Washougal School District Transportation

- Washougal School District Transportation Department
- Age: Approximately 70 years (built in 1940s)
- Parking for 25 basic buses, 9 SPED buses, 5 district vehicles and 21 personal cars
- Shop holds 5 buses
- Inventory: 41 large buses, 13 small buses, 2 decommissioned buses
- Staff: 30 drivers, 8 substitute drivers, one mechanic (bus maintenance handled by district staff)

What's Special about our Transportation Department?

- With 8 years of outstanding Washington State Patrol inspection reports, our transportation department is among the top in the state.
- Our highly efficient program is subsidized by the school district at a lower rate than other departments.
- 3 years of 100% OSPI transportation efficiency study.
- Large size of facility allows almost all maintenance transportation repairs to be done by in-house staff and with considerable cost savings.
- Staff is able to recycle parts from old buses, which saves on maintenance costs and replacement parts for the newer buses.

Our challenges:

- Current building lacks many safety features and has inadequate ventilation system.
- Office space does not allow for confidential communications and staff/parents around sensitive issues.
• Parking at the site is inadequate for the number of cars, and patrons routinely have to cross E Street to get into building.
• 25 drivers park there also sometimes park across E Street.
• As buses enter and leave site, they cause considerable congestion (4x per day) on E Street.
• Difficult to move 50 foot long buses around the property.
• Low interior ceiling does not allow lifting buses up to do work underneath nor to work on transmission.
• Insufficient space for the entire space to be stored in one location, means some buses are stored in unsecured areas; also does not accommodate any growth in the fleet
• Can’t wash buses on property because of water run-off issues.
• Dry rot on siding on the outside of the building.
• Renovating the current building to bring it up to code would be cost prohibitive.
• E Street expansion makes it difficult to accommodate buses.
• Shop heating system is inadequate and only able to raise temperature to a few degrees above the outside temperature.
• Facility is surrounded by residential neighbors who are subject to noise and air pollution.