

Dear Students,

The student body is currently experiencing a sizeable culture shift with the implementation of the new bus system that now serves as the primary means for transportation to community service sites in the South Bend/Mishawaka area. With this shift, there inevitably comes much confusion relating to how to use the new Transpo system as well as an apprehension to do so, for many Notre Dame students have never previously experienced travel in South Bend via public transportation. We at the CSC are here to help make this transition as smooth and problem-free as possible, and in order to reduce the uncertainty that many students have concerning how to plan the best route possible to get to their service sites, I have prepared a comprehensive collection of directions for students to use when riding the buses. These directions dictate when to catch the #7 bus at Library Circle, where to de-board the bus, how to transfer to another bus, if applicable, and exactly how to get to the service site after exiting the bus. I have also prepared a handout of information of things that one should know when riding with South Bend Transpo, including, but not limited to, how to signal to a driver that you would like to board the bus and how to load/unload your bicycle if you would like to bring it with you on your trip. Hopefully, with the route schedules and helpful handouts of information, riding the city bus will become second nature and really help students connect with the South Bend community in a way that is difficult to do when traveling to and from service sites by car or van.

Additionally, in order to help the University, Transpo, and the CSC improve the system to make it as beneficial as possible for students and the community, the CSC is asking that those who use Transpo fill out a form detailing when the bus picked them up, when it arrived at the transfer station, when it arrived at their stops, etc. This form is attached to this e-mail as well available at the front desk of the Center for Social Concerns. It is important that students fill in this information while riding on the bus so that 100% accuracy regarding the travel times is guaranteed. The more accurate the times are that we get, the better the chances are that the system can be fine tuned to better serve the needs of everyone. We also welcome any comments relating to problems and/or positive experiences that people are having while riding the bus. This will also provide us with helpful information so that the system can be further improved.

As is stated above, I (as well as the CSC) am dedicated to making this transition an easy one for students, staff, faculty, and the South Bend community. To further assist you with your transportation needs, this information will soon be available on the CSC's website as well. If there are ever any questions or if anyone needs any help regarding transportation issues and community service, do not hesitate to call me at the CSC at 1-5319 or e-mail me at cscvans@nd.edu.

Thank you for your time and energy concerning this matter,

Joanna Basile
Transportation Coordinator
Center for Social Concerns