

FWCS Proposed Transportation Adjustments 2015-16

F

W

C

S

Agenda

- Welcome/Introductions
- What to Expect Tonight
- Current Realities
 - Circuit Breaker
 - Impact on Funding
- Proposed Solutions
 - No Transportation Zones
 - New Schedules for Schools
 - Boundaries/Feeder Patterns
- Next Steps
 - What Can You Do?
- Q&A



Welcome/Introductions

- School Board Officers/Members
- Superintendent Dr. Wendy Robinson
- Chief Operations Officer Charles Cammack
- Transportation Director Frank Jackson
- Cabinet Members

What to Expect Tonight

- Why is Transportation an Issue?
- Focus will be on Feeder Area
- Timeline for Individual Information
- Suggestions on How to be Involved
- Examine Boundary Maps
- Opportunity to Ask Questions

Current Realities

- Circuit Breaker
- Impact on Transportation Funding
- Sounding the Alarm

Circuit Breaker

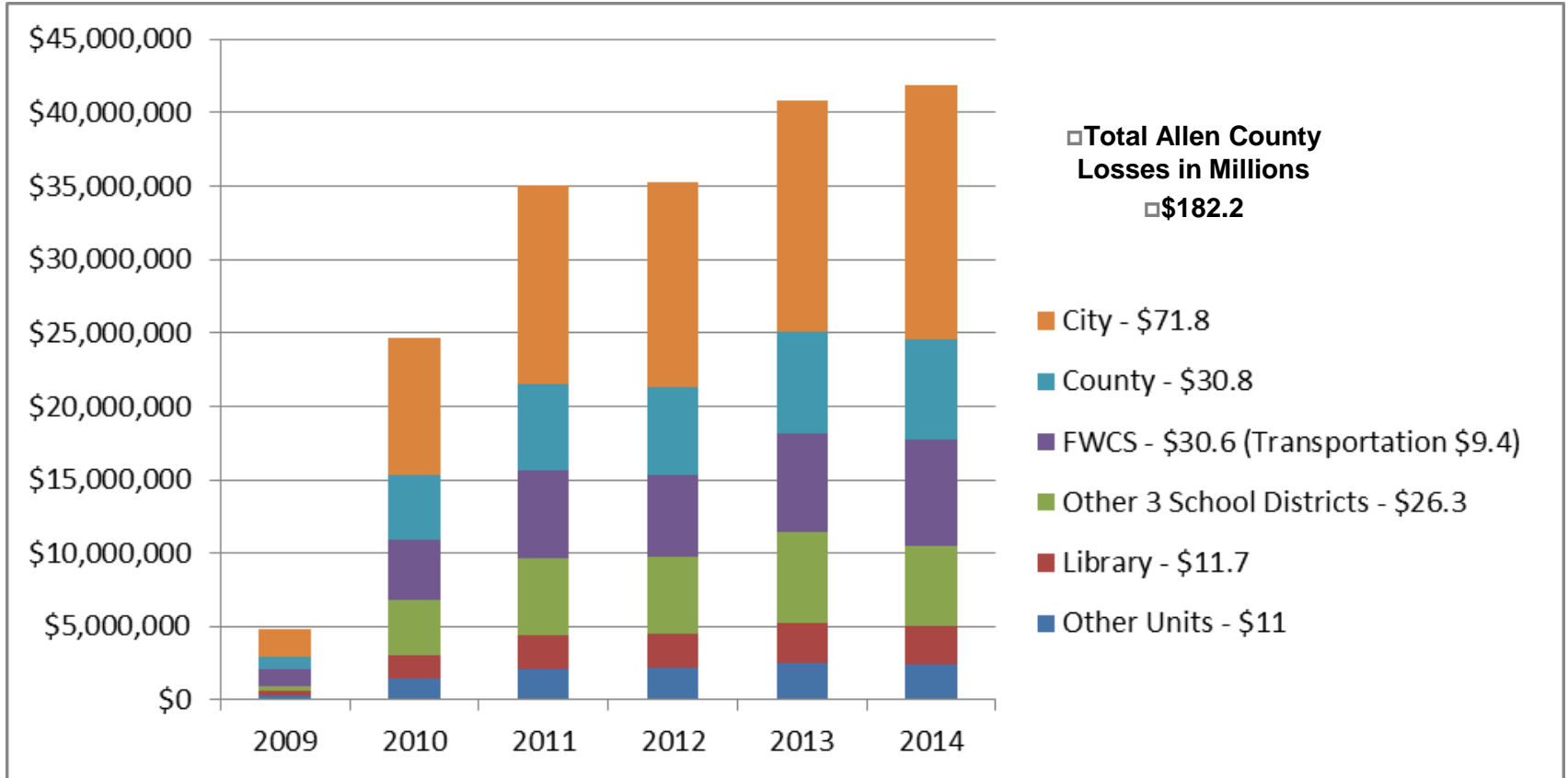
- Property tax caps (Circuit Breaker) were passed by Indiana legislators in 2008
- Approved by voters in 2010 to be permanent (Constitutional)
- **Limits property taxes to a percent of assessed value**
 - 1% for homestead properties
 - 2% for rentals, agricultural
 - 3% for non-residential
- **The amount over the limit *is not paid* and all government units share the loss proportionately**

