

# Transportation Information Meeting

May 4, 2016

## Agenda

1. Welcome & Opening Remarks
2. District Strategy
3. Overview of our Transportation Services
4. Historical Context & Financial Information
5. Budget Planning for 2016-17
6. Review of Transportation
7. Changes for 2016-17
8. Future of Student Transportation services
9. Questionnaire

## Abbotsford Board of Education Strategic Plan 2014-2018



## Overview of Transportation Services

- 43 routes
- Almost 2,800 students transported daily (15% of student population)
  - 1498 regular riders
  - 1224 out of catchment (choice) riders
- Board Policy 17 – Conveyance of Students
- \$3.1 million in expenses, \$0.4 million in user fees

- **Policy 17 – Conveyance of Students**
  - **Eligibility Criteria:**
    - Elem/Middle walk limits - 4.0km to nearest school
    - Secondary walk limits of - 4.8km to nearest school
    - Fees may be charged
    - Out of catchment may apply for service
    - Fees will be charged

### **Ministry Funding – Transportation Funding Supplement**

- From 2002-03 to 2009-10 – no change in funding or changes to how the funding supplement was calculated
- 2010-11 – 2.58% increase in funding
- 2012-13 – elimination of Transportation Funding
  - Additional funding provided in Supplements for Unique Geographic Factors – Student Location

- **2010-11 School Year**

- Types of Riders

- Eligible

- Those living outside the walk limits (4.0km Elem, 4.8km Mid/Sec)
- No fees charged

- Non-eligible (courtesy riders)

- Those living within the walk limits of catchment school
- Annual Fees of \$300/student (\$500/family)

- District Programs & Cross Boundary

- Annual Fees of \$535/student (\$755/family)

- **2012-13 School Year**
  - Types of Riders
    - Eligible
      - Those living outside the walk limits (4.0km Elem, 4.8km Mid/Sec)
      - Annual Fees of \$200/student (\$400/family) (\*starting in 2013-14)
      - No fees for students with special needs
    - Non-eligible (courtesy riders)
      - Those living within the walk limits of catchment school
      - Annual Fees of \$200/student (\$400/family)
    - District Program & Cross Boundary
      - Annual Fees of \$350/student (\$700/family)



- **Changes in 2015-16 School Year**
  - Single rate structure
    - Annual Fees of \$300/student (\$500/family)
  - No fees for students with special needs
  - Walk limits of 4.0 & 4.8km still applicable
  - Distinction between in-catchment and out-of-catchment students

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## Financial Considerations



	Ministry Grants	Costs	User Fees
2009-10	1,949,235	2,552,948	260,062
2010-11	1,999,690	2,652,871	323,646
2011-12	1,999,690	2,575,846	314,540
2012-13	-	3,169,833	264,156
2013-14	-	3,122,374	417,020
2014-15	-	3,103,595	405,518
2015-16	-	2,985,265	446,975
2016-17	-	2,753,839	740,000

### Budget planning for 2016-17

- \$4.3M projected operating deficit in the District
- \$2.7M in net Transportation costs with NO provincial funding
- Transportation identified as one of the discretionary spending areas where savings could be realized

