



Embargoed until 7/30 at 10:00 a.m. (EDT)

Press Teleconference: 7/30 at 10:00 a.m.

Press Teleconference Number: (855) 700-1848

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REPORT SHOWS MOTORCOACHES SHOULD BE PART OF TRANSPORTATION MIX

A new study by M.J. Bradley and Associates prepared for the American Bus Association Foundation, Taxpayers for Common Sense, and the Reason Foundation reveals lower consumer and taxpayer costs and reduced emissions associated with motorcoach travel as compared with Amtrak's rail system. Comparing a number of key areas, the study will be used to seek reforms in the transportation planning process.

The report establishes that motorcoach companies provide passenger service that is either more effective or on par with Amtrak, but at a fraction of the cost and with little to no public subsidy. The analysis compares consumer (fare, travel time) and societal costs (government subsidies, air emissions) associated with twenty trips between select U.S. city pairs on both Amtrak and scheduled intercity motorcoaches. These trips are representative of the Amtrak system covering a range of geographies, both urban and rural, and include the northeast corridor, including Acela; short-corridor trains; and long-distance trains. Comparisons concluded the following key findings:

- On a fully allocated cost basis (capital and operating) motorcoaches average (\$/passenger) less than 25% of the cost to provide comparable Amtrak Service
- Only two Amtrak lines generate enough revenue to cover operating and capital costs.
- On average, per-passenger carbon emissions from motorcoaches are 45% – 65% less than comparable Amtrak trips
- Motorcoaches generally offer more schedules per trip than comparable Amtrak trips
- Motorcoaches serve 2,766 cities and towns in the lower 48 states, while Amtrak serves more than 500 cities and towns in 46 of the 48 states.
- Generally total trip time by motorcoach is comparable with Amtrak

“This report once again shows that the transportation planning process should require careful consideration of all modes of transportation to help determine which are the best value for taxpayers, both in terms of short-term costs and long-term liabilities,” said Ms. Ryan Alexander, President of Taxpayers for Common Sense.

“Based on the report findings, motorcoaches clearly offer opportunities to reduce carbon emissions, save taxpayers and travelers time and money, while providing broader schedules to more destinations”, states Mr. Peter Pantuso, President of the ABA Foundation. “And, yet the transportation planning system reflects gaping inequities in modal choices, funneling tax dollars into projects that may not make environmental or fiscal sense”.

"As we strive to improve mobility and our infrastructure in this time of debt and deficits, we need to spend our transportation funding more wisely than ever. Congress shouldn't automatically keep pouring money into existing systems. Before spending taxpayers' money Congress needs to closely examine the benefits and cost-effectiveness of alternatives, just as this report has done with buses and Amtrak," said Shirley Ybarra, senior transportation policy analyst at Reason Foundation and formerly Virginia's secretary of transportation.

The study's sponsors hope to use the findings regarding cost effectiveness and environmental efficiency to evolve and transform the transportation planning process into a more inclusive system – to help save tax dollars and reduce carbon emissions.

For more information about the Motorcoach/Amtrak Comparison Report, contact any of the organization listed above or visit <http://www.buses.org/rail>.

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About the ABA Foundation

The American Bus Association Foundation (ABAF) is the scholarship and research arm of the motorcoach travel and tourism industry. The largest non-profit in motorcoach group travel, the ABAF distributes nearly \$60,000 a year in scholarships to industry families and invests in research to demonstrate the important role motorcoach transportation plays in society For more information please visit www.buses.org.

About Taxpayers for Common Sense

Taxpayers for Common Sense (TCS) is a non-partisan budget watchdog serving as an independent voice for American taxpayers. Our mission is to achieve a government that spends taxpayer dollars responsibly and operates within its means. We work with individuals, policymakers, and the media to increase transparency, expose and eliminate wasteful and corrupt subsidies, earmarks, and corporate welfare, and hold decision makers accountable.

About The Reason Foundation

Reason Foundation is a nonprofit think tank dedicated to advancing free minds and free markets. Reason Foundation produces respected public policy research on a variety of issues and publishes the critically acclaimed Reason magazine and its website www.reason.com. For more information please visit www.reason.org.