

# SERVICE DELIVERY PROJECT

Transportation

Frequently Asked Questions

August 2015



Ministry of  
Education

# Frequently Asked Questions

## 1. What is the “Service Delivery Project”?

The Service Delivery Project is an effort to find additional savings and efficiencies through shared delivery of services across BC school districts. The Ministry of Education, school districts, and partners are working collaboratively, identifying opportunities in employment and labour matters, attendance support and wellness, facilities and transportation, and procurement. More information is available on the [Service Delivery Project website](#).

## 2. What is the objective of the Transportation Project?

The purpose of the transportation project is to identify potential cost saving opportunities in transportation procurement and delivery which may be considered and evaluated by the Transportation Working Group and ultimately recommended to government for implementation. The scope of potential capital and operating cost saving opportunities related to school transportation, that will be researched and evaluated include:

→ Collaboration between school district/partners/ministries:

-Joint Operations: To identify opportunities where school districts would benefit from sharing facilities (e.g. facility sharing, fuel tanks, field, shop, mechanics, routing software) with other districts, municipalities, or partners and other opportunities, as identified.

→ Bulk Purchasing: To identify opportunities where the aggregate spend of transportation commodities (e.g. fuel, tires) are significant and where there is sector demand. Note: the newly formed Interim Procurement Entity would procure the opportunities on behalf of the K-12 sector; the TWG is only identifying the opportunities.

→ Centre of Excellence: To share best practices (e.g. moving bell times, guidelines), knowledge and training amongst school districts.

→ Legislation: To review existing transportation legislation and identify possible legislative barriers that precludes viable alternative transportation options from being pursued. The focus will be to determine if the legislative framework surrounding student transportation services inadvertently adds unnecessary costs and or precludes lower cost options from being utilized.

### 3. Who is participating on the Transportation Working Group (TWG)?

The TWG will have representatives from:

- Working Group lead;
- One representative from the BC Association of School Superintendents (BCSSA);
- Three representatives from the BC Association of School District Business Officials (BCASBO);
- Two or three representatives from the Association of School Transportation Services of BC (ASTSBC);
- One ad-hoc representative from the Ministry of Education Capital Management Branch; and
- One representative from the Ministry of Transportation (with responsibility for BC Transit).

The TWG members are:

Gerry Slykhuis, Secretary-Treasurer, SD33, Chilliwack  
Nicolas Weswick, Secretary-Treasurer, SD46, Sunshine Coast  
Darleen Patterson, Director of Finance, SD57, Prince George  
Dave Sloan, Superintendent, SD60, Peace River North  
Dave Mell, Manager of Transportation/VP of ASTSBC, SD73, Kamloops/Thompson  
Frank Marasco, Manager, Responsible for Transportation, SD83, North Okanagan-Shuswap  
Robyn Stephenson, Transportation Supervisor Manager/President of ASTSBC, SD22, Vernon  
Tracey Syrota, Transportation Manager, SD91, Nechako Lakes  
Levi Timmermans, Manager of BC Transit Initiatives, Ministry of Transportation  
Tammy Blair, Project Director, Ministry of Education

The working group will utilize additional resources from the broader public sector, municipal and other agencies as needed.

### 4. What is the deliverable of the Transportation Project?

The TWG will prepare a final report of transportation recommendations, including pilots and strategies for the sector. The report will include the learnings from an environmental scan, data from the school districts on student transportation (e.g. route management, joint operations opportunities) as well as clear operational plans for implementation to more efficiently and effectively deliver transportation services to the sector. A report will be provided to the Service Delivery Project Steering Committee, school districts and the Ministry of Education by March 2016.

**5. How can school districts provide input to the recommended transportation pilot and strategies for the sector?**

In the summer 2015, a data collection form was sent to school districts for input. Data analysis will occur over the beginning of fall followed by engagement with the sector. All input and recommendations will be shared for discussion with the TWG.

**6. What are the principles the TWG are using to help them evaluate options being considered?**

The TWG will apply the following principles or critical factors to evaluate any options being considered:

- ➔ Student safety, from bus stop to school (and return);
- ➔ Local government and boards of education autonomy;
- ➔ Flexibility, recognizing the variable conditions and location considerations (geographic, topographic, climatic) of school districts;
- ➔ Cost efficiency to benefit all stakeholders; and
- ➔ Equitable and reasonable access to transportation.

**7. What are the proposed benefits of the Transportation Project for school districts that do not offer school bus services?**

All school districts provide transportation services or assistance to at least some students (special needs, extracurricular, transit pass, or transportation assistance funding. Joint operations or administrative opportunities may become available to even districts where school bus transportation is not provided. Parts and servicing savings for maintenance fleets may also accrue to all districts as part of the TWG recommendations.

Non-transporting districts will be able to provide valuable input to the TWG based on their policies and experience, and may benefit from a Centre of Excellence model for best practices or goods and services supply.