## Review of Transportation Services

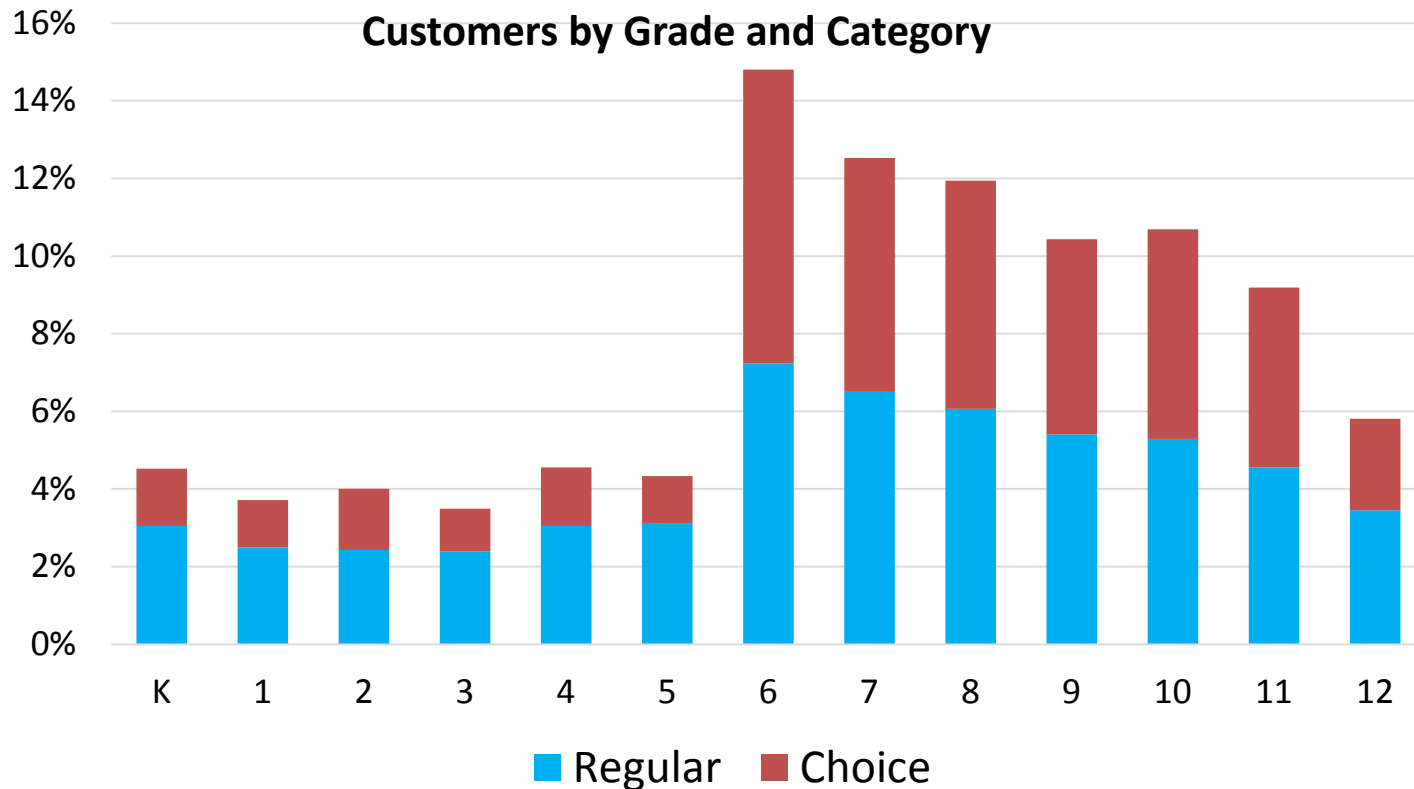
- **Eligibility**
  - Types of riders (Eligible, non-eligible, district program)
- **Efficiency of routes**
  - Ride times, average ridership
- **Walk limits**
  - What are reasonable walk distances to school & bus stops?
- **User Fees**
  - 10-15% waived
  - Approx. \$150,000 in A/R (uncollected)

## Our Transportation Services

- Transportation in the school district has evolved over time in response to the demand for services
- Recent changes to transportation services
  - Broadened fee structure
  - Equalized fees across the various category of Rider

