



October 20, 2021

PUBLIC COMMENT for October 26th Hearing of the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA), New York State Department of Transportation (NYS DOT) and New York City Department of Transportation (NYC DOT).

To Whom It May Concern:

The Greater New Jersey Motorcoach Association represents bus operators and owners on matters of collective interest in the state of New Jersey and the surrounding region. This includes New York City (NYC). The association works in cooperation with industry associations, local, state, and federal agencies, legislators, vendors, attractions, destinations, and other entities to promote the betterment and welfare of our industry, members, and association objectives.

We are writing to you today to submit our comments for upcoming public hearing regarding congestion pricing. A few points and then our “ask”.

Points:

- Buses are part of the solution, not the problem regarding roadway congestion, especially in NYC.
- Buses eliminate 50 cars per bus, given the capacity. I have included a photo for you after my signature, as we believe a picture is worth a thousand words.
- Buses offer the lowest carbon footprint per passenger mile of any form of transportation. To that point, motorcoaches are the greenest form of mass transportation, public or private. Please review environmental impact here: <https://www.buses.org/aba-foundation/research-summary/environment>.

MTA Ask:

We respectfully request the following:

- MTA exempt all buses from any congestion pricing plans.
- MTA encourage the use of bus travel and discourage commuters/visitors from driving their personal vehicles to NYC.
- MTA take every effort to keep the cost of mass transit down for commuters and tourists, alike.

In addition, the revenue our industry brings to NYC’s tourism, and your overall economic landscape, is enormous. Overall annual sales in NYC coming from motorcoach tourists totaled \$4.15 billion. Motorcoach operators, hotels, entertainment venues, restaurants and retailers who

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serve these travelers, along with the companies that supply services and materials to them, provide well-paying jobs in New York and pay significant taxes to state and local governments.

We estimate that New York serves a total of 6,037,083 motorcoach group tourist equivalent people on day trips, and an additional 1,548,153 on overnight stays, for a total of 7,585,236 group tour visitors. It is estimated that approximately 216,721 equivalent motorcoaches visited New York. Hotels in New York provide group motorcoach tourists with an estimated 3,187,195 room nights annually.

Wondering what the effect of each motorcoach visiting NYC is?

- Approximately 35 equivalent visitors, of which 80 percent were on day trips and 20 on overnight visits.
- Approximately \$19,145 in local sales.
- Approximately 14.71 room nights (double occupancy).
- For every 4.96 motorcoaches operating, 1 job is created in the community.
- Companies in New York that provide motorcoach services to tourists employ as many as 3,016 people. In addition, companies that supply services to motorcoach passengers, such as hotels, restaurants, and entertainment venues, employ as many as 40,637 people in the community. These are good paying job which average of \$43,907 in wages and benefits.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Patricia A. Cowley, Executive Director



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