



TransPar Inspires Transportation Consortium, Creates Savings and Efficiencies for St. Louis Area Public School Districts



Working together with TransPar, we came up with a unique solution that would allow our district to own the buses and oversee the entire transportation operation, without the day-to-day routing, scheduling and management... Knowing that the TransPar team has their eyes on the day-to-day safety and performance of our transportation system has lifted a great burden off my shoulders. I'm free to focus on the other aspects of my job."

- Dr. Jason Buckner
Assistant Superintendent for Business &
Finance, Ladue Public Schools

When dissatisfaction with their long-time school bus contractor hit the breaking point, administrators at Ladue and University City public schools in the Greater St. Louis Area decided it was time to build a better mousetrap. They sought a creative solution that would allow them more control over their student transportation systems, without the headaches of day-to-day management. In this case study, University City's CFO Scott Hafertepe and Dr. Jason Buckner, Ladue's Assistant Superintendent for Business and Finance, share how TransPar helped guide them to the perfect solution.

The Challenge: Gain Control and Boost Efficiency without Increasing Costs

"Up until about five years ago, we outsourced our entire transportation operation," said Ladue's Dr. Jason Buckner. "We wanted more control over transportation and to own our own buses, but did not want to be the operator or day-to-day managers of the fleet. We issued an RFP for a company that could help us come up with a creative solution to take control of our own destiny, and TransPar fit our needs. They had worked with Missouri school districts since 1996 and had a stellar reputation."

University City School District, located geographically adjacent to Ladue, found itself in the same situation. They were being served by the same contractor, out of the same terminal and experiencing the same issues. According to Scott Hafertepe, "The buses they were using were in deplorable condition."

"Assessing a transportation system, comparing in-house vs. outsourced services, and creating contract bids is a complicated process," said Hafertepe. "I'm a finance guy, not a transportation expert. TransPar proved to be the missing piece of our transportation puzzle."

The Solution: A Collaborative Agreement that Reimagines Student Transportation

Buckner explained what happened next. “Working together with TransPar, we came up with a unique solution that would allow our district to own the buses and oversee the entire transportation operation, without the day-to-day routing, scheduling and management. We entered into a collaborative agreement with University City Schools to share the costs of a new school bus fleet and facilities. Together, we contracted with Missouri Central School Bus to provide bus drivers, mechanics and other staff operating out of our joint location.”

“The entire operation is overseen by an on-site TransPar Transportation Coordinator who manages Missouri Central and interfaces with parents and principals on our behalf. We still call the shots, but we leave the day-to-day operations and customer service to TransPar and Missouri Central,” Buckner said.

“TransPar’s transportation experience is exceptional,” Hafertepe added. “From day one, they understood the dynamics at play in our transportation system and helped us work through all the details that we would never have considered on our own. Critical considerations like where to place the fuel tank on the terminal property, and other details that were addressed upfront, so they did not create issues down the road.”

The Result: Higher Quality, More Efficient School Bus Operations

Now, after five years of collaboration, both Buckner and Hafertepe describe their relationship with each other and TransPar as “very successful.”

“It’s much higher quality, more efficient and the costs are virtually the same as under our previous contract,” Hafertepe said. “Serving as the transportation interface for individual school administrators and parents is not an easy role. Our

on-site TransPar manager is under a lot of pressure to make everyone happy and he does a fantastic job.”

“Knowing that the TransPar team has their eyes on the day-to-day safety and performance of our transportation system has lifted a great burden off my shoulders. I’m free to focus on the other aspects of my job,” said Buckner.

Hafertepe agrees. “TransPar definitely makes my job easier – especially when it comes to customer service. TransPar is on the front lines to deal with parental concerns and school level issues before they ever get to us at the district level. We fielded these calls ourselves in the past and it was very time consuming. They not only save us time, but as transportation experts, they have seen it all before and handle customer questions and concerns better than we ever could.”