Impact on Transportation Funding

- Since 2009, the Circuit Breaker has prohibited FWCS from collecting more than \$9 million for Transportation. This is expected to double by 2017.
- **FWCS must reduce Transportation spending by \$2.5 million annually.**

Less funding = fewer services

Circuit Breaker Impact



Sounding the Alarm

- Jan. 2008: Public Hearing at South Side High School on Circuit Breaker
 - “The sad thing is, we will wake up 5 or 10 years from now realizing the effect...” Dr. Wendy Robinson
- March 2008: Kathy Friend quoted in a story saying Circuit Breaker will have a direct effect on Transportation and could result in students living more than a mile or more from school no longer receiving bus services
- Budget Presentation every year included impact of Circuit Breaker

Can We Pay Another Way?

Buckets funded by property taxes are reduced by Circuit Breaker.

Buckets *cannot* be mixed and *should not* be mixed.



- Transportation
- Bus Replacement
- Capital Projects
- Racial Balance
- Debt



- Most teachers
- Administration
- Utilities
- Insurance
- Supplies



- Special Ed
- Title I
- ELL
- Other

We Are Not Alone

Short on funds, Indiana district cuts buses, lengthens routes

Franklin Township Bus Lawsuit Goes To Supreme Court

SACS bus cuts effective this fall
Homestead, Summit students see change

New state law might idle school bus fleets

Tax caps hindering schools
Districts fall behind in replacing buses; some consider ending service

Muncie schools scramble to keep buses running

Proposed Solutions

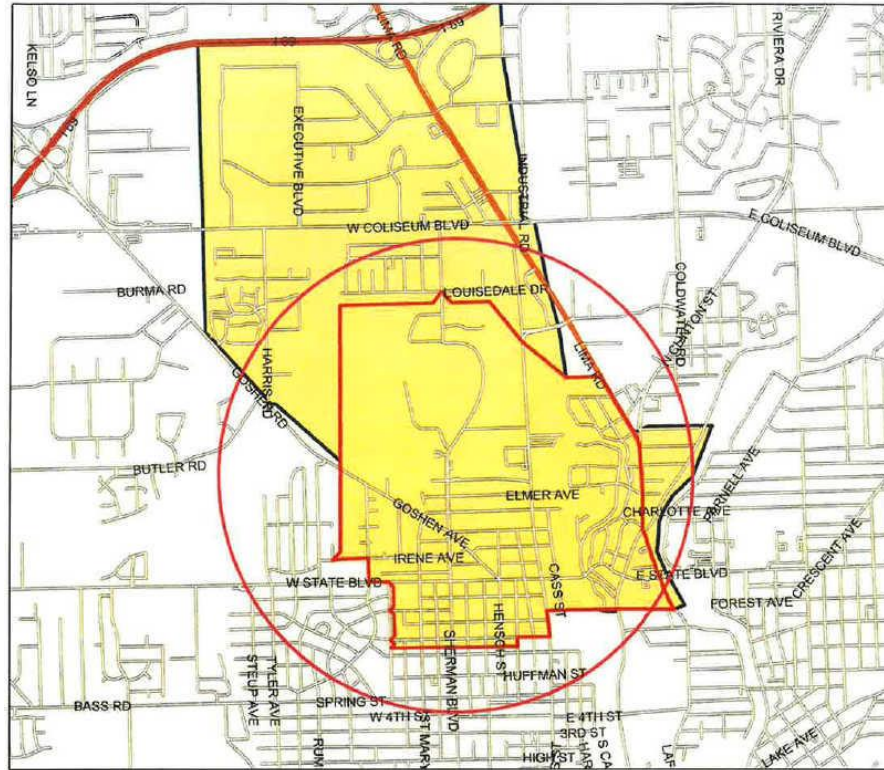
- Other Funding Options
- Parents Paying – Not Allowed by Law
- No Transportation Zones
- Boundary/Feeder Adjustments
- Three-tiered Schedule

