

Meeting #7

Metro Transit Police Work Group

November 19, 2021



Agenda

Work Plan Item: Interactions with Youth

1. **Refresher on Citizens League Youth Engagement** – Michelle Fure
2. **Overview of MTPD Policies, Practices, Procedures, and Training related to Interactions with Youth** – Sgt. Martens and Officer Loken
3. **Overview of Metro Transit Student Pass Program, including how Metro Transit and Schools Address Student Safety and Security**
 1. **Program Overview** – Lisa Anderson, Finance, and Tina Lovaas de Sosa, Service Development
 2. **Minneapolis Public Schools Perspectives on Security of Students Riding Transit** – Jason Matlock, Director of Emergency Management, Safety & Security for MPS
 3. **Student Perspectives** – Invited but not confirmed
4. **Wrap Up/Identify Next Steps** – Work Group Member Discussion

Refresher on Citizens League Youth Engagement

- Youth from Minneapolis Public Schools, St. Paul youth organizers, youth-serving organizations
- Youth expressed they feel targeted by everyone
 - People riding transit show their discomfort around youth
 - They feel like they're always being watched by operators, police, and other riders
 - They feel people assume they need careful watching and supervision
 - Perception that groups of young people present threat



Metro Transit Police Department Youth Contacts

Investigation Unit

- Three Officers
- One Sergeant
- One Lieutenant
- One Captain

Juvenile Investigations

- One Officer
- 131 juvenile cases from January 1 to 10/29/2021. Averages to 13 cases a month
- 1,776 cases investigated, averaging 177 per month (adult and juvenile)

Policies

324.5 ADVISEMENTS

- When a juvenile is taken into custody on a warrant, the juvenile and his/her parent, guardian, or custodian, if present, shall immediately be informed of the existence of the warrant for immediate custody and, as soon as practicable, of the reasons why the juvenile is being taken into custody.
- If it is determined that a juvenile taken into custody is going to be placed into a secure detention facility or a shelter care facility, the officer shall advise both the juvenile and the juvenile's parent, guardian, or custodian as soon as possible.

373.2.3 PARENTAL NOTIFICATION

- Upon arrest, it is the arresting officer's responsibility to ensure the parents of the arrested pupil are properly notified. Notification shall be made by the officer, regardless of subsequent notifications by the juvenile detention facility. Notifications should be documented and include the charges against the pupil and where the pupil will be taken.

324.9 USE OF RESTRAINT DEVICES

- Juvenile offenders may be handcuffed in accordance with the Handcuffing and Restraints Policy. However, non-offenders and status offenders should not be handcuffed unless they are combative or threatening.
- Restraints (leg restraints) shall only be used after less restrictive measures have failed and with the approval of the Shift Supervisor. Restraints shall only be used so long as it reasonably appears necessary for the juvenile's protection or the protection of others.

324.13 INTERVIEWING OR INTERROGATING JUVENILE SUSPECTS

- No interview or interrogation of a juvenile should occur unless the juvenile has the apparent capacity to consent and does consent to an interview or interrogation.

Experience and Training

- Volunteer youth leader from 1988 – 2006
- Volunteer Junior High Program Coordinator 2011 – 2012
- Youth/Gang Investigator at Hennepin County Sheriffs Office
- Investigator handling juvenile cases for Metro Transit PD
- Attended multiple trainings and conferences concerning youth

Juvenile Cases

- Process: 1) Receive case 2) Read reports 3) Look at photos/videos of evidence 4) attempt to ID juvenile suspects 5) if juvenile suspects are positively ID'd the case is submitted to Hennepin, Ramsey, or whatever county the crime was committed.
- Diversion: to hold youth accountable for their behavior without resorting to legal sanctions, court oversight or the threat of confinement for low level offenses.
- Low level offenses: Smoking, Disorderly Conduct, etc...
- Diversion Programs are currently being decided and handled by the County Attorneys Offices
- HC Attorney Morgan Kunz is currently revising their Diversion Program for Hennepin County

