

Student Transit Programs and Other Modes-to-School in California

Opportunities for Public Transit

Planning, Policy
and
Programming

OCTOBER 2022

Project Title:
Student Transit Programs and Other
Modes-to-School in California

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WHAT IS THE NEED?

Half a century ago, most children in the United States walked or biked to and from school, but today most children are driven by their parents/guardians or teens drive their own cars. These changes in travel have resulted in traffic congestion and safety concerns, and increased air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions around schools.

The school bus still plays an important role in travel to and from schools outside California. However, student travel in California paints a different picture, with only one in ten students riding the school bus. Public transit may offer a viable alternative to parents/guardians driving children to school or teens driving their own cars; therefore, reducing traffic congestion and other associated negative impacts near schools. Many school districts turn to public transit agencies to provide rides to school, either through discounted fares or fare-free programs. However, transit access is not always equal in California, and yet all students regardless of income or ability must attend school.

WHAT ARE WE DOING?

Our project combines a literature review, the construction of a catalog of current practices, and an analysis of travel of California students, which will combine to help draw transit's present and potential solution for school transportation in California.

WHAT IS OUR GOAL?

Our research proposal aims to determine where students are traveling on public transit may be happening now based on the most-recent available data and where there might be opportunities for transit to play an important role in school transportation to occur in the future. The goal is to identify existing practices in student transit programs that can help inform California's transit agencies with future planning.



DRISI provides solutions and
knowledge that improves
California's transportation system

WHAT IS THE BENEFIT?

Benefits of the project include an overview of student travel to and from school in California, with a particular emphasis on differences in race/ethnicity, household income, urban/suburban/rural locations, and transit pass/school bus programs. Secondly, it will provide specific suggestions for how transit agencies can best serve present and future K-12 students' travel needs.

WHAT IS THE PROGRESS TO DATE?

A kick-off meeting will be scheduled in January 2023.

IMAGES



Image 1: Kids Boarding a School Bus