transportation operations*, these can be sent via email to Susan Miller at miller_s@cde.state.co.us
- If the public has any questions or comments regarding *transportation funding*, these can be sent via email to Amy Carman at carman_a@cde.state.co.us

SB 23-094 School Transportation Task Force



December 11, 2023

Virtual Meeting

Overview of Today's Agenda

1. Agenda Item #1- Review Decision Making Process
2. Agenda Item #2- Decision on a Path Forward
3. Agenda Item #3- Finalizing Data Collection
4. Agenda Item #4- Next Steps

Guidelines for Interaction, Deliberation and Collaboration

- Respect others
- Cameras on whenever possible
- High engagement from all members
- High level of trust with each other
- Assume positive intent
- Collaborate as a team to benefit our students
- Encourage open dialogue
- Respectful dialogue
- Enable every member to have a voice
- Consider other member's experience and knowledge
- Consider other member's viewpoints
- Avoid assumptions
- Avoid personal or professional motives
- Provide and review topics in advance
- Establish clear agendas and desired outcomes for each meeting
- Develop clear goals and objectives
- Keep the work task and outcome oriented
- Keep the interests of the task force and the needs of the students at the forefront of the work.
- Keep students at the center of the conversation

Key Norm Areas:
Decision Making Norm
Equality of Process
Conflict Resolution

Our Decision Process

1. **Recommendation is stated.** The facilitator will present the current proposal being considered by the group.
2. **Fist to Five Vote is taken.** All Task Force members present vote and all votes are recorded. If all votes are 3 to five, the process proceeds to step 5. If any votes are fist to two, the process proceeds to step 3.
3. **Articulating Concerns/Issues.** All Task Force members who voted fist, one, or two are asked to articulate their concerns and/or issues with the proposal.
4. **Discussion of Concerns/Issues.** Questions, concerns, and issues are discussed and any adjustments to the proposal are made based on discussion. When concerns and issues are resolved either with a change to the proposal or no change, the process re-cycles to step 1.
5. **Restate decision and record results of vote.** The facilitator states "there being no (further) unresolved concerns, then "x" /proposal has approval and a decision has been made".

Fist to Five Voting

The Fist to Five Voting Method

On the count of 1-2-3, everyone simultaneously raises a fist with 0, 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5 fingers extended to express how you feel about the decision.



No way. I don't support this decision and I am vetoing.



I have strong reservations but will support the decision and will not veto.



I am uncomfortable with the decision but can live with it.



This decision is okay with me.



I support this decision.



I strongly support this decision.

Choosing a Path Forward

During our September meeting, a few members expressed concern about the time frames available to meet, discuss, and make meaningful decisions about recommendations that would be proposed in the final report next October.

To address these concerns:

- Developed list of options with the Attorney General's Office.
- We will review the options and discuss pros and cons of each approach.
- You will need to vote and come to consensus on approach moving forward.

Required Recommendations for Final Report

1. ***Simplified reimbursement process*** for school districts
2. ***Sustainable funding mechanisms*** to meet school transportation needs
3. ***Transportation innovation fund*** to support creation of new/innovative transportation solutions
4. ***Facilitating partnerships*** among organizations to meet transportation needs in cost effective way
5. ***Pathways and talent pipelines*** for transportation providers and logistics careers
6. ***Competitive salaries and benefits*** to recruit and retain drivers
7. ***Legislation or rules that improve transportation*** (including recommendations that will not exacerbate the marginalization of communities through separation while protecting public funds with clear accountability and transparency)

Option 1- Monthly Meetings

- Beginning in January, through October the Task Force would hold 3-hour monthly meetings.
- Attorney General's Office reviewed the bill again and indicated that we are legally allowed to meet.
- Short pre-reads would be prepared and shared ahead of each meeting.

Tentative Meeting Topics-

January through April meetings will focus on reviewing topics and identifying minimum expectations.

1. **January Meeting-** Current Transportation Funding Model and Reimbursement Process
2. **February Meeting-** Previously Proposed Innovation Grant Program & Transportation Collaborations Across the State
3. **March Meeting-** Driver Salaries, Benefits and Talent Pipeline Options
4. **April Meeting-** Eligibility, Utilization, Service Gaps

May through September meetings would focus on decision making for final recommendations

4. **May Meeting-** Innovation Grant and Collaborations/Partnerships
5. **June Meeting-** Driver Salaries, Benefits and Developing Talent Pipeline
6. **July Meeting-** Legislative Rule Changes to Improve Transportation Eligibility and Utilization
7. **August Meeting-** Funding Model and Reimbursement Process
8. **September Meeting-** Finalize Recommendations
9. **October Meeting-** Review Final Report

Option 2- Pre-Reads Then Monthly Meetings

- **NO meetings January through April.**
- **Extensive pre-reads would be prepared each month Jan-April to review topics.**
- **Questions on pre-reads could be submitted through google forms between January and April.**
- **NO other communication regarding the work would be permitted.**
- **Beginning in May 3-hour monthly meetings would be held.**
- **Additionally, there would be one meeting at the beginning of May to level set regarding pre-reads.**

Tentative Schedule-

January through April pre-reads will focus on reviewing topics.

