

Transportation 2015-16

F

W

C

S

Agenda

- Welcome/Introductions
- Purpose of Tonight's Meeting
- How Did We Get Here?
- What are Our Options?
- Following Policy/Procedures/Guidelines
- Future Meetings
- Important Dates
- Contact Your Legislators

F

W

C

S

Welcome/Introductions

- Superintendent Dr. Wendy Robinson
- Chief Operations Officer Charles Cammack
- Transportation Director Frank Jackson

F

W

C

S

Welcome/Introductions

- Chief Financial Officer Kathy Friend
- Chief Academic Officer Tracy Williams
- Assistant Superintendent – Secondary, Debra Faye Williams-Robbins
- Assistant Superintendent – Secondary, Rita Turflinger
- Assistant Superintendent – Elementary, Pam Musick
- Assistant to the Superintendent for Strategic Initiatives – Laura Cain

Purpose of Tonight's Meeting

- Share how State Legislative decisions have affected Transportation finances.
- Share how these Legislative actions now make it necessary to reduce services, affecting families.
- Share next steps for families and support provided by FWCS.

F

W

C

S

How Did We Get Here?

- Property tax caps (Circuit Breaker) were passed by Indiana legislators in 2008.
- 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.**

F W C S

How Did We Get Here?

Indiana Circuit Breaker

- Approved by Legislature in 2008
- Approved by voters in 2010 to be permanent (in Constitution)
- **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

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

Can We Pay Another Way?

All funds in the bucket below are reduced by **Circuit Breaker**.



Transportation
Bus Replacement
Capital Projects
Racial Balance
Debt



Most teachers
Administration
Utilities
Insurance
Supplies



Special Ed
Title I
ELL
Other

F W

C

S

What are Our Options?

- **Follow Board policy and establish sensible transportation guidelines**
- Investigate pros/cons of other options:
 - Adjust school start and end times
 - Outsourcing transportation