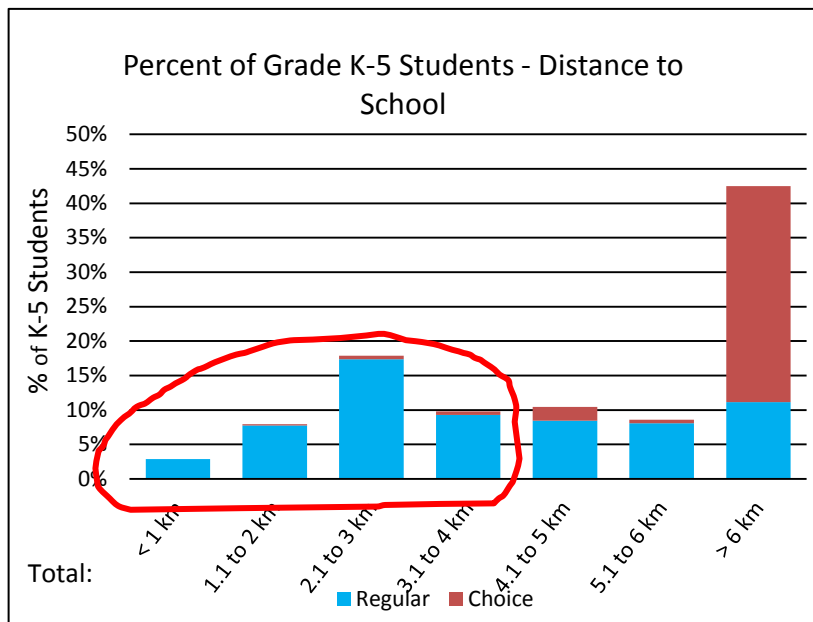
## Ridership

- District Program: 1,224 Students
- Regular: 1,498 Students

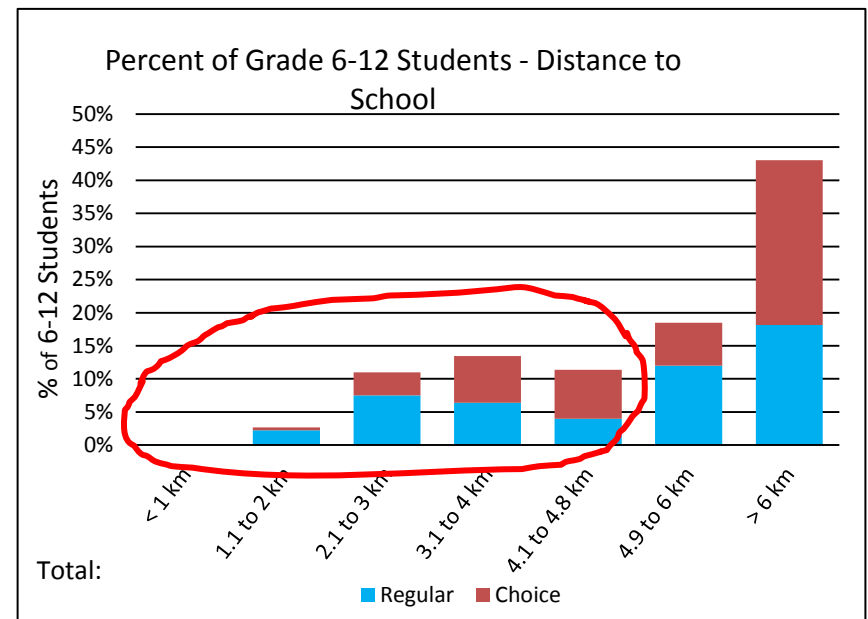


## Distance Analysis:

- Many students live within the 4.0 and 4.8 km parameters
- Students in district programs tend to live further



Approx. 258 students within the red circle



Approx. 792 students within the red circle

## Route Analysis

- Routes are designed to comply with the expanded system:
  - Multiple transfers
  - Multiple shuttles
  - Students riding 2 or 3 different buses
- System accommodates demands by sacrificing efficiencies
  - 50% of runs carry fewer than 30 students
  - <15% of runs carry more than 50 students





## Transportation Budget

- **Objective: Reduce “net” transportation costs**
  - Current net costs \$2.7M
  - **Changes approved in the budget reduce net costs by \$400,000**
    - Increased fees - \$200,000
    - Decreased service levels - \$200,000

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## Budget Considerations



### Transportation Budget

- Increased fees - \$200,000

Transportation Fees	Current (per student/per family)	Proposed for Sep 2016
In catchment – outside walk limits	\$300/\$500	<b>\$400/\$600</b>
Outside walk limits to District Program	\$300/\$500	<b>\$600/\$800</b>

## Transportation Changes – 2016-17

- **Services will be continue for:**
  - Students living outside the policy walk limits to the nearest (catchment) school only.
    - Students within the walk limits may be provided services if space permits
  - Students attending District Programs & who are outside the policy walk limits.
  - Students with special needs.

## Transportation Changes - 2016-17

- **Improved efficiency**
  - Change to walk limits:
    - Elementary/Middle to 3.2Km
    - Secondary to 4.0Km

(Note: Other factors beyond walk limits (eg. hazardous crossings) are considered in determining eligibility for service.)
  - Routes will be re-designed to improve efficiency  
(increase average ridership)

## Transportation Changes - 2016-17

- **Service reductions**
  - Bus routes that do not serve catchment schools or district programs will be eliminated.
  - Proposed change will affect between 125-175 students

### Going Forward - 2016 & beyond.....

- Continued budget pressures may impact future student transportation services in the district
- Changes and/or reductions to service levels may be necessary
  - District Program riders
  - Catchment area riders
- Increasing user fees
- BC Transit options

**Please complete the  
Transportation Questionnaire at your table.**

**Thank-you for attending!**

## Transportation Questionnaire

- Please complete the Transportation Questionnaire at your table.

**Thank-you for attending!**