

# transfinder



NYS Best Practices: Navigating Uncharted Territory  
Caused by COVID-19

## **NYAPT 'Return to School Work Group' School Transportation Services**

# Welcome



- **Welcome:**  
Antonio Civitella  
Transfinder President and CEO
- **Introduction of panelists:**  
Director David Christopher  
Executive Director of NYAPT
- **Moderator:** Rick D'Errico, Transfinder



# Mission

To provide the New York Pupil Transportation industry with a recommended roadmap to resuming transportation operations in the COVID-19 era and beyond



# First Steps – Define General Categories to Address

- Staff Safety
- Student Safety
- Bus Equipment
- Bus Stop Safety
- Bus Capacity
- Cleaning/Sanitizing
- HR/Labor Issues
- PPE's
- Regulatory Compliance
- Special Education
- Routing Issues



# Example of Issues Identified

## Student Safety

- ✓ Use of PPE's & compliance
- ✓ Social distancing on the bus – how to make it happen
- ✓ Will temperature checks prior to boarding bus be required?
- ✓ Reduce density at bus stops
- ✓ Proper cleaning and disinfecting of buses
- ✓ Safe loading/unloading of bus – social distancing – fill rear seats first then toward front – reverse to unload
- ✓ Impact these new processes will have on special education student population



# Staff Safety

- **Bus staff**

- ✓ Availability and proper use of PPE
- ✓ Face masks, gloves, face shields
- ✓ Temperature checks by drivers/monitors/attendants?
- ✓ Protocols for notification of positive cases

- **Garage staff**

- ✓ Mechanic social distancing in garage
- ✓ Shop area/tools cleaning and disinfecting
- ✓ PPE's for shop personnel
- ✓ Do you run multiple shifts to reduce density?
- ✓ How to assure buses are disinfected before repairs
- ✓ How will you handle parts delivery, sales calls?



- **Transportation office**

- ✓ Eliminate/reduce size of lounge area
- ✓ How do you handle large scale training
- ✓ Coaching sessions with supervisors
- ✓ Check in process with dispatcher



- **Cleaning & Disinfecting**

- ✓ Who will do the cleaning and disinfecting
- ✓ How often- once a day; in between tiers
- ✓ Training on proper cleaning
- ✓ Deep cleaning vs. touching up high touch areas
- ✓ Cleaning supplies

- **Training considerations**

- ✓ More online training for drivers, monitors, attendants?

# Routing

- School site loading and unloading issues
- The need for high skill routing personnel to create multiples scenarios
- Flexibility - school schedules may change in response to pandemic spikes
- Adjust routes to respond to social distancing
- Will number of bus routes increase/decrease?
- Will route times be longer due to cleaning requirement, loading/unloading delays
- Should parents be asked to apply for transportation services?
- Early decision on instructional schedule to plan routes needed

# Equipment

- Do we retain buses scheduled for retirement in case of need?
- Do we adapt the bus to enhance driver safety? Sneeze guards?
- Can we improve air circulation on buses?

# State compliance

- SED, DOT, DMV
- How do we catch up?





# Staffing Issues

- Will we see staffing shortages or surpluses?
- Will at risk staff chose not to come back?
- How will possible extended day effect driver/attendants with other commitments?
- DMV closed for months- CDL licensing has been delayed
- Additional bus runs equal need for more drivers
- During “pause” drivers may have moved on to other driving jobs
- How will possible budget cuts effect staffing?



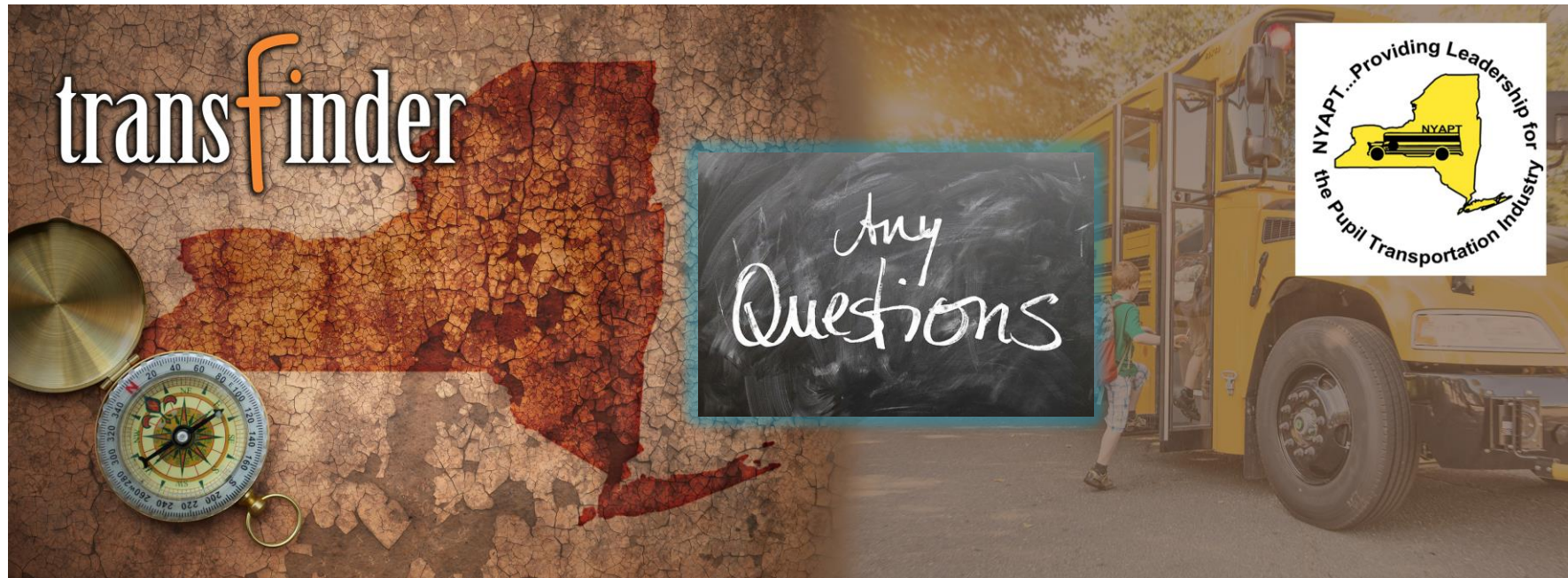
# Next Steps...

- Organize information for ease of use and to readily update
- Identify what we can do now vs. what we need direction on
- Identify short- and long-term solutions
- Provide information to members, other interested parties
- This is a fluid issue – we need to be flexible.
- Write a white paper for ongoing advocacy efforts
- This is a marathon, not a sprint – smart, steady pace!
- Continue reviewing situation - NYAPT Safety Committee – Chaired by Rich Gallagher



# Be the Leader!

- You are the most knowledgeable in your school district on transportation matters
- Lead the conversation!



# Discussion Panel



**David Christopher**  
NYAPT

**Theresa Anderson**  
TM Anderson  
Consulting LLC



**Richard Gallagher**  
Bayshore School Past  
NYAPT President and  
Safety Committee Chair

**Bill Harvey**  
Honeoye Falls – LIMA CSD  
NYAPT Legislative  
Committee Chair

**Rick D'Errico**  
moderator

# Success Stories



Do you have a story?

[mystory@transfinder.com](mailto:mystory@transfinder.com)

# Questions

