



## NBISHING BUS LINES SURVEY: **Moving forward**

Thank you for taking the time to reflect on these important questions and for providing your insights and suggestions. Together, we can make sure that our policies and programs provide the best possible transportation for our students. With that in mind, we hope to hear from you to ensure a rich and diverse range of opinions from as many voices as possible. Your participation will allow us to develop a deeper understanding of what we are currently doing right, and what is required to expand our horizons and enhance the value of student transportation for students and our community.

These questions are designed to prompt discussion to help us transform student transportation. Some suggested topics that reflect current discussions on student transportation are listed below for your consideration. Note that there are many other innovative ideas about the scope and nature of these services that can be part of the conversation, and will help us shape a new vision.

### **Responsiveness – service levels**

When answering the following questions about student transportation, consider your own experiences with: access to programs, customer service, timeliness of service, scheduling for programs outside school hours and workplace experiential learning programs.

1. Do you think that students are well-served in the current system? ☐ Yes or ☐ No
2. Which aspects of service are working well to help support students in achieving excellence?
3. What's not working?
4. How can we improve service by focusing on innovations and partnerships that will help us create a more responsive transportation system?

Comments:

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### **Equity – accessibility**

When answering the following questions about student transportation, consider your own experiences with: provisions for students with special needs, inclusiveness of communities, comparability of service to other Ontario jurisdictions and walking distances.

1. Do you think that all students are receiving the transportation services that they need?

☐ Yes or ☐ No

2. Does the student transportation system adequately take into account the diverse needs of different types of students? ☐ Yes or ☐ No
3. Do you have any specific examples of situations that show that there is an equity issue that needs to be addressed?
4. What sorts of innovations and partnerships could help us create a more equitable and accessible transportation system?

Comments:

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### **Ride times**

Some school boards set maximum ride time guidelines, ranging from 60 to 90 minutes. School boards may also specify exemptions to maximum ride times.

1. Do you feel Nbsiing bus lines have adequate ride times? ☐ Yes or ☐ No

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

### **Special needs**

It is important that the system continue to meet the needs of students who require specialized transportation.

1. Do you feel Nbsiing Bus Lines are serving the needs of students with special education needs? ☐ Yes or ☐ No

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

### **Support for families**

Student transportation services can significantly impact the day-to-day routines of families. Changes to pick-up and drop-off times can affect the work hours of parents and other caregivers. Students may have different pick-up and drop-off addresses due to joint custody or child care arrangements.

1. Do you feel we meet the needs of supporting the families for pick up and drop off?

☐ Yes or ☐ No

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

### **Safety and well-being – safe and respectful transportation environment**

When answering the following questions about student transportation, consider your own experiences with: student behaviour, student health and activity levels, student safety training, ride times, vehicle condition and certification, driver competence and preparedness, road safety and emergency provisions.

1. Do you believe that Nbisiing Bus Lines is doing enough to support the safety and well-being of students, staff and drivers? ☐ Yes or ☐ No
2. What improvements could be made to safety and well-being for students as they are being transported to and from school?
3. Do you have any specific examples of situations where safety and well-being is being compromised? What is the biggest risk to safety and well-being?
4. How can we enhance safety and well-being in the transportation environment to ensure that it supports students' preparedness for learning during the school day?

Comments:

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### **Accountability – quality assurance**

When answering the following questions about student transportation, consider your own experiences with: routing, efficient use of resources, transparency, continuous improvement initiatives, environmental responsibility and reliable, sustainable service.

1. Do you believe that we are receiving good value for the money spent on student transportation? ☐ Yes or ☐ No
2. How could the efficiency and affordability of the transportation system be improved? Are there innovative approaches that could help?
3. What changes would create a more accountable and transparent transportation system?
4. What can we do to ensure an adequate supply of well-trained school bus drivers?

Comments:

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### **Some current topics for consideration and input**

#### **1. Avoiding hazards**

Students who live within the walking distance threshold of their schools may be provided with transportation when safety hazards (e.g., railway tracks, high-speed roads) are identified. Criteria for defining hazards are taken into account when students are walking to the school and bus stops. (Nbisiing Secondary School)

Comments:

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#### **2. School bus safety training**

Nbisiing Bus Lines is providing drivers yearly training, refresher safety training courses, First Aid and school bus rider safety videos.

Comments:

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**3. Public health and the environment**

Physical inactivity among children and vehicle emission levels are growing concerns.

Comments:

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**4. Service sustainability**

Due to increasing demand for service, labour market conditions leading to driver shortages, and investments in new technologies and more fuel-efficient vehicles, costs for transportation can be unpredictable, and we want to ensure we sustain service that meets our needs.

Comments:

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Miigwech / Thank You for your input.

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