

**Item #2**

**Committee of the Whole  
September 4, 2013**

To: Board of Trustees  
From: Cory Gray, Superintendent of Schools  
**Subject: Transportation Update**  
Originator: Gail Prokopchuk, Director Transportation Services  
Resource Person(s):

**RECOMMENDATION**

That the Committee of the Whole receive the attached report as information.

**REPORT**

**Background:**

The transportation department continues to plan for school start up in September. A progress summary by area is presented in the Transportation Community Consultation Action Plan Update below. There have been several areas of concern that were considered in the 2013 route reviews.

**TCCAP Process Update**

1. Communication regarding the TCCAP is released to communities on an ongoing information program using newspaper, radio and other promotional items distributed through Transportation Services and schools. Regular updates are available on the GYPSD website including current and proposed school bus routes.
2. The final revisions to proposed routes are being updated on the website. Community stakeholders are encouraged to review changes to proposed routes and contact Transportation Services before the routes are finalized on August 15 of each year.
3. During the route review process, Transportation Services met with drivers in all areas during April and May to discuss route adjustments, safety concerns and potential changes for September. Feedback from drivers is documented and considered during the route review process.
4. During the past year, stakeholder concerns which were reported to our office and could not be immediately resolved, were documented and reviewed for consideration during the annual route reviews. All concerns are considered, documented and followed up with, once reviews are completed.

- "Back To School" newspaper and radio advertising will launch in August and provide communities with important School Bus Information for September including school bus route information, how to register for the school bus, where to look for school bus route delays or cancellations and school bus safety rules. Similar information was already circulated through schools in May and June, for new students registering at that time.

### Grande Cache

There is one school bus route operating in the Grande Cache area. The bus route in Grande Cache provides service to students in Victor Lake and students within the town of Grande Cache. In the past several years, the first pick up time on the route has been 7:00 am, and concerns from parents to shorten ride times have been expressed, to the transportation department.

A review of the route including stop placement, turnaround locations and general route direction revealed that a shorter ride time for rural students could be attained if we proposed a more direct route through the town stops and schools as this can save minutes along the bus route. A proposed route with revised stops and pick up times is prepared and available on the website, for feedback from community stakeholders.

The Director of Transportation will initiate contact with the town of Grande Cache to express consideration be given in future planning for the placement of bus stop and turnaround locations within the town of Grande Cache.

A secondary safety concern in 2012-13 was the increased traffic flow around the bus loop for parental pickup/drop offs at Sheldon Coates. In conjunction with the school and the use of parent volunteers, a pilot program to use the bus loop for a loading and unloading area for parents has proven highly successful. Without affecting the loading and unloading of students onto the school bus, the Traffic Safety Program at Sheldon Coates is increasing safety for all students and has reduced traffic congestion along Swann Drive.

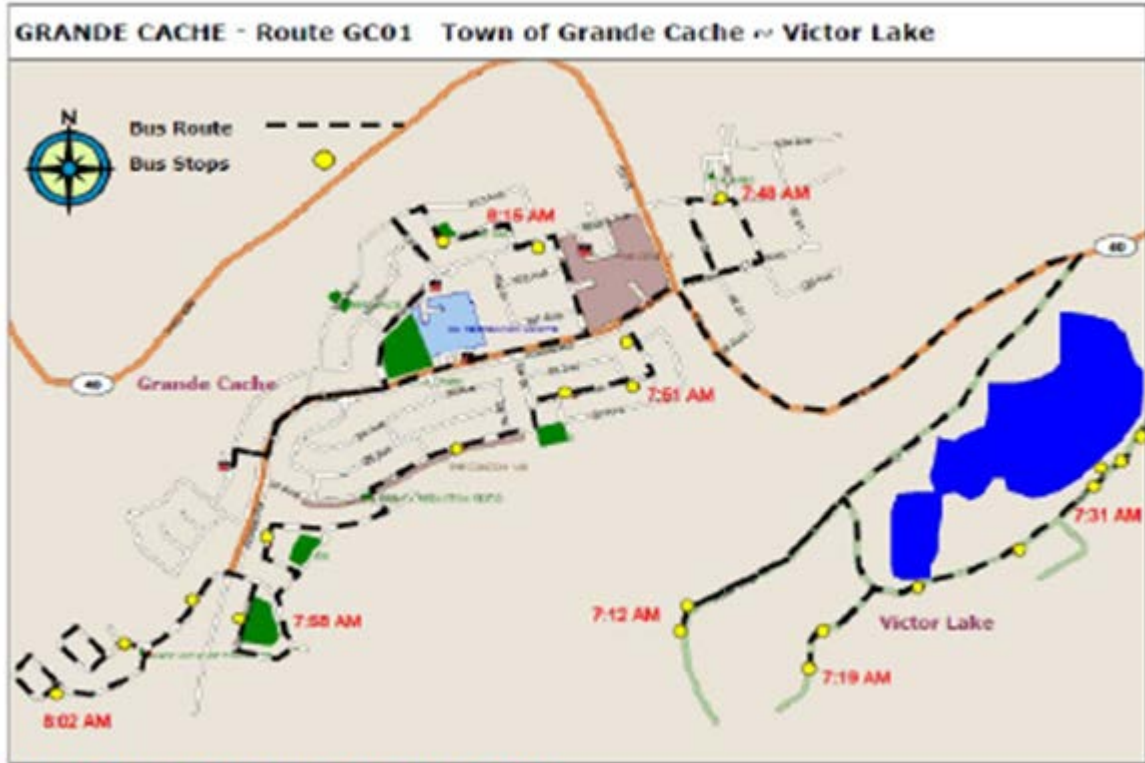
***The chart below reflects student ride times as of June 2013 and proposed times for September 2013***

