



Equity Impact Statement: Transdev Contract Extension

Title: Transdev Contract Extension

Date: April 6, 2022

Was the [Racial Equity Planning Tool](#) used? Yes No

If yes, insert date(s) of REPT meetings and link to completed REPT here: _____

Did a member of the Division of Equity, Strategy and Opportunity Gaps review this statement? Yes No

BPS Racial Equity Planning Tool Sections	Summary/Rationale
<p>1. Proposal/Presentation & Impact <i>What are the proposal's/effort's desired outcomes, including in eliminating disparities? Who led this work/planning, and do they reflect BPS students' and families' group identities (key groups include individuals who are Black, Latinx, Asian, indigenous, immigrant, multilingual, and have Special Education experience)?</i></p>	<p>The Boston Public Schools proposes to grant Transdev (formerly Veolia) with the fifth and final extension option. This one-year extension would run from July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023. This will result in no disruption to the district's transportation services.</p> <p>The leadership of the Department of Transportation manages the district's relationship with TranDev. This team is largely representative of BPS student and family demographics.</p>
<p>2. Alignment with the Strategic Plan <i>How does the proposal/effort align with the district's strategic plan?</i></p>	<p>This extension aligns with Commitment 5 - Cultivate Trust, specifically 5.5: Revamp central office operations to ensure the highest quality of services to families, including school registration, transportation, food and nutrition services, and safety.</p> <p>The extension provides an opportunity to more closely monitor Transdev's performance against key metrics to ensure prompt, safe transportation for BPS students.</p>
<p>3. Analysis of Data <i>What data was analyzed? Was it disaggregated by race and other key groups? What did it show regarding disparities?</i></p>	<p>The Department of Transportation constantly monitors data regarding accurate, safe, on-time performance of the district's buses. Students of color, students with special needs, and English learners disproportionately rely on bus service (versus walking or being delivered to or from school by a family member), and Transdev's effectiveness is a key factor in their academic success and well-being.</p>
<p>4. Stakeholder Engagement <i>Who was engaged (quantity, key groups, and roles) and how, and what did that yield? What did students/families most impacted by this proposal/effort say?</i></p>	<p>The district has received extensive feedback regarding our Transportation services from parents, students, school-based staff, and community advocates in recent years. Stakeholders continue to raise concerns regarding the safety and on-time performance of the district's buses, particularly during this year's staffing shortage. The Department of Transportation, and the district as a whole, are committed to improvement in the partnership with TransDev and their performance.</p>

<p>5. Racial Equity Strategies <i>How does this proposal/effort mitigate disparities and increase racial and other equity? What are possible unintended consequences? What complementary strategies will further advance equity?</i></p>	<p>Entering a relationship with a new, unproven vendor would likely have negative service delivery implications, and increase disruptions in students’ education. Because students of color make up a disproportionately large percentage (89%) of those served by the BPS transportation system, any negative impacts would particularly affect those students.</p> <p>A potential unintended consequence of this extension is the perception – by Transdev, families, and other stakeholders – that the current level of service is acceptable. The Department of Transportation will continue to press Transdev to ensure every BPS student who needs bus service arrives at school and home on time and safely using the accountability measures described below.</p>
<p>6 Budget & Implementation <i>What are the budget impacts? How will implementation ensure all objectives, particularly equity-related objectives, are met? What are the group identities of the implementation team, and will they bring an equity lens?</i></p>	<p>There is a substantial positive budget impact to awarding Transdev with a one-year extension. In the previous bidding process, Transdev’s proposed management fee was more than \$2 million less than the next lowest qualified bidder. Transdev’s current fee of approximately \$2.9 million is only slightly higher than the fee BPS paid to First Student for the same services in 2004. Given that the competitive field is likely smaller than it was during the last bidding process in 2013, it is highly likely BPS would incur much higher costs if the current vendor is not extended.</p>
<p>7. Accountability & Communication <i>How will impacts be assessed, documented and communicated to stakeholders? Who will be responsible?</i></p>	<p>The BPS Transportation Department Fleet Compliance Manager will regularly monitor key performance measures. Performance against these measures will be regularly shared and discussed with Transdev leadership. Metrics that are below target will require corrective action steps. Failure to consistently meet targets will result in termination of the contract, and reissuing of an RFP for this service.</p>