- Current Transportation Funding Model and Reimbursement Process
- Previously Proposed Innovation Grant Program & Transportation Collaborations Across the State
- Driver Salaries, Benefits and Talent Pipeline Options
- Eligibility, Utilization, Service Gaps

May through September meetings would focus on decision making for final recommendations

1. **May Meeting #1-** Catch-up meeting to level set on pre-reads
2. **May Meeting #2-** Innovation Grant and Collaborations/Partnerships
3. **June Meeting-** Driver Salaries, Benefits and Developing Talent Pipeline
4. **July Meeting-** Legislative Rule Changes to Improve Transportation Eligibility and Utilization
5. **August Meeting-** Funding Model and Reimbursement Process
6. **September Meeting-** Finalize Recommendations
7. **October Meeting-** Review Final Report

Option 3- “Mega” Meeting Then Monthly Meetings

- NO meetings January through April.
- NO pre-reads January through April.
- NO communication regarding the work would be permitted.
- A “Mega” meeting would be held at the beginning of May to review all recommendation topics.
- Following the “Mega” meeting, 3-hour meetings would be held monthly.
- An extensive pre-read would be prepared ahead of the May “Mega” meeting.
- Short pre-reads would be prepared and shared ahead of each meeting May through October.

Tentative Schedule-

May “Mega” Meeting Topics

- Current Transportation Funding Model and Reimbursement Process
- Previously Proposed Innovation Grant Program & Transportation Collaborations Across the State
- Driver Salaries, Benefits and Talent Pipeline Options
- Eligibility, Utilization, Service Gaps

May through September meetings would focus on decision making for final recommendations

1. **May Meeting-** Innovation Grant and Collaborations/Partnerships
2. **June Meeting-** Driver Salaries, Benefits and Developing Talent Pipeline
3. **July Meeting-** Legislative Rule Changes to Improve Transportation Eligibility and Utilization
4. **August Meeting-** Funding Model and Reimbursement Process
5. **September Meeting-** Finalize Recommendations
6. **October Meeting-** Review Final Report

Option 4- More Frequent Meetings

- **NO meetings January through April.**
- **NO pre-reads January through April.**
- **NO communication regarding the work would be permitted.**
- **Two-Three, 3-hour meetings would be held each month from May through October.**
- **Short pre-reads would be prepared and shared ahead of each meeting May through October.**

Tentative Schedule-

1. **May Meeting #1** Intro Meeting
2. **May Meeting #2** Review Innovation and Collaboration
3. **May Meeting #3** Review Drivers salaries, benefits, and pipelines
4. **June Meeting #1** Decision on Innovation, Collaboration, and Drivers needs
5. **June Meeting #2** Review Eligibility and Utilization from Parents Perspective
6. **July Meeting #1** Review Eligibility and Utilization from District Perspective
7. **July Meeting #2** Decision on Eligibility and Utilization needs to help address service gaps.
8. **August Meeting #1** Review current reimbursement process and funding model, as well as funding models from other states.
9. **August Meeting #2** Decision on changes to funding model and reimbursement process.
10. **September Meeting #1** Finalize Decisions
11. **September Meeting #2** Finalize Recommendations
12. **October Meeting** Review Final Report

Decision Needed

The Task Force must come to consensus on how we will proceed moving forward.

- Review any questions regarding options
- Vote on each option (Fist to Five) using the chat
- If you are voting Fist please include your concerns with the vote
- Winning option will be determined by totaling all votes

Option 1: Monthly meetings

Option 2: Pre-reads then monthly meetings

Option 3: “Mega” meeting then monthly meetings

Option 4: More frequent meetings

Break



Data Collection Considerations

THE PURPOSE OF THE COLORADO SCHOOL TRANSPORTATION MODERNIZATION TASK FORCE IS TO *STUDY THE ISSUES FACING SCHOOL TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS* AND USE THE STUDY'S FINDINGS TO *DEVELOP AND RECOMMEND POLICIES, LAWS, AND RULES TO IMPROVE PUBLIC SCHOOL TRANSPORTATION ACROSS THE STATE IN ORDER TO BETTER MEET STUDENT NEEDS AND ALLEVIATE BURDENS ON SCHOOL DISTRICTS.*

- What does the bill require and ask for the Task Force to do and consider?
- How can we maximize participation regarding data collection?
- How can we ensure consistent data collection?
- How can we develop a picture of the entire state?
- What data is needed to enable good decision making?
- What is the data that is needed to drive the best solution?

Required Data for Consideration

1. Student Eligibility
2. Student Utilization
3. Service Gaps
4. Driver Staffing Levels
5. Fleet Diversification
6. Funding

Student Eligibility

22-107-104(1)(a):

Student Eligibility including factors used by school districts and charter schools to determine eligibility for transportation and whether the factors used create barriers for students to attend their school district-assigned neighborhood public school, public school of choice, or career pathways programs.

- Parent Survey
- CDE Data Request
- District/Charter Data Request

Student Utilization

22-107-104(1)(b):

Student Utilization including how many eligible students utilize school transportation, whether routes are at capacity, and methodologies used by school districts and charter schools to identify utilization patterns and adjust operations accordingly.

- Parent Survey
- CDE Data Request
- District/Charter Data Request

Service Gaps

22-107-104(1)(e):

Service Gaps including identifying discrepancies between eligible students and utilization, and causes of those discrepancies.

- Parent Survey
- District/Charter Data Request

Break



Driver Staffing Levels

22-107-104(1)(c):

Driver Staffing Levels including staffing required to cover routes, driver pay rates, hours of operation, vacancies, and whether and how school districts and charter schools contract with public transportation providers or alternative transportation providers to satisfy school transportation needs.

- Driver Survey
- CDE Data Request
- District/Charter Data Request

Fleet Diversification

22-107-104-(1)(d):

Fleet Diversification including the types of buses or vehicles used to satisfy school transportation needs and costs associated with each type of bus and vehicle used and including for each type of bus and vehicle used, electrification options, fuel costs, maintenance costs, purchase prices, resale values, and salvage values.

- CDE Data Request
- District/Charter Data Request

Funding

22-107-104-(2)(c):

Funding identification of existing and potential funding sources for providing school transportation.

- Parent Survey
- Driver Survey
- CDE Data Request
- District/Charter Data Request

Next Steps

- When will we be meeting again?
- What will take place between now and then?

Thank You!!