| Location:        | Grande Cache | Actual June 2013                                 |       |           |           |           |           |           |           |       |         |
|------------------|--------------|--|-------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-------|---------|
| # of Bus Routes: | 1            | Percentage Distribution of Student Pick-up Times |       |           |           |           |           |           |           |       |         |
|                  |              | Range of Pick-up Times                           | <7:00 | 7:01-7:15 | 7:16-7:30 | 7:31-7:45 | 7:46-8:00 | 8:01-8:15 | 8:16-8:30 | 8:31+ | Total   |
|                  |              | Number of Students                               | 0     | 8         | 4         | 13        | 29        | 9         | 8         | 0     | 71      |
|                  |              |  | 0.00% | 11.27%    | 5.63%     | 18.31%    | 40.85%    | 12.68%    | 11.27%    | 0.00% | 100.00% |

| Location:        | Grande Cache | Proposed Sept. 2013                              |       |           |           |           |           |           |           |       |         |
|------------------|--------------|--|-------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-------|---------|
| # of Bus Routes: | 1            | Percentage Distribution of Student Pick-up Times |       |           |           |           |           |           |           |       |         |
|                  |              | Range of Pick-up Times                           | <7:00 | 7:01-7:15 | 7:16-7:30 | 7:31-7:45 | 7:46-8:00 | 8:01-8:15 | 8:16-8:30 | 8:31+ | Total   |
|                  |              | Number of Students                               | 0     | 0         | 15        | 11        | 13        | 19        | 1         | 0     | 59      |
|                  |              |  | 0.00% | 0.00%     | 25.42%    | 18.64%    | 22.03%    | 32.20%    | 1.69%     | 0.00% | 100.00% |

\*\* There are fewer students registered in GC because the ineligible have not all re-registered yet. Most of those will fit into the 7:46-8:00 range.

**Grande Cache Bus Route as of June 2013**



NOTE\* Pick up times shown are as of June 2013

**Revised Grande Cache Bus Route for September 2013**



NOTE\* Pick up times shown are approximate

Tuesday, August 20-13

## **Hinton**

Bus routes in Hinton have been operating very efficiently with very little concern expressed from stakeholders. In 2012 a major review of the Hinton routes was performed and resulted in reorganization of all routes in Hinton. The changes in 2012 resulted in an efficient, safe consistent service that meets the needs of our students and parents, and would sustain for future years with minimal impact for students and schools in Hinton.

All Hinton school bus routes are available for review on the website, there are no route changes proposed for Hinton this year.

The Director of Transportation is currently in discussion with the Town of Hinton in regards to the handi-bus service. Service schedules in previous years overlapped student transportation with service to other clients in Hinton. This overlap in service required GYPSD students be dismissed early from school to ensure the handi-bus could meet the scheduling requirements of other clients. A revised schedule is being developed for September 2013.

Transportation Services is also working with the Town of Hinton to incorporate the current volunteer position of "bus monitor" on the handi-bus, as a paid position. The decision to incorporate the "bus monitor" position came from reviewing past and current requests for this position, from community stakeholders, schools, parents and a review of overall roles and responsibilities of the "volunteer" position vs. a paid employee position. Upon reviewing current provincial practices ongoing with other school Boards offering the service in urban areas, most employed "bus monitors" to assist students and ensure their safety.

In previous years this duty has been provided by a volunteer who received a \$1200.00 honorarium at the end of each school year. This honorarium has been allocated out of Transportation Services budget.

A bus Monitor position is being advertised by the Town of Hinton and expected to be in place for September 2013. The GYPSD contract will reflect an annual increase of \$10,000 to cover the wages for the bus monitor. This cost will be offset by recouping the \$1200.00 honorarium; and grant funding made available for Aides/Monitors who may accompany a severe needs student, or for a bus monitor who rides the school bus. There is also opportunity to increase the number of students transported on the handi-bus as some students could not have been approved for service due to their high needs and there was no paid monitor available, to assist the student.

## **Evansburg**

Bus routes in Evansburg have been operating efficiently with very little concern from stakeholders regarding pick up or drop off times. Transportation will continue to monitor pick up and drop off times to ensure that ride times do not become unreasonably long for students.

One ongoing concern in Evansburg is the lack of law enforcement for the use of the red alternating lights at the schools. The Director of Transportation is working with the Evansburg RCMP detachment and Yellowhead County to discuss and possible options that may be applied in the upcoming school year. It is important to note that GYPSD is waiting for law enforcement officials to comment on their practices, as we continue to

follow regulations outlined in the Alberta Traffic Safety Code which requires the use of alternating flashing lights in the absence of a local bylaw prohibiting their use.

