Stallard’s Answers to Questions:

1. Phone use: android and ios
2. Favorite Apps: tools for testing and other technical uses. Need to solve problem as most important issue.
3. Have used bus system (likes,dislikes): kids and grandkids, nobody talks to anyone. No improvements in 50 years, could use an update.
4. Used app for pubic transit: exact timing and driver, no ambiguity. Payment system and authentication???
5. Would be interested in such an app: thinks bus transit system needs an update

GPS functionality: possible options or other ideas. Cell service is commodity pricing.

-could we use the app on the phone to start tracking the phone’s location at a specific time regardless of whether the phone is on or not. In that case, use a “BUS PHONE” that uses a small phone plan for the buses specifically. It’s only job would be to track the location. Stallard thought that keeping things purely software (as per our expertise) would be beneficial to us. Try not to be dependent on hardware, which isn’t our expertise. Phones are disposable, use them.

Possibility to lock phone down while transmitting GPS data.

Google forms as a “spread page”, basically excel to keep track of data.

If we are recommending they buy a phone, we may not need to use iOS, but something similar.

GPS logger, a current app, saves that data to a Comma separated file. Then we just need to look at distance and other algorithm based information for our data.

Interview with Professor Stallard

We interviewed Professor Stallard both as a parent, an end user, and as someone with professional experience. One of his main points of interest was that in his almost 50 years of experience with the public school transit system, there were few things that had changed, and he believed an upgrade was in order. From previous experience with using apps for public transit, he also told us about his favorite features of those apps: a specific arrival time and information on the bus driver to make sure he was getting on the right bus. The timing was already something we had considered, but not bus or bus driver information, which could be especially helpful at the beginning of the year or if a driver happens to be sick or out for the day. As a professional, Stallard also recommended using phones instead of a raspberry pi to handle GPS tracking, with the idea that phones can be cheap, and data plans can be low cost as well, making sure we did not have to rely on our ability to put hardware together, one of the skills our group lacks.