

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

2019-2020 Transportation Operations

- **Why is LSR7 implementing changes for the 2019-2020 school year?**

The District has been closely monitoring secondary ride times over the years, and these ride times have been increasing as the district grows. During the 2018-2019 school year, secondary ride times averaged over 50 minutes one way, with some exceeding an hour.

During Phase 1 of the Comprehensive Facility Master Plan (CFMP) in Fall 2018, the Lee's Summit R-7 School District (LSR7) surveyed the community for input and reviewed Code of State Regulations 5 CSR 30-261.010 through 5 CSR 30-261.050 and Board of Education policies.

The community survey showed a majority of the community felt streamlining secondary school bus routes in order to decrease ride time was a favorable outcome to benefit students. Realizing how ride times affect students, families and the experience in LSR7, we set a goal to reduce ride times.

- **What benefits result from the adjustments?**

By making some changes and adjustments on how the buses are routed and where bus stops are placed, the district will be able to shorten student ride time on average of 20 minutes each way (or 40 minutes a day) for those students who ride the bus.

This means students will get to sleep later and get home sooner, which is especially impactful to the students who board buses first in the morning and exit buses last in the afternoon. For media coverage about the "gift of time," [please click here](#).

- **What, specifically, is changing?**

To accomplish this goal of assisting students with shorter rides times, LSR7 will need to shorten the travel path and number of times buses stop. LSR7 will follow the recommendations outlined in the Code of State Regulations for school bus routing and bus stop placement.

School Bus Routing:

- Follow the most direct path
- Eliminate:
 - Turnarounds
 - Duplication of miles
 - Deadheading
 - Dead-End & Cul-de-sacs

Bus Stop Placement:

- Stops will be placed 1,200 feet apart
- The average walk to a school bus stop is currently five-hundredths (.05) of a mile or 264 feet. For 2019-2020 the average will be fifteen hundredths (.15) or 792 feet

Secondary Bus Stop/Route FAQ

Question	Response
Why the Change? **	To minimize ride time for secondary students and allow the possibility for future bell time adjustments. The changes are anticipated to shorten the average secondary ride by 20 minutes each way or 40 minutes roundtrip
** When shortening ride time the student that is first on in the morning and last off in the afternoon will benefit much more than the last student on in the morning and first off in the afternoon.	
What is the CFMP?	The Comprehensive Facility Master Plan (CFMP) is a multi-phase process to ensure we provide future-ready education to all LSR7 students. Please click here to visit the CFMP webpage.
How much money will this save the district?	Money is not the reason for the changes. The changes are about shortening the time students spend idle sitting on a school bus and giving them more time at home to be with family and participate in other activities.
Why is this connected to the CFMP?	The CFMP connects important aspects of our students' educational experiences (including curriculum, transportation, facility design and more) to best serve our current and future school communities in a holistic, transparent and collaborative manner. This is why LSR7 held 11 engagement sessions in the fall of 2018, and Secondary Bus Routes were a key part of each session.
How has the community been informed and included in this change?	During CFMP Phase 1 in the first semester of the 2018-2019 school year, LSR7 held 11 community engagement sessions and conducted three community surveys. LSR7 has communicated the process and decisions through its various communication channels, including the district website , the CFMP webpage , SchoolMessenger emails and phone calls, social media updates, and e-newsletters. Various media outlets, including local newspapers and television have also covered the CFMP and these changes.
Why was information sent to HOAs?	The district serves 18,000+ students. Utilization of the HOAs are a natural resource for managing feedback gathering in a district as large as ours.
Has this been approved by the Board of Education?	Yes, the Board of Education has acted on the input of the community through the engagement process.