



TO: ABA Members

FROM: President & CEO Peter Pantuso

DATE: November 16, 2009

RE: U.S. DOT Releases Motorcoach Safety Action Plan

The U.S. Department of Transportation this afternoon released its “Motorcoach Safety Action Plan,” which includes the need for more aggressive enforcement to get rogue operators off of the road, enhanced operator safety oversight, invigorated vehicle safety maintenance, and a focus on crash avoidance technologies as well as occupant protection.

ABA’s position has always been that safety is our top priority. Government data show motorcoaches to be the safest form of surface transportation. But we are committed to making the safest even safer. So we welcome the opportunity to work constructively with Secretary LaHood and other federal agencies to enhance safety for all passengers.

ABA staff are currently reading the entire 56-page report, and will provide more detailed comments after completing a full analysis of its recommendations.

ABA supports initiatives that help remove unsafe companies and drivers from the roads; that establish educational benchmarks for drivers; and that makes certain companies entering the industry are knowledgeable and abide by all regulatory requirements. Vigorous enforcement of existing laws doesn’t require new regulations, and can start yielding quantifiable safety results immediately.

With respect to technology and safety engineering enhancements or equipment questions, ABA looks forward to working closely with the various agencies as we move forward to promote science-driven safety within reasonable timeframes.

To read the full report, log on to <http://www.nhtsa.gov/staticfiles/DOT/NHTSA/reports/HS811177.pdf>. As always, please feel free to call me at 202-218-7229 or email me at ppantuso@buses.org if you have any questions.