

The Nation's  
Public Transportation Network:  
*Connecting People  
and Communities*



Prepared by:

**The American Bus Association**  
**The American Public Transportation Association**  
**The Community Transportation Assoc. of America**

**Transportation** connects people with the events and activities that build our communities and our nation. Public and private transportation supports our nation's goals and policies: they provide affordable mobility options and help Americans save on the high cost of fuel while reducing our dependence on foreign oil. Critical to building a stronger economy, public and private mass transportation also helps combat global warming.

# Recommendations

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Under the stress of change in our economy and our global environment some things are made even more vital: the need to get to work, to see a doctor or to go to school. We must work together to ensure our transportation system provides our nation the level of connectivity, access, investment and safety to keep our country strong.

- Recognize the national importance of a connected system of local and intercity operators that moves Americans efficiently and cost-effectively.
- Increase public resources and incentives for expanded public transportation options and leverage private resources to expand intermodal facilities and improve access across modes for air, rail, and bus facilities.
- Take full advantage of public, community and intercity transit operators' energy savings, and emission and congestion reductions.
- Equalize the commuter transportation benefit with the parking benefit —level the playing field among all modes of transportation.

## Connectivity Benefits

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- Americans took more than 10.3 billion trips on public and community transportation in 2007—the highest number in 50 years—offering citizens mobility choices as well as freedom and opportunity.
- Private motorcoaches provide over 600 million trips a year with little or no public subsidy. When private services dovetail with public services, they leverage the benefits of both public and private investment.
- Public transit and private motorcoaches, together, are the tools to keep America safe. The need to safely and efficiently move people out of harm's way in the face of both man-made and natural disasters is met by these systems working in concert.

# Economic Development Benefits

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An integrated, balanced transportation system is key to a healthy, productive economy.

- Each motorcoach tour spends between \$6,000 and \$12,000 per night in the destination community, supporting community events, restaurants, shops and hotels.
- Every dollar invested in public transportation generates approximately \$6 in economic returns.
- The motorcoach travel and tour industry generates employment for more than 750,000 people.
- Public and community transportation is a \$44 billion industry that employs more than 360,000 people.

# **Energy and Environment Benefits**

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- Private bus services and public transportation reduce demand on the roadway capacity and move passengers for work and leisure. Public- private partnerships expand the value of public investments in transportation through expanding options and access to services.
- Public and community transportation use saves the United States 4.2 billion gallons of fuel annually and reduces the nation's carbon emissions by 37 metric tons annually.
- Households that use public transportation save more than \$8,100 a year in fuel and auto costs.
- One person switching to public transportation can reduce daily carbon emissions by 20 pounds or more than 4,800 pounds in a year.
- Public and community transportation can significantly reduce congestion allowing goods and services to flow more freely through our communities and making America more competitive. Without public transportation, congestion costs would have been an addition \$10.2 billion.

# Safety Benefits

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- The motorcoach industry safety record speaks for itself. There are more than 40,000 highway fatalities annually, motorcoaches average 20.
- The Bus Industry Safety Council provides technical advice to NHTSA, works with FMCSA, and provides a forum for operators and manufacturers to identify and respond to safety issues.
- Everyday, millions of American ride the nation's public and community transportation system and private motorcoaches — statistically one of the safest modes of transportation available. Drivers are drug and alcohol tested and the systems undergo regular safety certifications.



**AMERICAN BUS ASSOCIATION**

*Representing the motorcoach, tour and travel industry*

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