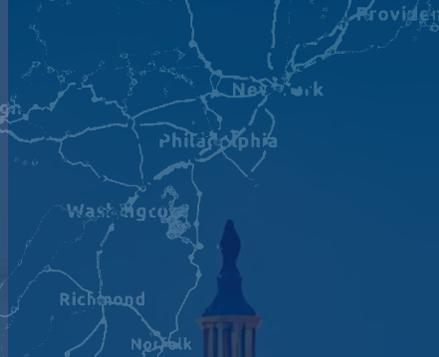




**American
Bus Association**
100 Years



BUSES MOVE AMERICA

**AMERICAN BUS ASSOCIATION
POLICY AGENDA
2026**





WHO WE ARE

The American Bus Association (ABA) is the leading national trade association representing the North American motorcoach, charter bus, group travel, and tourism industries. ABA's mission is to connect people with places through an international network of bus and motorcoach operators, manufacturers, tour companies, tourism bureaus, destination venues, and those who love to travel.

As the national trade association for more than 2,000 motorcoach operators and group travel businesses, ABA advances safety, access, infrastructure, and innovation. Motorcoaches provide safe, affordable, sustainable transportation for nearly 400 million passenger trips each year—supporting economic growth and connecting communities nationwide.

VIEW THE 2025 ABA MOTORCOACH CENSUS

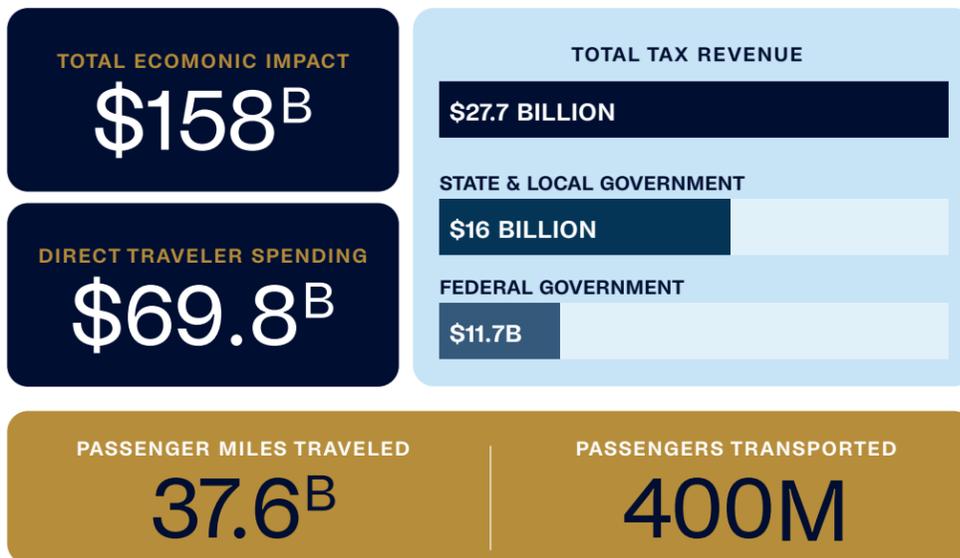


BUSES MOVE AMERICA

The motorcoach and group travel industry is a vital part of the U.S. transportation and tourism system, providing safe, affordable, and efficient group transportation to millions of Americans each year. Motorcoaches serve a wide range of travel needs, including group tours, charter service, sightseeing, scheduled intercity routes, airport connections, commuter service, and essential rural mobility.

Motorcoaches connect communities large and small—linking urban centers, rural towns, national parks, colleges, military bases, and major events. They are often the only form of intercity transportation available in many regions and play a critical role in supporting tourism, workforce mobility, and access to opportunity. The industry also plays an essential role in national preparedness, providing military transportation as well as evacuation, relief, and recovery transportation during natural disasters, national emergencies, and other crisis situations.

U.S. MOTORCOACH INDUSTRY ACTIVITY IN 2024



890K+ JOBS SUPPORTED NATIONWIDE

This economic activity extends far beyond bus operators—driving spending at hotels, restaurants, attractions, and small businesses in every state. As this spending circulates, it supports businesses, wages, and public revenues throughout local communities.