MTPD Connections/Resources

- YCC (formerly known as Minneapolis Juvenile Supervision Center but new name is Youth Connection Center). I attend multiple meetings with them. Ramsey County currently does not have a program like YCC.
- Working with YCC Manager Josh Terrio and HC Attorney Morgan Kunz to facilitate MTPD Roll Calls for informational trainings
- Attend the Youth Violence Prevention Multi-Jurisdictional Meetings (City of Minneapolis)
- Minneapolis, St Paul Public, and Suburban Schools
- Local Police Departments
- Dignity House for Youth/The Link (Connected to YCC) Emergency Shelter for youth between the ages of 10 – 17 years old
- Safe Harbor – assist sexually exploited youth

MTPD Youth Outreach

- Badges for Baseball partner with Cal Ripken Foundation
- Cops and Kids Fishing with Brooklyn Park PD
- Shop with a Cop – multiple events
- Picnic/Park events with youth
- MTPD is in the process of hiring a Civilian Juvenile Outreach Coordinator that will take over all outreach events

Note: Except Shop with a Cop, events have been suspended during COVID.

Student Pass Program

Overview of Metro Transit Student Pass Program, including how Metro Transit and schools address student safety and security

- 1. Program Overview** – Lisa Anderson, Finance, and Tina Lovaas de Sosa, Service Development
- 2. Minneapolis Public Schools Perspectives on Security of Students Riding Transit** – Jason Matlock, Director of Emergency Management, Safety & Security for MPS
- 3. Student Perspectives** – *Invited but not confirmed*



Student Pass Program





What is it?

- An unlimited ride transit pass program offered to high schools – 5 participant minimum
- The school has the option to pass along the cost to the student/family
- Schools choose pass type
 - with time restrictions (5 am to 10 pm) or without, valid 24/7



Program History

- 2009: demonstration program began
 - 6 charters/districts participated; MPS being the largest
 - 2800 students using the passes
- 2010: program became official
- 2021: 55 schools – 8800 students using passes
 - Metro Transit entirely replaces some yellow bus service
 - MPS | Patrick Henry, North, Edison, FAIR Downtown, Wellstone, South, Roosevelt, Heritage, Washburn, Southwest
 - SPPS | Johnson, Creative Arts, Central*, Como Park*, Washington Tech*, Harding*
- 3.2 million rides taken during the last non-pandemic school year (2018-19)

*added to Student Pass program Fall 2021 due to yellow bus staffing shortages



How to Join?

- An eligible high school submits an application found on our website
 - Service Development review required if 300+ participants
- An agreement is prepared for signatures of both parties
- Process documents and authorized access to Metro Transit's customer portal given to designated personnel at the school to aid in managing their program
 - Order passes
 - Register passes issued to students
 - Report a replaced pass
 - Deactivating passes
 - Suspend passes
 - Run reports of active passes or suspended passes



Code of Conduct

- Each school gets an electronic version (PDF) of our code of conduct that is given to each student to read and agree to
- Minneapolis Public Schools has their own version



Metro Transit Code of Conduct



- Be courteous and have respect for others.
- Always validate your ride - \$180 fine.
- No smoking, eating or loud music.
- Keep cell phone discussions quiet and brief.
- Inappropriate actions or language are grounds for being banned from Metro Transit services for 30 days or more and Student Pass could be deactivated. New passes will require a reactivation fee.
- Remain seated when possible – if standing hold onto hand rails.
- Those with wheelchairs or walkers board first and exit last.
- On buses, aisle facing seats are reserved for those with disabilities and senior customers.
- If bus or train is full, please give your seat to a senior or customers with disabilities.
- On train platforms, stand behind the yellow line.
- Never stand or play on the tracks.
- Do not attempt to board a train or bus as the doors are closing.
- No skateboarding, rollerblading or bicycling on train platforms.
- On trains, in an emergency, intercoms are located at the front and back doors of each car.
- Emergency phones are located on each train platform.
- On a bus, notify the driver if there is an emergency.
- Report a lost or stolen Student Pass Card to Metro Transit Customer Relations and/or Service Center immediately. Replacement cards will require a fee.
- If your Student Pass is lost or suspended you will be responsible for your own transportation.

I have reviewed the Metro Transit Code of Conduct and understand the expectations for proper behavior while using public transportation. I also understand that my Student Pass may be deactivated if I violate any of the rules.

