



AAATA Service

Presented by Bryan Smith

March 17, 2021 Transportation Commission Meeting

The following question was submitted by a Commissioner via email, as follow-up to the AAATA Service discussion.

Commissioner questions and AAATA responses are noted below:

- 1. Will AAATA be able to support AAPS student needs for commuting to the area middle and high schools as AAPS starts back up over the coming weeks? Does AAATA anticipate any route additions or changes necessary to allow kids to get to school and back home? I've been made aware that historically, some kids (for example, school-of-choice kids from surrounding areas) don't use the AAPS school bus service but are too far to walk/ride a bike. I wonder if AAATA and AAPS need to coordinate and communicate so that AAPS can inform parents/students on what will be different for the rest of this school year.**

AAATA response:

Yes, to some extent.

We are still operating with a capacity limitation on our buses, with a max of 20 passengers. We anticipate having to use our protocol to send out extra buses if there is an overflow on a bus need on any given route, to the extent of our resources.

However, we do not currently have any plans to add new routes to the road before August. As our Planning Division looked into the future at the beginning of the year, they determined that TheRide wouldn't have the ability to add service piecemeal as the pandemic retreated, because it was just not predictable enough. They have instead been focusing on service restoration for August, where they were felt more comfortable that the situation would be stable (or at least more so) by then. So, there will probably be students that rode routes to school that are currently suspended.

It is my understanding that our Community Relations Department has been in regular contact with AAPS so that they are aware of these limitations, and can plan their routes accordingly.