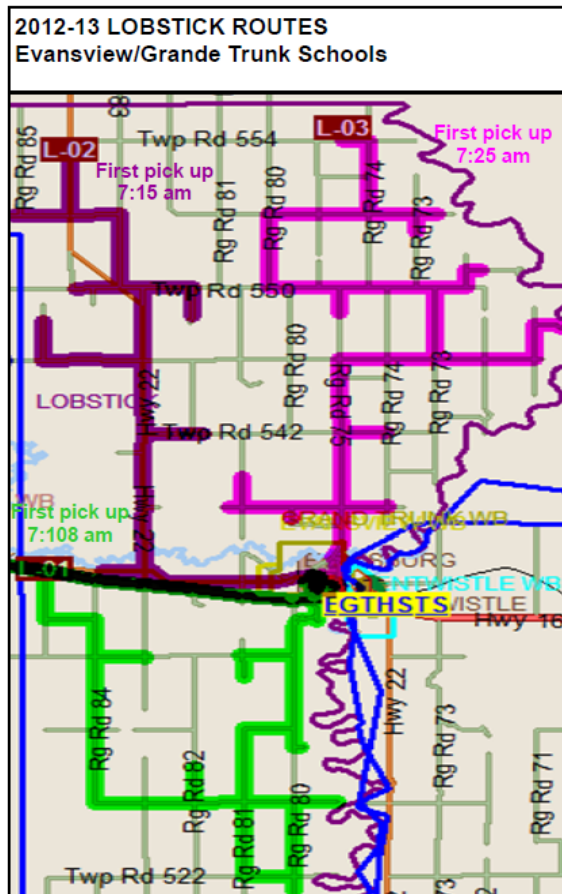
"Stop for Red Lights" information will be distributed to schools for insert into the schools newsletter and ongoing public awareness campaigns such as the "School Bus tissue box program" with Alberta Traffic Safety are being organized for the upcoming school year.

Transportation will continue to provide communities information and support, which promotes school bus safety and transportation.

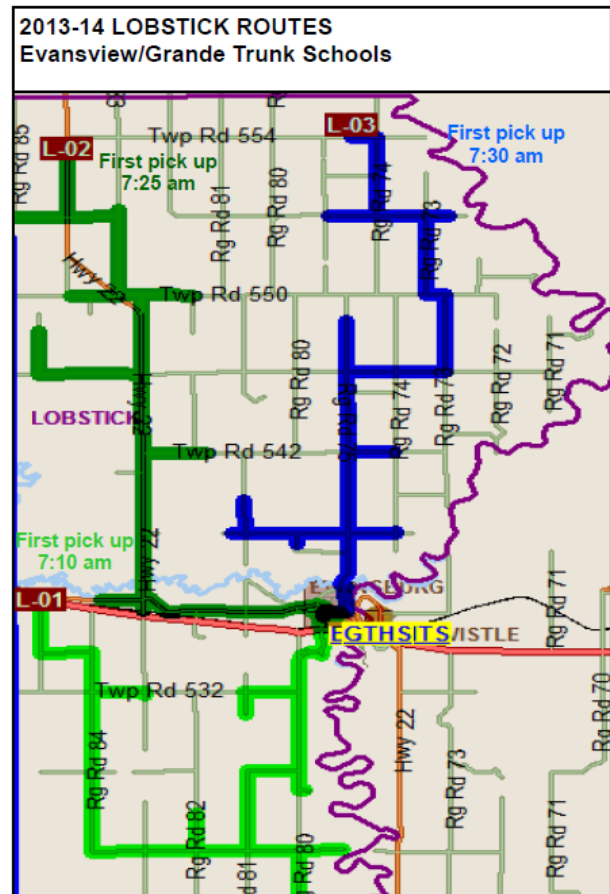
**The chart below reflects student ride times as of June 2013 and proposed times for September 2013**

| Location:        | Evansburg | Actual June 2013       | Percentage Distribution of Student Pick-up Times |           |           |           |           |           |           |       |         |
|------------------|-----------|------------------------|--|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-------|---------|
| # of Bus Routes: | 3         | Range of Pick-up Times | <7:00  | 7:01-7:15 | 7:16-7:30 | 7:31-7:45 | 7:46-8:00 | 8:01-8:15 | 8:16-8:30 | 8:31+ | Total   |
|                  |           | Number of Students     | 0  | 4         | 16        | 14        | 15        | 37        | 18        | 0     | 104     |
|                  |           |                        | 0.00%  | 3.85%     | 15.38%    | 13.46%    | 14.42%    | 35.58%    | 17.31%    | 0.00% | 100.00% |
| Location:        | Evansburg | Proposed Sept. 2013    | Percentage Distribution of Student Pick-up Times |           |           |           |           |           |           |       |         |
| # of Bus Routes: | 3         | Range of Pick-up Times | <7:00  | 7:01-7:15 | 7:16-7:30 | 7:31-7:45 | 7:46-8:00 | 8:01-8:15 | 8:16-8:30 | 8:31+ | Total   |
|                  |           | Number of Students     | 0  | 4         | 13        | 17        | 24        | 22        | 23        | 3     | 106     |
|                  |           |                        | 0.00%  | 3.77%     | 12.26%    | 16.04%    | 22.64%    | 20.75%    | 21.70%    | 2.83% | 100.00% |

