

**Responses from Charlottesville City Director of Transit, Garland Williams
(status update as of 8/5/2021)**

1. How many drivers do we currently have employed for pupil transportation (full-time and part-time/relief)?

We currently have 12 regular drivers employed. Of the 12, One (1) is on indefinitely medical leave and One (1) is in training.

We have 3 relief drivers:

The First Relief Driver – drives in the mornings only.

The Second Relief Driver - drives Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursdays. On Tuesdays and Thursdays the individual only drives in the morning and on Wednesday, the individual drives morning and evening.

The Third Relief Driver only drives for Johnson school.

2. How many are currently in training and when are they expected to be available for routes?

One (1). The individual started August 3, 2021. The individual is completing the required classroom hours.

We are in the process of scheduling a DMV road test. Projected test date August 19th or 20th, 2021.

3. How many routes are currently expected to be available for each transportation tier (elementary, middle & high) for the first day of school?

From the last import, we have routed 13 elementary routes (that includes doubles at Clark and Johnson), 9 middle school routes, 8 high school routes, and 7 alternative schools routes.

We are still waiting on some information from the Special Education Department about other students that may require alternative transportation. This information will increase alternative route requirements; which will decrease a regular route capacity.

4. How many students do we expect to be able to transport on each tier on August 25th (similar to question #3 above)?

At this point, I am unable to give you a definitive answer for the following reason: We are currently loading 46 students per bus but the CDC has not changed the guidelines so we may have to decrease that number or capacity to 20, plus

siblings, as we did in the spring. Therefore, I am unable to provide a definitive number.

The COVID-19 infection numbers are rising rapidly so I anticipate more guidance in the coming weeks. I would anticipate that we will be required to reduce our capacity per bus.

5. How do the numbers for 3 & 4 above compare to the numbers before COVID and to the numbers this past spring?

Prior to COVID we transported students three (3) to a seat. School buses were filled to capacity. In most cases, we had 20 elementary routes, 20 middle school routes and 15 high school routes, 8 alternative schools, 6 pre-school (3yr old) runs and a multitude of after school activity runs.

Last Spring we had 14 elementary routes, 11 middle school routes and 10 high school routes, 2 alternative schools and NO after school activity runs.

6. Describe the current driver recruiting efforts and plans.

Our recruitment efforts:

Phase 1- Charlottesville Region

Print Ads: **Daily Progress** – ½ Page Ads 2 times a week for 6 weeks. The first print ads ran Wednesday, July 28, 2021 and Friday, July 30, 2021. The second week – Wednesday, August 4, 2021 and will run Sunday, August 8, 2021.

Daily Progress online paper – Reveal and Float Bar Ads have been running since July 28, 2021. 19,893 Impressions and 70 Clicks.

Cville Weekly – ½ Page Ads- July 28 – August 3, 2021 paper – pg. 14
August 4 – August 10, 2021 paper – pg. 26

Radio Ads: 30-second ads with Cville Radio Group – 40 Commercials on six (6) stations for two weeks. Ads started July 28, 2021. This ad buy will be renewed.

Four FM Stations

WCNR-FM, 106.1 “The Corner”
WCVL-FM, 92.7 “C-Ville Country”
WWWV-FM, 97.5 “Everything That Rocks”
WQMZ-FM, 95.1, “Z-95.1 Picks You Up!”

Two AM Stations

WINA-AM, 1070, News/Talk/Sports Radio

WVAX-AM, 1450, ESPN Sports Radio

As soon as 101 JAMZ is added as a City authorized vendor – this station will be added.

Phase 2 – Print Ads

Harrisonburg Region – Start the week of August 8th – 14th, 2021.

Daily News-Record print ads - ½ Page Ads – Two times a week for 4 weeks.

Richmond Region – Start the week of August 8th – 14th, 2021.

Richmond Times Dispatch print ads - ½ Page Ads – Two times a week for 4 weeks.

Radio Ads:

Working on cost estimates for radio ads in Harrisonburg and Richmond regions.

7. What have been the results of these efforts so far?

Prior to this morning, Four (4) applications – Two (2) have been interviewed. Both were offered employment. One (1) accepted offer. The second individual is considering our offer. Potential employees 3 and 4 have been contacted and we are waiting for call back to set interviews.

As of this morning, Four (4) prior employees have express interest.

One (1) Relief Driver

One (1) Bus Aide.

Two Regular Bus Drivers – both will need to be interviewed. Interviews will be scheduled as soon as possible.

8. Any other information or comments you would like shared with the Board/public?

As of this morning: There are Six (6) Transit Drivers that have an S endorsement that are willing to assist the Pupil Transportation division. There are five (5) additional Transit Drivers with an S endorsement that may be willing to assist. All five (5) individuals are scheduled to see me next week – two starting Tuesday, August 10, 2021.

I have two Transit Drivers that need to complete the road test requirement for their S endorsement that have expressed interest. The road test preparation will be as soon as we can cover their transit assignments.

