

## Organization of Department

Alan Anders, Director of Transportation

Karen Eaton, Assistant Director, Mayde Creek Center

Alan Tomlinson, Assistant Director, Franz Road Center

Jim Porter, Site Supervisor and District Router, South Transportation Satellite Center

- Total department staff comprised of 566 employees
  - Includes bus drivers, bus attendants, driver managers, lead drivers, routers (both regular ed and special needs), radio dispatch operators, nursery attendants, mechanics, partsmen, secretary and financial clerk
- In addition, there are 355 teacher/drivers (such as coaches)

## Purpose

The Transportation Department is dedicated to providing safe, on-time and efficient transport to the students in Katy ISD.

## Safety

- **The Bus** – The United States Department of Transportation and the Texas Department of Public Safety have the legal authority and requirement to specify the construction of the bus. A key design feature in the construction is *compartmentalization*. In the event of a crash, compartmentalization provides a compact, protected area surrounding each seat that helps to ensure that passengers are cushioned and contained in an area that can be strong enough to maintain integrity in a crash and yet flexible enough to absorb the energy of the occupant.
- **The Driver** – The United States Department of Transportation and the Texas Department of Public Safety have the legal authority to specify the requirements and conditions to become a school bus driver. KISD drivers average about 8 years of bus driving experience.
- **The Result** – One half of all elementary and secondary students in the U.S. depend on school bus transport. School bus transport in the U.S. is the safest mode of transportation; statistically speaking, it is far safer to travel to and from school in a school bus than it is to walk, ride a bicycle or to travel in a passenger car. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, you are thirteen times safer in a school bus than in a passenger car.

## Department Facts

- **Facilities** – Three transportation centers – one is located on Franz Road near Katy Junior High. It opened in 1979 and was renovated in 2004. A second center, opened in 1984 and renovated in 2009, is located adjacent to Mayde Creek High School. The third center opened as a satellite facility in January 2011 in the southern area of the District near Rylander Elementary.
- **Fleet** – There are currently 371 regular needs buses and 140 special needs buses. In addition, there are nearly 240 support vehicles used by the various departments in the district that are maintained by the Transportation Department. According to *School Bus Fleet Magazine*, Katy I.S.D. has the 65<sup>th</sup> largest school bus fleet in the U.S. and the 7<sup>th</sup> largest in the State of Texas.
- **Students Transported Per Day** – 58,000 (almost half the enrollment twice a day)
- **Bus Runs and Bus Stops** –
  - **Regular Education** – Daily, around 1,100 bus runs with approximately 8,000 stops
  - **Special Needs** – Daily, nearly 375 bus runs with approximately 1,000 stops
- **Fuel Consumption** – In 2010/11, over 600,000 gallons of low sulfur diesel, or approximately 3,300 gallons per day. In addition, 144,000 gallons of gasoline used annually
- **Miles Driven** (2010-2011) – 2,852,498 Regular Program; 1,403,750 Special Program; 1,506,427 Auxiliary
- **Cost Per Mile** - \$3.25 Regular Program and \$3.39 Special Program
- **Average Age of Bus** – Regular Program Buses – 9.6 years, Special Program Buses – 4.1 years
  - Oldest Bus – 1985 Regular Ed (Bus 164), 1982 Special Ed (Bus 805)

## Challenges

- Hiring and training sufficient drivers. It takes approximately six weeks after hire date to train and certify a bus driver applicant. The successful applicant must pass six written tests and one bus proficiency/driving test administered by the Texas Department of Public Safety, must successfully complete approximately 20 hours of behind-the-wheel training provided by the District and must successfully complete several days of route driving observation by a lead driver. In addition, the applicant must pass the medical physical mandated by the U.S. Department of Transportation.
- Meeting the needs of the various District programs- regular transportation, special needs transportation including extended year services, after-school tutorials, student activity trips, summer school, specialty programs such as bilingual and newcomer, Miller Career/Opportunity Awareness Center/Behavior Transition Program, homeless students, pregnant and parenting students
- Managing increasing and changing ridership needs due to enrollment growth and the opening of new schools
- Managing load levels and bus stops in an efficient manner while meeting the needs of the community
- Maintaining a safe environment in the transport of students participating in the after-school tutorial programs, especially those of elementary age
- Funding the purchase of new buses to accommodate the growth of approximately 2,000 students per year and the replacement of buses at the end of their useful life
- Staffing the ever increasing number of 8,000 activity trips annually; around half of which use multiple buses
- Budgetary restrictions and its potential impact on transportation services