**The images below display school bus routes as of June 2013 and proposed routes for September 2013**



NOTE\* Pick up times shown are as of June 2013



NOTE\* Pick up times shown are approximate for September 2013

## Wildwood

Pick up times for students on routes north of Wildwood were initially projected to be as early as 6:35 am starting September 2013. This initiated an in-depth review of the Wildwood routes. There are currently 3 routes that service Wildwood school. In 2010 a fourth route was removed from Wildwood as enrollment had declined and pick up times could be accommodated within the requirements for student ride times, at that time.

New students moving into new residences have required additional stops and kilometers to be added along the Wildwood route, thus resulting in earlier pick up and later drop off times for students.

All three Wildwood routes meet at the school and transfer high school students to Rt W-01 who then continues to Grande Trunk high school in Evansburg.

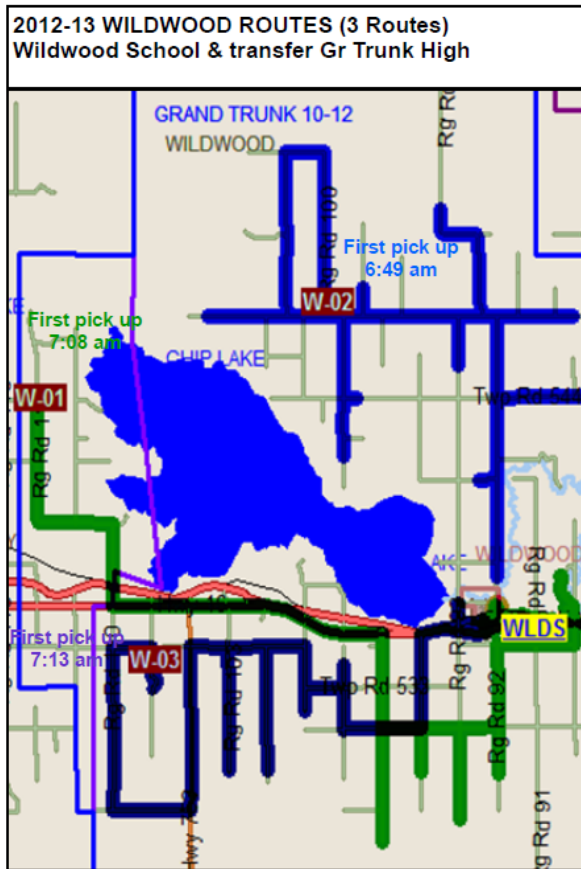
In 2012-13 there were 3 school bus routes that serviced the Wildwood school with the earliest student pick up being reported before 7:00 am. Effective September 2013 there will be 4 school bus routes that provide service for Wildwood school. This additional route provided a later pick up time for many students in Wildwood.

***The chart below reflects student ride times as of June 2013 and proposed times for September 2013***

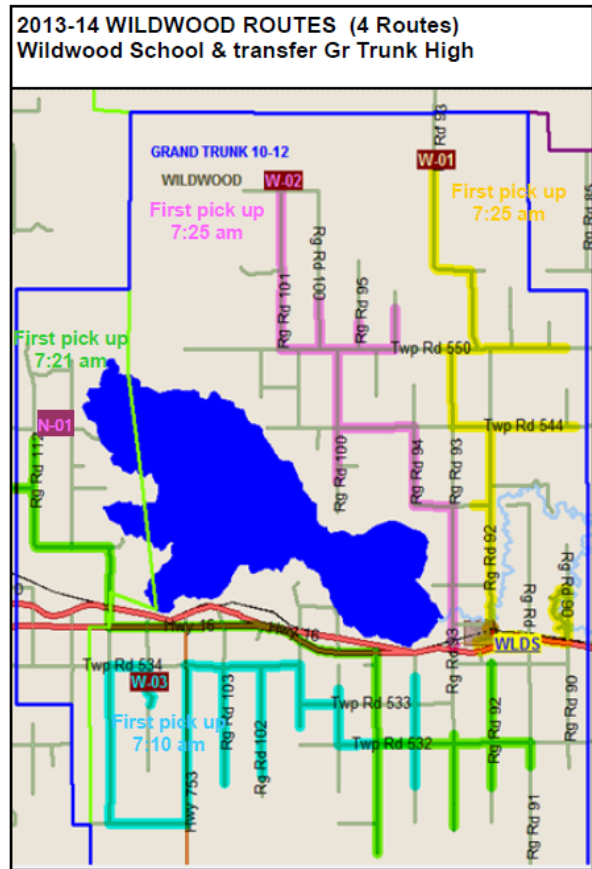
| Location:        | Wildwood | Actual June 2013       | Percentage Distribution of Student Pick-up Times |           |           |           |           |           |           |       | Total   |
|------------------|----------|------------------------|--|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-------|---------|
| # of Bus Routes: | 3        | Range of Pick-up Times | <7:00  | 7:01-7:15 | 7:16-7:30 | 7:31-7:45 | 7:46-8:00 | 8:01-8:15 | 8:16-8:30 | 8:31+ | Total   |
|                  |          | Number of Students     | 4  | 15        | 23        | 23        | 15        | 18        | 14        | 0     | 112     |
|                  |          |                        | 3.57%  | 13.39%    | 20.54%    | 20.54%    | 13.39%    | 16.07%    | 12.50%    | 0.00% | 100.00% |
|                  |          |                        |  |           |           |           |           |           |           |       |         |
| Location:        | Wildwood | Proposed Sept. 2013    | Percentage Distribution of Student Pick-up Times |           |           |           |           |           |           |       | Total   |
| # of Bus Routes: | 4        | Range of Pick-up Times | <7:00  | 7:01-7:15 | 7:16-7:30 | 7:31-7:45 | 7:46-8:00 | 8:01-8:15 | 8:16-8:30 | 8:31+ | Total   |
|                  |          | Number of Students     | 0  | 8         | 13        | 27        | 22        | 20        | 13        | 0     | 103     |
|                  |          |                        | 0.00%  | 7.77%     | 12.62%    | 26.21%    | 21.36%    | 19.42%    | 12.62%    | 0.00% | 100.00% |



