



10,000 Buses May Jam Roads For Inauguration

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WASHINGTON, DC (WUSA) -- Imagine this traffic jam: Buses -- perhaps 10,000 of them -- stretching all the way around the Beltway and up I-95 to Baltimore.

That's how many charter buses planners say may be headed to DC for Inauguration Day. The big question is where to put them all.

"I don't want to come in at all," says Susan Broadway, whose been driving a commuter bus into the city from Loudoun County for years.

The American Bus Association is predicting half of all the charter buses within one thousand miles will be driving toward the Capitol on January 20th.

"The customers are knocking on the doors of the bus companies saying we want to go," says Peter Pantuso, president of the American Bus Association. "The bus companies are saying, 'We don't know where to put you when we get there.' We need an answer very, very soon."

The 10,000 charter buses are just part of the equation. You also have thousands and thousands of small buses and vans belonging to church groups and schools, all looking for a place to drop off their passengers, a place to park, and then a place to pick them up again.

"We're going to do what we can to accommodate as many as we can, and then work with the region for the rest says DC Administrator Dan Tangherlina. "Part of the best solution is to get people as close to the event as possible so that way we won't tax or overtax the transportation system, particularly the Metro system." He says a good number of the buses will be allowed into the city to drop of their passengers.

The buses will park at the usual places like RFK -- but they've also found 100 other spots as far off as Wolf Trap and FedEx Field and area shopping malls. Tangherlini hopes to have a firm plan in about a week and a half.

A lot of bus drivers are hoping it's a good enough plan that they get to see the new president too. "I'd like to be part of it, even if I get stuck for hours. I don't care," says tour bus driver Jerry Silva. That may be just the right attitude to ride with. If you've ever battled the crowds at the peak of Cherry Blossom season, you can get a taste of this. Usually there are about 1,000 buses around for Cherry Blossoms. So were talking at least 10 times that.