

KEEPING AMERICA MOVING:

Motorcoach Priorities for the 2026 Highway Bill

Essential Transportation. Economic Growth. National Mobility.

The private motorcoach industry is a cornerstone of the U.S. surface transportation system and a major economic engine. Motorcoaches provide essential intercity, commuter, charter, and rural service—often connecting communities without access to rail or commercial air service.

Motorcoaches move millions of passengers each year, reduce congestion by removing dozens of cars per trip, and operate with minimal direct federal subsidy. They support tourism, workforce mobility, emergency response, military movements, and major events nationwide.

A Powerful Economic Contributor

Looking at the motorcoach activity generated in 2024, this economic activity extends far beyond bus operators—driving spending at hotels, restaurants, attractions, and small businesses in every state.

SCHEDULED INTERCITY AND AIRPORT SERVICE

\$67.8^B

TOTAL ECONOMIC IMPACT

374K

JOBS SUPPORTED

Scheduled service operates on published timetables along specific routes, providing intercity and airport-to-city transportation.

2024 U.S. MOTORCOACH INDUSTRY ACTIVITY

TOTAL ECONOMIC IMPACT

\$158^B

DIRECT TRAVELER SPENDING

\$69.8^B

TOTAL TAX REVENUE

\$27.7^B

FEDERAL, STATE, & LOCAL TAX

JOBS SUPPORTED

890K+

NATIONWIDE

PASSENGER MILES TRAVELED

37.6^B

PASSENGERS TRANSPORTED

400M

As Congress reauthorizes the federal highway program, motorcoach priorities must be included to ensure equitable treatment, maximize system efficiency, and sustain one of the nation's most cost-effective transportation modes.

Motorcoaches are one of the most cost-effective, energy-efficient, and flexible components of America's transportation system. They expand access to mobility, strengthen tourism economies, reduce congestion, and operate with minimal federal subsidy.

Highway Bill reauthorization presents an opportunity to ensure mobility, safety, and economic growth nationwide.



American
Bus Association™
100 Years



2026 Highway Reauthorization Policy Priorities

1. Fuel Tax Equity for Private Bus Operators:

Provide a full federal fuel tax rebate to establish parity with transit and allow reinvestment in service, workforce, and equipment.

2. Strengthen the Intercity Bus Program (Section 5311(f)):

- Expand funding for route miles, terminals, and interstate service
- Eliminate the “loss requirement” for operating support
- Strengthen oversight to ensure funds are used exclusively for eligible intercity bus services

3. Guarantee Reasonable Access to Public Transit and Rail Facilities

Establish clearer federal standards and stronger enforcement of “reasonable access” requirements to ensure fair, consistent treatment nationwide.

4. Ensure Equal Treatment in Congestion Mitigation Programs

Provide equal access to tolling relief, managed lanes, and bus-only lanes to incentivize and support efficient, sustainable, and cost-effective transportation.

5. Evaluate Federal Transportation Subsidies Across Modes

Direct USDOT to evaluate federal subsidies across modes based on ridership, cost efficiency, sustainability, and mobility outcomes to inform investment decisions.

6. Maintain Current Federal Insurance Liability Limits

Maintain current limits to avoid disproportionate cost burdens on small and mid-sized operators.

7. Enforce Charter Bus Regulations

Strengthen enforcement to preserve a fair and competitive marketplace.

8. Establish Reasonable Commercial Vehicle Idling Standards

Allow limited motorcoach idling for safety, accessibility, and passenger comfort by establishing a minimum 15-minute federal threshold.