**The images below display school bus routes as of June 2013 and proposed routes for September 2013**



NOTE\* Pick up times shown are as of June 2013



NOTE\* Pick up times shown are approximate for Sept 2013

**Niton**

Pick up times for students on routes north of North and East of Niton were initially projected to be as early as 6:30 am starting September 2013. There are 6 routes that provide service for Niton and Edson high school. Five of the six routes in Niton provide a double service run. This means, drivers begin the route picking up high school students, transfer to the Edson high school route and then complete a run for students enrolled at Niton School. Transfers are not completed until 7:20 am so Niton students would not normally have an earlier pick up time than 7:20 am.

When reviewing the Niton routes we noticed that reorganization of the routes would streamline route directions and still provide Niton students with a later pick up time! Transportation services re-organized the routes resulting in later pick up times for bus routes North and East of Niton.

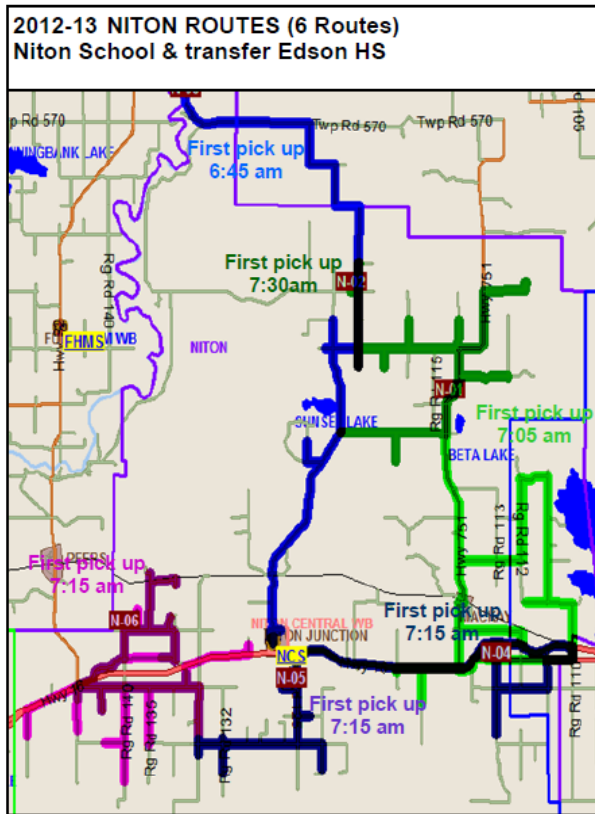
Effective September 2013 there will be 5 routes providing service to Niton School.

The chart below reflects student ride times as of June 2013 and proposed times for September 2013