F

W

C

S

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

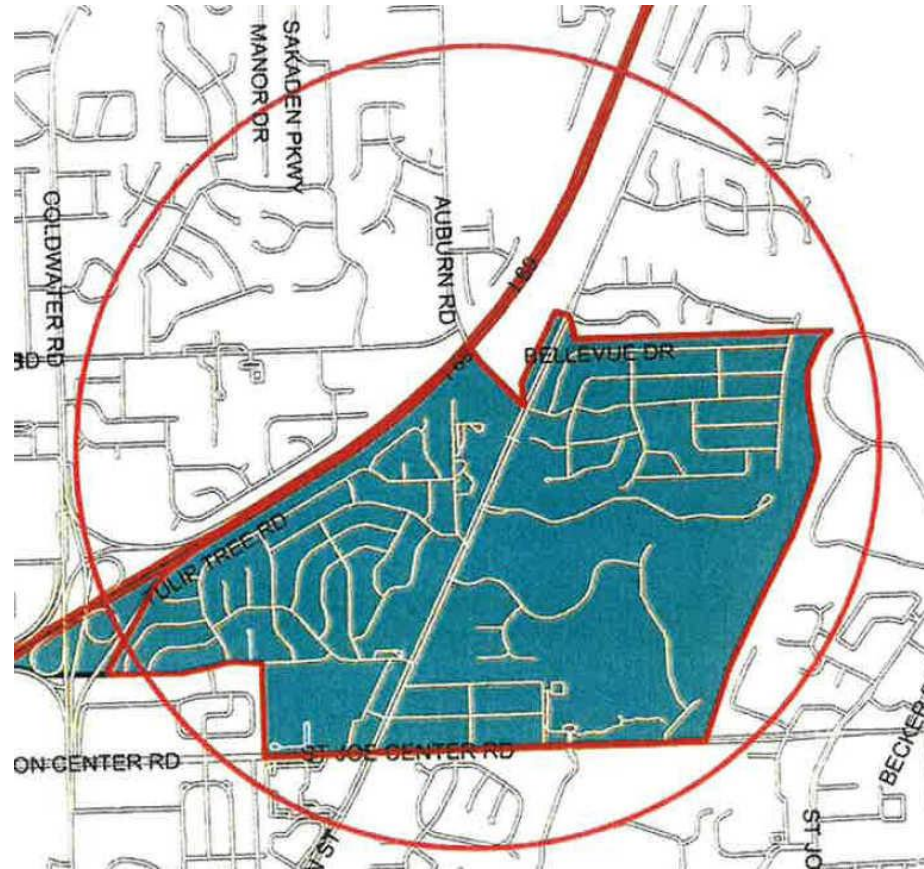
F

W

C

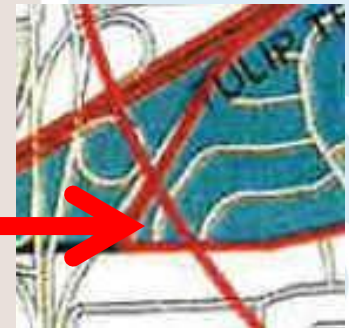
S

Elementary Example



Additional Guidelines

- Transportation **will continue** to magnet schools and high school Programs of Study.
- Transportation **will not** be provided if a transfer to a non-magnet school is granted. (Intra-district Transfer – IDT)
- FWCS will not split neighborhoods where some students get transported and others do not.



Who is Affected?

- Total students transported: 20,912
- Expected reduction in student riders: 4,157
- Letters will be sent prior to winter break to all families notifying them of transportation status for 2015-16

F

W

C

S

Future Meetings

Additional **meetings** with more specific information will be held in **January** in each of the high school feeder areas from 6-7:30 p.m.

- Tuesday, Jan. 6 – North Side High School
- Wednesday, Jan. 7 – Snider High School
- Thursday, Jan. 8 – Wayne High School
- Tuesday, Jan. 13 – South Side High School
- Wednesday, Jan. 14 – Northrop High School

What Can You Do?

- **Stay Calm**
- Do not burden children with the fear of change
- Do not expect schools to have specific information; information will come from the district
- Don't just listen to rumors – check FWCS website and other FWCS resources to stay connected

F

W

C

S

What Can You Do?

- **Tuesday Tours:**
 - **Jan. 13, 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, Jan. 30**
- **Lottery: Friday, Feb. 27**
- **Work with PTAs** and other parents to explore car pools/walking groups

F

W

C

S

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



The screenshot shows a webpage with several sections:

- Donor Information:** Includes a "Donate Now!" button and text about "Blessings in a Backpack" and "Feeding America".
- Indiana Department of Education:** Features the state flag and text: "The Hoosier state is the 38th largest by area and the 16th most populous of the 50 United States." Below this is a link: "Click here for Indiana House and Senate Contact Information."
- Other Community Resources:** Includes a section for "CORE" (Community Opportunities & Resources for Education) with a logo of an apple and the letters "CORE".
- History Center:** Includes the "HISTORY CENTER" logo and text: "The History Center home to the Allen County-Fort Wayne Historical Society, its museum and its collection of more than 26,000 artifacts, photographs and documents representing the history of Fort Wayne and Allen County."
- FWCS Resources:** Includes links for "FWCS Board of School Trustees" and "Realtor Information".
- Public Records:** Includes a "Request for access to public records" form and text: "Public information must be requested by completing this form." and "Public Records Request".
- Public Affairs:** Includes text: "Public Affairs supports FWCS' Goal II, which is to engage parents and the community."

A red arrow points from the text "Click on Community Tab" in the list above to the "Contact Your Legislators" link in the screenshot.


F

W

C

C

Summary

- Indiana Legislators limited our ability to generate funds to provide transportation services
- FWCS cannot fix the issue long-term with other funds
- Letter home in December with individual information
- Additional meetings in January
- Stay Connected: www.fortwayneschools.org
- Submit questions through 
- Transportation Hotline: 467-1907

Q & A

F

W

C

S