SCHEDULED SERVICE

Intercity & airport routes strengthening national mobility and access

DIRECT TRAVELER SPENDING

\$30^B

Generated directly by scheduled service operations in 2024

TOTAL ECONOMIC IMPACT

\$68.7^B

Ripple effect across connected industries and local economies

374,000+

JOBS SUPPORTED

GROUP TRAVEL

Delivering high-value visitors to destinations of all sizes, including small towns and rural areas

DIRECT TRAVELER SPENDING

\$39.8^B

Generated directly by group tours and charter operations in 2024

TOTAL ECONOMIC IMPACT

\$89.3^B

Total impact circulating through hotels, dining, retail & attractions

515,000+

JOBS SUPPORTED

BUS TRAVEL SUPPORTS NATIONAL GOALS

1. Emissions Reduction & Climate Targets
2. Infrastructure Efficiency & Longevity
3. Equitable Mobility for All Americans
4. Energy Conservation & Fuel Independence
5. Safe, Reliable Passenger Transportation

MOVING LARGE NUMBERS OF PASSENGERS IN A SINGLE VEHICLE DOES THE FOLLOWING:



LOWER GHG EMISSIONS



REDUCED FUEL USE



LESS ROAD CONGESTION

SCALABLE AND FLEXIBLE



Rural Settings

Provides critical mobility for communities without access to rail, metro, or ride-share networks.



Urban Settings

Reduces car traffic in dense corridors, connecting commuters, event-goers, and airport travelers efficiently.

POLICY AGENDA: SUPPORTING TRANSPORTATION, GROUP TRAVEL, SAFETY, AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

To strengthen and safeguard America's transportation and tourism network, connect communities, support millions of passengers, create jobs, and drive local economies, policymakers should consider policies that strengthen private motorcoach operations expand affordable mobility, support tourism and small businesses, enhance safety, and promote economic growth nationwide.

ESSENTIAL TRANSPORTATION

Motorcoaches provide critical intercity, rural, and commuter service where rail or air options are limited. Federal policy should:

- Ensure fuel tax equity through a full rebate for private operators.
- Strengthen the Intercity Bus Program (Section 5311(f)) by expanding funding, removing the operating-loss requirement, and improving oversight.
- Guarantee reasonable access to federally funded transit and rail facilities.

Evaluate transportation subsidies across modes to reflect cost efficiency and mobility outcomes.

- Maintain current insurance liability limits to avoid unnecessary costs.
- Provide equal access to congestion mitigation tools, including toll relief and bus lanes.
- Enforce charter bus rules to prevent unfair competition.
- Adopt reasonable idling standards that balance operations and environmental goals.

GROUP TRAVEL & TOURISM

Motorcoaches are a major driver of tourism, particularly in small towns and gateway communities. Federal priorities should:

- Improve national park access and infrastructure for commercial motorcoach operations.
- Establish an Office of Tourism at DOT to elevate travel as a national policy priority.
- Fully fund EDA tourism programs to support recovery, resilience, and job creation.

SAFETY & SECURITY

The industry has a strong safety record and continues to invest in innovation. Policymakers should:

- Expand Motorcoach Security Grants to \$5 million and broaden eligible uses.
- Support tax credits for advanced safety technologies.

BUSINESS CLIMATE

A stable operating environment is essential to maintaining service and jobs. Key actions include:

- Eliminating tariffs on motorcoaches and components.
- Creating a Certified Seasonal Employer designation to address workforce needs.
- Establishing a Bus and Group Travel Satellite Account to provide reliable data on the industry's economic impact.



**American
Bus Association™
Foundation**

About the ABA Foundation

The American Bus Association Foundation (ABAF), the philanthropic arm of the American Bus Association, is dedicated to advancing the motorcoach, travel, and tourism industry through research and education. The Foundation's mission is to support the motorcoach travel and tour industry with research and scholarships

that benefit the ABA, policymakers, and the public. The ABA Foundation has awarded more than \$1 million in financial support to more than 300 scholars since the program began after the passing of then-ABA President and CEO George T. Snyder Jr. in 1995. Our scholarship programs help ABA members, and the public earn degrees that support the motorcoach travel and tour industry and promote academic excellence and diversity.

For more information about the ABA Foundation and its programs, please visit www.buses.org/aba-foundation.



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