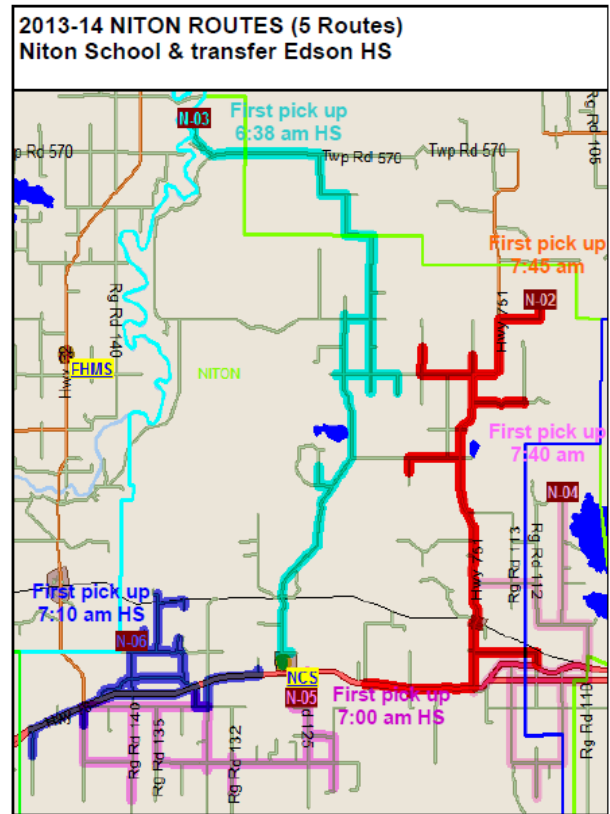
| Location:        | Niton | Actual June 2013       | Percentage Distribution of Student Pick-up Times |           |           |           |           |           |           |       |         |
|------------------|-------|------------------------|--|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-------|---------|
| # of Bus Routes: | 6     | Range of Pick-up Times | <7:00  | 7:01-7:15 | 7:16-7:30 | 7:31-7:45 | 7:46-8:00 | 8:01-8:15 | 8:16-8:30 | 8:31+ | Total   |
|                  |       | Number of Students     | 1  | 12        | 23        | 35        | 15        | 49        | 32        | 7     | 174     |
|                  |       |                        | 0.57%  | 6.90%     | 13.22%    | 20.11%    | 8.62%     | 28.16%    | 18.39%    | 4.02% | 100.00% |
| Location:        | Niton | Proposed Sept. 2013    | Percentage Distribution of Student Pick-up Times |           |           |           |           |           |           |       |         |
| # of Bus Routes: | 5     | Range of Pick-up Times | <7:00  | 7:01-7:15 | 7:16-7:30 | 7:31-7:45 | 7:46-8:00 | 8:01-8:15 | 8:16-8:30 | 8:31+ | Total   |
|                  |       | Number of Students     | 2  | 18        | 16        | 25        | 35        | 45        | 38        | 16    | 195     |
|                  |       |                        | 1.03%  | 9.23%     | 8.21%     | 12.82%    | 17.95%    | 23.08%    | 19.49%    | 8.21% | 100.00% |

\* Niton students would not be picked up until after Edson High School transfers at 7:20 am

The images below display school bus routes as of June 2013 and proposed routes for September 2013



NOTE\* Pick up times shown are as of June 2013



NOTE\* Pick up times shown are approximate for Sept 2013

### Edson

Two additional routes have been added to the Edson area. Route E-26 will operate in the Wolf Lake road area east of Edson. The second, Route E-27, will operate within the town of Edson providing service to ineligible students.

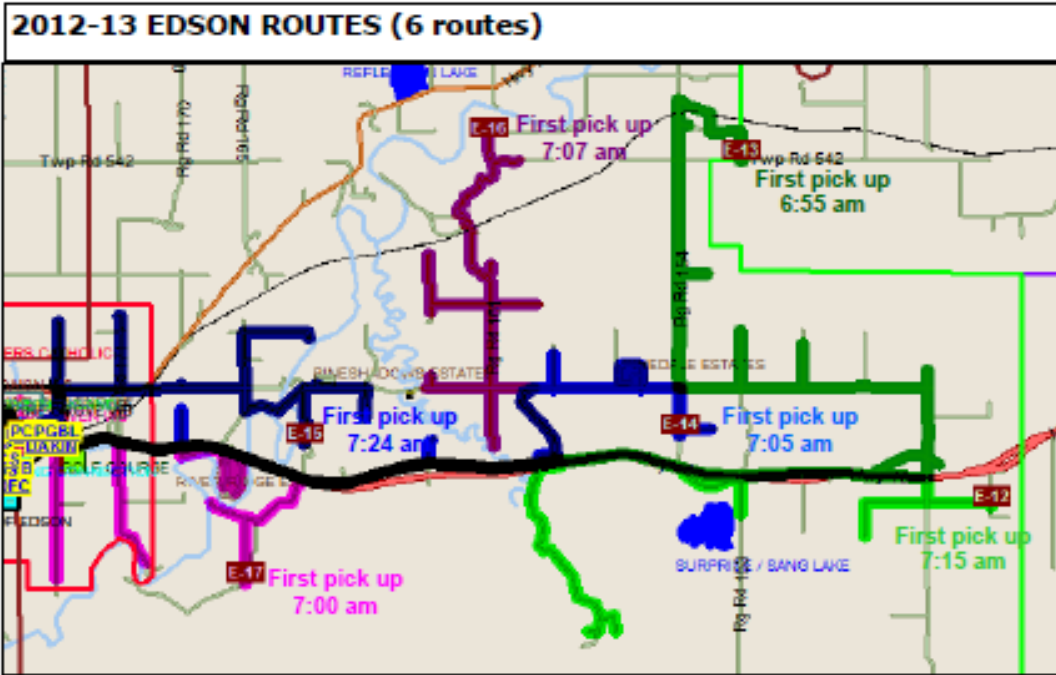
### Route -26

Rural areas east of Edson were experiencing early pick up times and overcrowding on some bus routes. A detailed review of six bus routes in this area resulted in a reorganization of the routes and the addition of Route E-27 in rural Edson.