No Transportation Zone

Board Policy: Operations 8600.01

- The following students are eligible for transportation:
 - **Elementary students** residing beyond a **1-mile** radius from the school they attend
 - **Middle school students** residing beyond a **1.5-mile** radius from the school they attend
 - **High school students** residing beyond a **2-mile** radius from the school they attend

Elementary Example



No Transportation Zone

- Transportation **will continue** for Magnet schools and High School Programs of Study for students living outside the established No Transportation Zone (NTZ).
- Transportation **will not** be provided if a transfer to a non-magnet school is granted. (Intra-district Transfer – IDT)
- Adjustments to NTZ boundaries were made taking safety, major roads and housing additions into consideration.



No Transportation Zone

- Total students transported: 20,912
- Expected reduction in student riders: 4,000-6,000

Boundary/Feeder Adjustments

South Side/Wayne

- **Mariner's Ridge/Pheasant Run Neighborhoods**
 - **Current feeder pattern:** Harrison Hill, Kekionga, South Side
 - **New feeder pattern:** Maplewood, Miami, Wayne
- **Waynedale**
 - **Current feeder pattern:** Waynedale, Kekionga or Miami, South Side or Wayne
 - **New feeder pattern:** Waynedale, Portage or Miami, Wayne

Boundary/Feeder Adjustments

North Side/Northrop

- **Price**
 - **Current feeder pattern:** Price, Portage or Northwood, North Side or Northrop
 - **New feeder pattern:** Price, Northwood, North Side or Northrop
- **Holland**
 - **Current feeder pattern:** Holland, Northwood or Jefferson, North Side or Northrop
 - **New feeder pattern:** Holland, Jefferson, Northrop
 - Creates universal feeder pattern for all Holland students

New Three-Tier Schedule

Middle Schools

7:20 a.m. – 2:15 p.m.

Elementary Schools

8:20 a.m. – 2:55 p.m.

High Schools

9:05 a.m. – 4:10 p.m.

- Times for schools on special schedules to be determined (*Bunche, Towles, Memorial Park, Anthis, Ward*)

FWCS Next Steps

- FWCS Board Reviews & Approves Plan (Jan. 26)
- Letter to Parents (End of Month)
- Proposed Savings at \$2 million annually – Need to get to \$2.5 million annually
- Other Issues Still Being Examined
 - Start times for specific programs
 - Transportation for day cares
 - Transportation for students with different a.m./p.m. stops or different stops on different days

What Can You Do?

Investigate Options within FWCS:

- **Tuesday Tours:**
 - o **Jan. 20, 27**
 - Elementary Schools: 9-11 a.m. & 1-3 p.m.
(Bunche & Towles—8:30-10:30 a.m. & noon-2 p.m.)
 - Middle and High Schools: 8-10 a.m.
- **Assignment application deadline: Friday, Feb. 6**
- **Lottery: Friday, Feb. 27**

- **Work with PTAs** and other parents to explore car pools/walking groups

- **Examine boundary maps**; specific information for families will be mailed as soon as information is accurate
 - Maps will be posted online at www.fortwayneschools.org


- **Watch for individual letters** to be sent at end of January – **READ YOUR LETTER**

What Can You Do?

- **Contact Your Legislators!** They listen to parents.
- Urge legislators to find a **sustainable** solution.
- Not sure who to contact?
 - www.fortwayneschools.org
 - Click on Community Tab
- Check FWCS website for updates throughout the legislative session



Summary

- Indiana Legislators limited our ability to generate funds to sustain the current level of transportation services
- FWCS cannot fix the issue long-term with other funds
- Be an active part of implementing the necessary change
- School assignment may change – READ YOUR LETTER (1 per child)
- Stay Connected: www.fortwayneschools.org
- Submit questions through  Let's Talk!
- Transportation Hotline: 467-1907

Q & A