Wisconsin Private School Bus Provider Transforms Operations with Bytecurve

Air Force veteran turned student transport pro dubs software: Centralized Command, Centralized Control. Remember the days before your smartphone doubled as a turn-by-turn navigation tool ready to help you effortlessly navigate toward a new restaurant or deftly avert a sudden traffic congestion on your daily commute?
It's hard for many of us.

Impossible for younger drivers to even imagine. Referring to paper maps, stopping in a gas station parking lot to read street signs clearly. Or turning around frustrated after missing the turn altogether. Suddenly finding yourself running late by an accident on that one day you had to be to work on time.

We always got where we were going, but it sure seems inefficient and a little bit unsafe compared to the convenience of instant navigation to virtually anywhere.
Nevermind the prompts from Google Maps that your commute may take longer due to an overturned semi on your normal interstate daily commute.
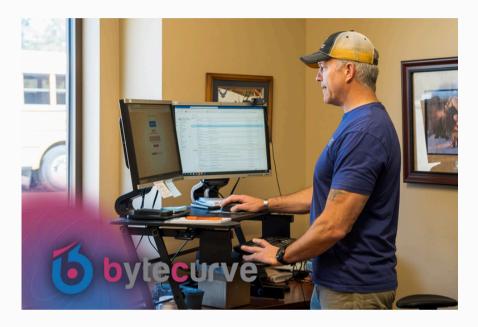
The transformative power of technology often sneaks up on us, making it hard to remember how we accomplished cumbersome tasks before software smoothed our paths.
That's the feeling Lacey Bast and Martin Klukas experience when they speak about how they managed their complex student transportation operations prior to adopting Bytecurve360.
The software designed to bridge the gap between a routing provider and GPS fleet tracking has smoothed over countless aspects of their operations, many of which the duo didn't fully appreciate were flawed until they leveraged Bytecurve360.

"You don't know what you don't know," Klukas acknowledged with the humble approach of a student transport leader who regularly gets behind the wheel to fill in for absent drivers.
"And you might not know what you need to be better, stronger, faster until you see it for yourself."
Martin describes the Bytecurve360 solution as "Centralized Command, Centralized Control" reflecting his military background as well as his appreciation for gathering a more comprehensive view of his operations and uncovering fresh opportunities to save time and money while decreasing stress in their Eau Claire, Wisconsin headquarters.

"We have a level of situational awareness and ability to respond in real time that we simply didn't know was possible when we relied on the other tools," he said.

"Routing and GPS and the other Time and Attendance platform were all good tools, but they worked independently and it was a challenge to take advantage of the information from one system and apply it to the other. Today we see it all."

Your Smarter Driver Management: Instant Absentee or Late Alerts to Drive Route Flexibility

Prior to Bytecurve360, the start of every day was a blur of visual management of who's arriving on time, who's absent and then a flurry of activity to fill the suddenly vacant routes.

"First it was Julie, then Becky, and then Stan and, wait … .who was that? Did we miss someone? We had to watch them literally come in and know who was where and how it would impact operations," Lacey recalled.

"Now the information comes to us, we get alerts when people are late clocking in or going to be absent altogether and it allows us to respond faster. We're not trying to figure out who's missing. We're on to adjusting our routes."

And that's when Bytecurve delivers in a previously unimaginable way with an immediate impact on-time arrivals, fewer parent calls and more satisfied customers.

"I don't know what I would do anymore if I wasn't able to break up the routes and re-assign the drivers the way we do with Bytecurve every day, It's a few clicks and we've moved people and routes and kept the whole machine running better" Bast explains.

"It's changed the way we operate and allowed us to be so much more flexible and do it quickly."

Time and Attendance: Comprehensive, Instant Verification and Money Saving

Before Bytecurve360, Student Transit had different payroll clock-in, clock-out systems for the organization's different departments. Drivers, aides and monitors on one system with the mechanics and support staff on another.

Moreover, it was tedious and time-consuming to find irregularities that could be costly. Identifying who clocked in 25 minutes before their route instead of five, or 20 minutes after, again instead of five, was a manual task that required vigilance, nevermind finding the time in the day.

Coupled with the challenges of paying the same employee working in diverse roles with different pay codes – sometimes in the same day – and payroll assumed an outsized administrative burden.
Now, all employees are tied to the Bytecurve payrolls system, which is integrated with the organization's human resources software to automatically generate paychecks.

It also features unlimited job classifications, meaning a single employee can simply swipe between the pay rates of jobs like driver, monitor or aid without the tedious administrative burden on management.
"What I love is the simplicity of instant verification of hours matching routes and how it shows us any discrepancies immediately," Lacey said.

"We're not chasing down drivers or timesheets anymore, all the data is right there in front of us and we're able to catch and fix almost any error right away. It's impossible to know how much we've saved in payroll but we know it's not a little."

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GPS provides real-time awareness, Bytecurve validates

Lacey said she still relies on the Zonar GPS to serve as her wide-angle lens on her fleet on the streets of northern Wisconsin. Cast onto a big-screen TV with immediate updates, it's her go-to when drivers call in for help.
"Zonar is a big part of our success here. I love being able to see the exact location where a driver is when they're calling in a situation or need a hand," she said. "And Bytecurve is the connection we needed to turn that real-time status into actionable upgrades to make us even better at what we do."

Bast said the real-time Google Maps traffic feed has converted their once on-the-fives departures to a more accurate reflection of on-time arrival, reflecting the precision of an airport departure board.
"It used to be always on the fives, buses left at 7 or 7:05 or 7:10 and so on, and that was part of how people thought about their day and their jobs," she explained. "Now with Bytecurve were really dialed in to real traffic conditions and route expectations, and we've had to retrain our people that you should leave at 7:02 or 7:14. It's part of our culture of improving our operations to be better at serving the students."

Klukas refers to Bytecurve as his command and control, and appreciates how it blends disparate solutions that formerly operated in their own silos into a more powerful perspective. "We know we can't go without Zonar and Versatrans for our routing and now Bytecurve has become our one-stop-shop for all things operations," he said. "I can say I can't remember how we did some of the things we accomplish now and I don't want to."

About Student Transit
A fourth-generation family-run company, Student Transit strives to "treat everyone like family" with a proud tradition of excellent customer service in the Eau Claire, Wisconsin area.
Today it serves three districts, including Altoona, Fall Creek and Eau Claire school districts, with its approximately 500 buses.

About Bytecurve:

Founded in 2018 by GP Singh after many years on the frontline of student transportation operations with one of the country's largest private student transportation providers, Bytecruve is designed as a 360 view of operations. By blending routing and GPS fleet tracking data, and adding a payroll capability as well as mobile app for two-way communications between dispatch and drivers, Bytecurve 360 has created a new category for student transportation excellence: the dispatch command center.

"We believe many school bus operators still don't appreciate all the potential improvements they can deliver by taking two powerful yet independent systems and merging them into a new layer of visibility and action," Singh said. "We're integrated with all the major providers of routing systems and GPS fleet tracking so virtually any school district with both systems can take advantage of our transformative technology."
Trusted by dozens of districts across North America, more than 40,000 school buses rely on Bytecurve technology to improve their efficiency and safety. "I know from first-hand experience what school bus fleet leaders need to perform at their best, and we work tirelessly on our product and with our customers to deliver this experience so they can know they are investing in the safest and most efficient fleet." states GP Singh.