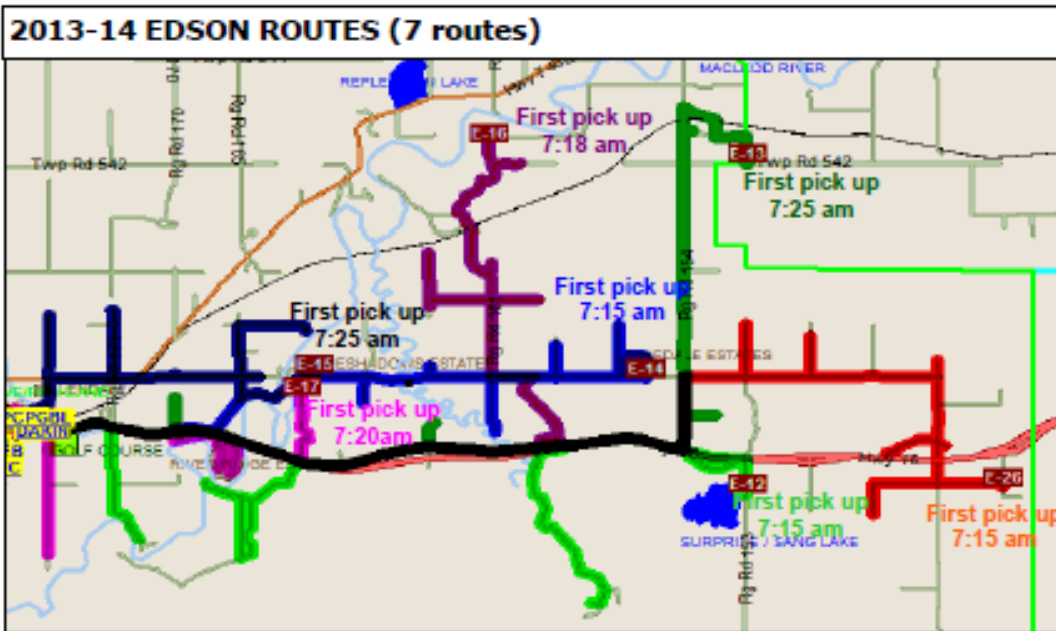




The images below display school bus routes as of June 2013 and proposed routes for September 2013



NOTE\* Pick up times shown are as of June 2013



NOTE\* Pick up times shown are approximate for September 2013

### Route E-27

This route will operate within the Town of Edson and is still being developed as new student registrations for the town route are still being received daily. Transportation is proposing a route that will cover areas of the town that have not previously received school bus service. The proposed route will be available for online review by August 23, 2013.

## Fulham

Transportation Services has been reviewing projected Fulham ride times for September 2013. Although we are currently operating at an efficient level, ride times are maximized and new student continue to register.

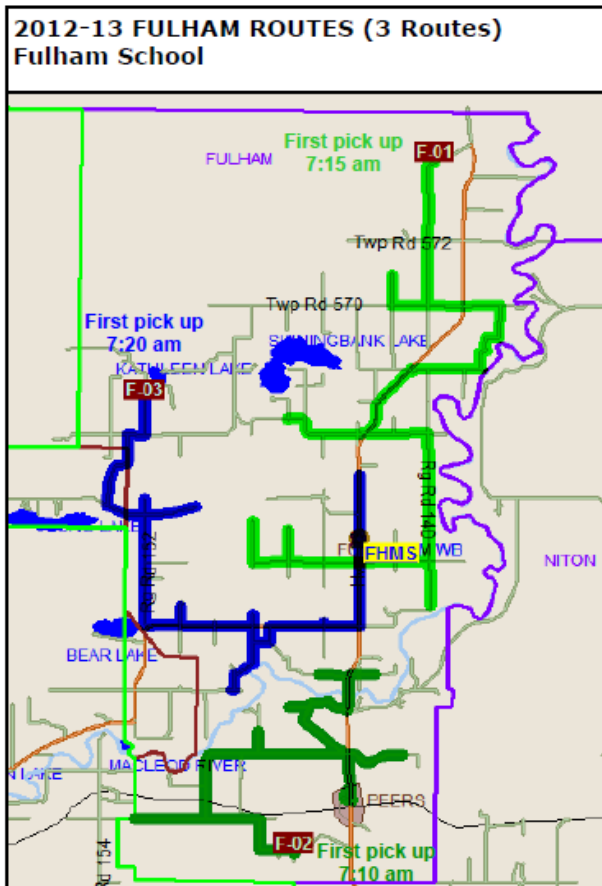
When reorganizing the Edson routes that provide high school service from the Fulham area, we were able streamline routes and provide additional service to Fulham school by having one of the Edson high school routes provide service to Fulham after completing a transfer of students to Edson.

This provided many students in Fulham with a shorter overall ride time!

