



## **Maine Department of Education/Transportation**

### **Case Study – August 2017**

### **RSU 24**

#### **District Profile**

RSU 24 is a rural district serving nine communities encompassing coastal and island communities on the Down East Coast of Maine. 500 students are transported daily to 4 elementary schools and 1 high school. Bion Holbrook is the Facilities and Transportation Director, and has been with the district for three years. The district manages 20 buses on 16 routes in addition to 2 vans used for transporting students with special needs. The district fleet travels a total of about 310,000 miles of rural roads per year.

#### **Solution**

**Routing and Scheduling.** When Bion joined the district he recognized that the district was in need of an effective fleet management system to help archive work orders and efficiently manage repairs and preventive maintenance – in sum, a system to optimize operations and maintain safety. The priority at the time was to get a fleet management system up and running as soon as possible. Bion was familiar with Routefinder Pro routing and scheduling software from his previous district. While RSU 24 was using the transportation software provided free to public schools by the Maine Department of Education, Bion realized the system had previously been underutilized and that the district could make better use of Routefinder Pro and scheduling.

Correct student information in the transportation system was vital to accurately route students on school buses. When the district lost its data manager they were struggling with data quality and consistency. With the arrival of a permanent data manager replacement student information could be updated and consistent information could be used for data driven decision making.

**Maintenance.** RSU 24, being a rural district, was recording its vehicle maintenance in Microsoft Word. Not only was this process time-consuming, not much could be done with the information – the district had been manually recording data and retrieving transportation information was difficult to provide when needed. Reports could not be extracted, and information was difficult to filter. Also, the district risked losing historical vehicle information in the event of a computer crash.

#### **Benefits**

Servicefinder, the vehicle maintenance module of Transfinder, was quickly implemented at the district. With the easy to use module the district began recording maintenance in the system right away. As a browser-based solution, work order and maintenance history is stored on the Cloud, so in any event there can never be a data loss and data can be restored. Also, in combination with Zonar GPS installed on their buses, mileage is automatically recorded in Servicefinder, and flagged for routine maintenance when it's due.



In the coming year Bion will be focusing on getting Routefinder Pro up and running for routing and scheduling. With a full time data manager now employed at the district, consistent student information can be updated allowing the routes to be automatically updated once they have been created. Once routes are established and accurate student information loaded in Routefinder Pro and maintenance is tracked in Servicefinder, there will be a much more efficient work flow, and quick access to information will easily be at hand.

### **Testimonial**

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