

Regular Board Meeting – October 18, 2011

**SUBJECT: TRANSPORTATION SERVICES**

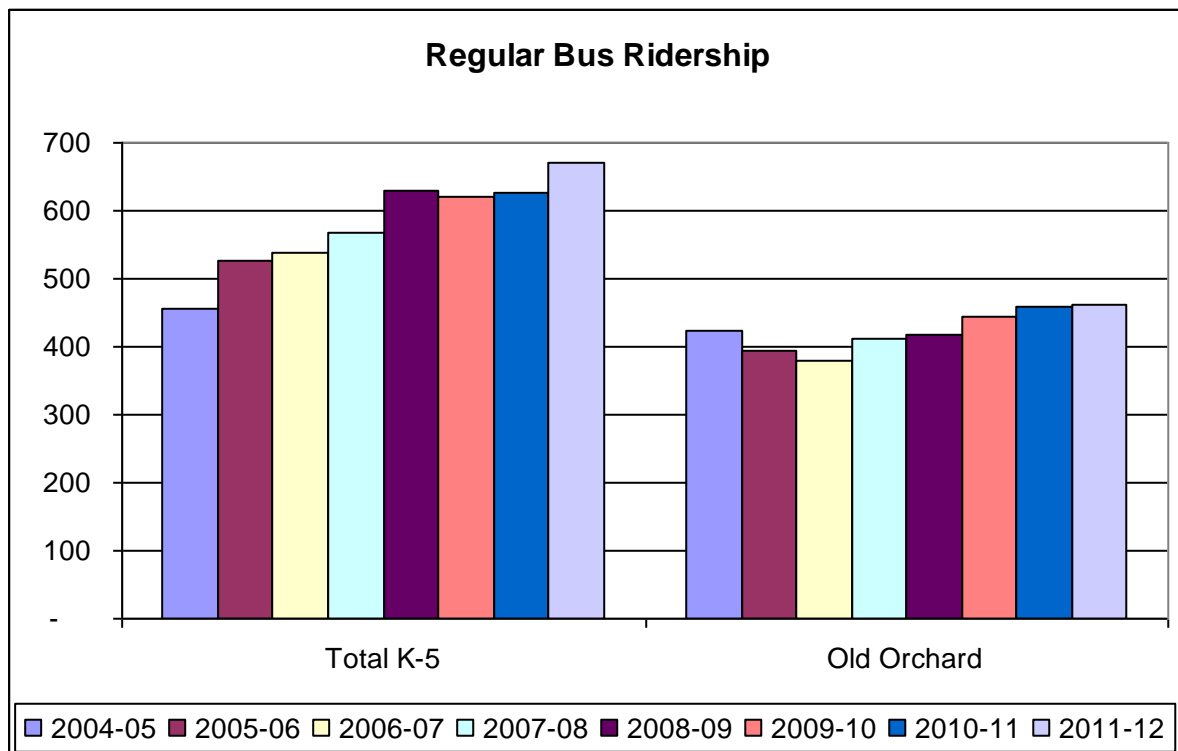
District 68 is committed to providing safe, timely, efficient, and courteous bus transportation services to eligible students. We operate our own bussing system, supplemented by contract services for some special education students based on location and need.

The program is primarily supported by tax revenue, with student fees providing approximately 5% of total revenue. Students who live over 1.5 miles from school or in a hazardous zone receive free bus service. Beginning in 2007, students eligible for free or reduced lunch are also eligible for free or reduced bus fees. We receive virtually no state support for regular bussing but we do receive nearly 30% of total revenue from the state for special education transportation.

Ridership on district busses has increased significantly over the last several years, particularly at the elementary schools.

**Total Ridership**

|                          | <u>2004-05</u> | <u>2005-06</u> | <u>2006-07</u> | <u>2007-08</u> | <u>2008-09</u> | <u>2009-10</u> | <u>2010-11</u> | <u>2011-12</u> |
|--------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Devonshire               | 104            | 154            | 145            | 163            | 170            | 172            | 168            | 203            |
| Highland                 | 251            | 244            | 243            | 235            | 269            | 275            | 270            | 241            |
| Stenson                  | 102            | 129            | 149            | 171            | 189            | 173            | 187            | 227            |
| <b>Total K-5</b>         | <b>457</b>     | <b>527</b>     | <b>537</b>     | <b>569</b>     | <b>628</b>     | <b>620</b>     | <b>625</b>     | <b>671</b>     |
| <b>Old Orchard</b>       | <b>424</b>     | <b>395</b>     | <b>379</b>     | <b>411</b>     | <b>418</b>     | <b>443</b>     | <b>458</b>     | <b>463</b>     |
| <b>Total Regular Bus</b> | <b>881</b>     | <b>922</b>     | <b>916</b>     | <b>980</b>     | <b>1,046</b>   | <b>1,063</b>   | <b>1,083</b>   | <b>1,134</b>   |
| <b>Spec Ed Bus</b>       | <b>37</b>      | <b>34</b>      | <b>33</b>      | <b>28</b>      | <b>35</b>      | <b>35</b>      | <b>48</b>      | <b>44</b>      |



Our transportation program is staffed with a part-time (10 hours per week) director, a full-time dispatcher who also serves as a substitute bus driver, nine regular full-time drivers, three part-time regular drivers, four special education drivers and four special education bus aides. In addition to the regular bus runs, full-time drivers provide early morning service to OOJH and after school activity bussing at all four schools as well as special mid-day shuttles including gifted and ELL.

The district provides special education bus service to our four schools as well as the Molloy Special Education Center in Morton Grove. In some years we have also provided transportation for our students receiving special services in other township schools. Students who need wheelchair accessible transportation or other specialized services are transported by Positive Connections through a contract with NTDSE. Transportation for students in therapeutic day schools is provided through contract bussing and taxi service.

Except for the addition of special education bus aides, staffing has been constant for a number of years, with 12 regular bus runs at the K-5 schools, 11 at OOJH, and 4 special education runs. The significant increase in ridership, especially at the K-5 level, has put a strain on our current system, both in terms of available bus seats and in run times. This was exacerbated by the need for busses to arrive in time for breakfast at each school and the increasing number of child care students riding from the K-5 schools to the ECC each afternoon.

The recent move of afterschool care from the ECC to the K-5 schools has eased the afternoon routes and allowed for some rebalancing of routes to decrease run times; however, we are currently running at capacity on most bus routes in terms of both ridership and run time. We are beginning initial planning for the 2012-2013 school year to determine whether we will need to recommend additional runs or are able to achieve enough efficiencies to continue with the current staffing. At this time, the leasing of another 71-passenger bus is on hold until we better determine our long-term needs.