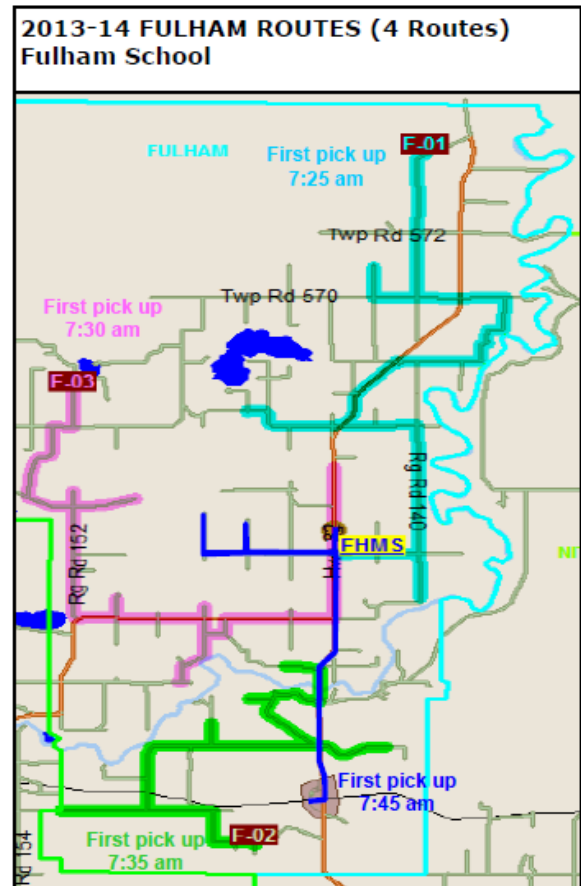
**The chart below reflects student ride times as of June 2013 and proposed times for September 2013**

| Location:        | Fulham | Actual June 2013       | Percentage Distribution of Student Pick-up Times |           |           |           |           |           |           |       | Total   |
|------------------|--------|------------------------|--|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-------|---------|
| # of Bus Routes: | 3      | Range of Pick-up Times | <7:00  | 7:01-7:15 | 7:16-7:30 | 7:31-7:45 | 7:46-8:00 | 8:01-8:15 | 8:16-8:30 | 8:31+ | 96      |
|                  |        | Number of Students     | 0  | 0         | 14        | 19        | 33        | 18        | 12        | 0     |         |
|                  |        |                        | 0.00%  | 0.00%     | 14.58%    | 19.79%    | 34.38%    | 18.75%    | 12.50%    | 0.00% | 100.00% |
| Location:        | Fulham | Proposed Sept. 2013    | Percentage Distribution of Student Pick-up Times |           |           |           |           |           |           |       | Total   |
| # of Bus Routes: | 4      | Range of Pick-up Times | <7:00  | 7:01-7:15 | 7:16-7:30 | 7:31-7:45 | 7:46-8:00 | 8:01-8:15 | 8:16-8:30 | 8:31+ | 79      |
|                  |        | Number of Students     | 0  | 0         | 4         | 21        | 22        | 22        | 10        | 0     |         |
|                  |        |                        | 0.00%  | 0.00%     | 5.06%     | 26.58%    | 27.85%    | 27.85%    | 12.66%    | 0.00% | 100.00% |

**The images below display school bus routes as of June 2013 and proposed routes for September 2013**



NOTE\* Pick up times shown are as of June 2013



NOTE\* Pick up times shown are approximate for September 2013

During the months of August and September the Transportation department will finalize proposed routes and drivers will establish a routine and confirm pick up and drop off times along their route. As new students register for the school bus and are added to the bus route, Transportation Services will continue to adjust routes and monitor stop times to ensure potential concerns are resolved.

Interested stakeholders may view the TCCAP, proposed 2013-14 school bus routes or register for the school bus on the GYPSD website at [www.gypsd.ca](http://www.gypsd.ca) or contact Transportation Services at:  
Telephone: 780-723-6170 or 1-800-723-2564  
Fax 780-723-2414  
Email [transportation@gypsd.ca](mailto:transportation@gypsd.ca)

### **Context of the Recommendation:**

Section 51 of the School Act states:

- “51(1) Subject to the regulations, a board shall provide for the transportation of a student to and from the site of the school in which the board has enrolled the student if the student resides
- (a) at a distance from the site of that school to be determined by the regulations,
  - (b) within the attendance area established by the board under section 13, and
  - (c) within the boundaries of the district or division.
- (2) The board is deemed to have complied with subsection (1) when transportation is provided on a route that is not more than 2.4 kilometers from the residence of the student.”

Policy 17 – Transportation of Students, states in its preamble: “In order to provide students with equal access to educational opportunities, the Board's aim is to provide a safe, effective and efficient transportation system for students.”

In October of 2011 the Transportation Community Consultation Action Plan (TCCAP) was approved by the Board of Trustees to outline the process in which Grande Yellowhead will engage their internal and external stakeholders regarding their current needs, or transportation concerns. The core belief of the Board of Trustees is that all concerns will be reviewed in the best interests of our students with regards to the impact on their education.

### **Conclusion:**

Grande Yellowhead Public School Division believes that all concerns be addressed in order to provide our students with a safe environment, on and off the school bus. Parents, schools and other interested stakeholders are encouraged to communicate their concerns to the Transportation office, as soon as possible.