Student Name (Please Print)

Date

Student Signature

Pass Number (16-digit number in lower right)

06-084-05-15



MPS Code of Conduct

Go-To Student Pass



Safety Rules

Expectations and Rules for Go-To Student Pass use apply every time your MPS issued Go-To Card is used.

BUS

Aisle-facing seats in front are for seniors or riders with special needs. If the bus is full, please give your seat to a senior or a person with disabilities.

MPS Safety Rules

- Follow the driver's instructions.
- Be courteous. No fighting, swearing or yelling.
- Keep the bus clean.
- Keep all body parts inside of the bus windows.
- No dangerous objects may be brought on the bus.

TRAIN

While waiting for the train, always stand behind the yellow line on the platform. DO NOT stand on the tracks at any time. Avoid sticking arms or legs in the doors to prevent them from closing; just relax and wait for the next train. Do not bike, skateboard or rollerblade on platforms. Food is not allowed on the train. Please place any garbage in the disposal bins on the platforms.

While riding, please remain seated. If standing, hold onto the rails in case of sudden stops. In an emergency, intercoms are located at the front and back doors of each car to call the operator. There is also a phone on each platform that will connect you to the rail control center (for emergencies only).

MPS Transportation Rules continue to apply when students use their Metro Transit Go-To Student Pass. In addition to the Bus/Train rules listed, you are also expected to follow the Metro Transit Rules listed below:

- Don't smoke, eat, drink or listen to music without headphones.
- Inappropriate language or actions are grounds for being banned from using the Metro Transit system for 30 days or more.

Violation of any of Metro Transit or MPS Transportation rules or habitual truancy may result in deactivation/suspension of a student's Go-To Student Pass.

General Go-To Student Pass Rules

- If your Go-To Student Pass is lost or suspended and you live within two miles of the school, you are responsible for your own transportation to and from school. Students who live outside the walk-zone of the school should contact school site Go-To Card administrators if their pass is lost or if their Go-To Student Pass is suspended.
- School absences due to Go-To Student Pass suspension or loss will be coded as an unexcused absence.
- Go-To Student Pass loss must be reported to school site Go-To Card administrators immediately. New passes may require a small reactivation fee and ID Charge.

MPS Transportation Safety Rules and Metro Transit Rules are to be followed whenever using your Go-To Student Pass.

1. Follow the driver's instructions.
2. Always sit down.
3. Be courteous. No fighting, swearing or yelling.
4. No eating or drinking.
5. Keep the bus clean. Do not damage the bus.
6. Habitual truancy (7 or more days unexcused absence) will result in deactivation of your Go-To Student Pass. If this occurs, Metro Transit will allow one morning boarding with your pass and ID to get to school. Contact school site Go-To Card administrators immediately upon arrival to school.
7. Report lost or stolen Go-To Student Passes to school site Go-To Card administrators immediately.
8. New cards may require a small reactivation fee and parent meeting.
9. If passes are not used in 3 weeks they may be shut off by the school.

I have reviewed these MPS Transportation & the Metro Transit Safety Rules and understand the expectation for proper behavior from each. I also understand that my Go-To Student Pass Card may be inactivated if I violate the rules.

Student Name (Please Print) _____ / Grade: _____

Date _____ Student ID # _____

Student Signature _____ Phone # _____

Tracking # _____ Serial # _____

Type: TE F P L R 06-084-15-17



Safety & Security

- Printed and/or PowerPoint materials with student safety tips available
 - How to stay safe around buses and trains
 - What to do if they feel unsafe while riding
 - Text for Safety, inform the operator, emergency call boxes on METRO platforms
- Scheduling considerations – high ridership MPS sites
- Reported safety concerns forwarded to MTPD
 - Lake St. Station (Blue Line)
 - public intoxication/substance abuse, harassment
 - Incidents of onboard harassment

Next Steps

- Based on today's discussion:
 - Do you want more information on any of the subjects discussed today?
 - Did the group decide anything today that should be noted when drafting recommendations?
- Next Work Group Meeting: December 3, 2021
 - Work plan focus area for this meeting: Data, governance, and accountability, structures



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