



March 7, 2014

To: Fox Cities Transit Commission

From: Sal LaPuma – Assistant General Manager
Bruce Detweiler – Operations Supervisor

Subject: AASD East High School Issue

Valley Transit owns and maintains a bus shelter located on Schaefer at the intersection with Bluebird on the East High School campus. Because it is located on the school campus, this shelter is used by a large number of East High students for both our regular and tripper bus service.

Over the last six months or so, we have been experiencing an increase in vandalism to the shelter and reports of students smoking at or in the shelter. We brought this to the attention of the Appleton Police school liaison and East High administrators who, along with some of our staff, spoke to and monitored the students who use the shelter in an attempt to enforce the no smoking rule at the shelter and identify those who were vandalizing the shelter.

Despite these efforts, we continued to experience vandalism and smoking in the shelter. In February 2014, the shelter experienced major vandalism, where someone had broken the wooden bench in the shelter, wrote graphic images on the shelter glass and roof, and spit on the glass in the shelter.

Working with the East High administrators and Appleton Police Department, we came up with a plan to stop the vandalism and smoking in the shelter. We placed a warning sign in the shelter stating that if the vandalism and smoking did not cease, we would remove the entire structure by the middle of March. We also encouraged students to report those who were responsible for the vandalism to their school administrator or on the Appleton East website.

On March 6th, 2014, we received word from the Associate Principal at East High that the students who had caused the most significant damage to the shelter had been identified and disciplined for their actions. The Associate Principal cited the sign in the shelter as a major contributing factor to them being able to identify the offenders. He also stated that they had a student who was cleaning up remaining graffiti in the shelter and that they have been able to keep it clean and in order.

Appleton East has stated they will continue to monitor the usage of the shelter and will respond to any concerns or problems that we may have in the future. Staff at Valley Transit is also looking at updating the sign in the shelter and removing the date as to when the shelter would be removed. We also will continue to monitor the situation and take necessary action when warranted.