



P E N N S Y L V A N I A
B U S A S S O C I A T I O N

Representing the Motorcoach Industry Since 1923

January 19, 2021

The Honorable Tom Wolf
Governor of Pennsylvania
Office of the Governor
508 Main Capitol Building
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dr. Rachel Levine, Secretary
Pennsylvania Department of Health
Health and Welfare Building
8th Floor West
625 Forster Street
Harrisburg, PA 17120

RE: Mobile Vaccine Assistance

Dear Governor Wolf and Secretary Levine:

The Pennsylvania Bus Association (<http://pabus.org/>) was founded in 1923 and has functioned without interruption and with an unrelenting commitment to the safety of the traveling public and the economic well-being of its member companies. PBA boasts a well-rounded program of activities for both bus operator and supplier members and carries a current membership of over 750 entities. Governmental affairs, travel and tourism marketing, education, safety, and communication constitute the major areas of involvement for this, one of the oldest public passenger transportation associations in the United States.

The PBA is writing to you to offer our assistance to implement President-Elect Biden's proposal to deploy mobile vaccination units to "hard-to-reach" areas by using our member's unused motorcoaches.

President-Elect Joe Biden has Motorcoaches in Mind Regarding COVID-19 Vaccinations and Testing:

The President-elect has proposed to invest \$20 billion in a national vaccination program in partnership with states, localities, tribes, and territories. This would include launching community vaccination centers around the country and **deploying mobile vaccination units to "hard-to-reach" areas**. The plan would also provide \$50 billion to expand COVID-19 testing; provide funds for the purchase of rapid tests; expand lab capacity; and help schools and local governments implement regular testing protocols.

An Initial List of Pros and Thoughts Outlined:

1. **Speed** – Motorcoaches are sitting idle across the USA; estimate that the industry could have 10,000 moving in one week and another 10,000 by the end of two weeks. Other sources will take considerably longer to get up and running.
2. **Accessibility** – Motorcoaches are equipped with ADA lifts. Not all locations in rural areas are accessible for all needs.
3. **Storage** – Motorcoaches have large storage bays to accommodate any supplies needed for the procedure. Eliminates the challenge of where to store in already overcrowded hospitals and medical centers.
4. **Capacity** – Motorcoaches can socially distance and still accommodate 12 patients at one time.

By using a motorcoach there will be no impact on local hospitals, medical centers, Dr. Offices – as motorcoaches can safely be parked in a parking lot and be completely self-sustaining.

5. **Delivery** – Motorcoaches have the storage capacity to travel to the Point of Origin of the Vaccine and with using the travel containers travel directly to the Point of Vaccine – Eliminating one entire leg of the chain that has the potential for slow down. Using air freight for long distances motor coaches can easily load the vaccine at airports to lessen the distance needing to be traveled. In doing so, we can eliminate one step in the process of getting the vaccine to the people.
6. **Climate controlled location** – Motorcoaches have advanced HVAC systems to eliminate any regional weather season challenge. No need to upgrade outdated locations to accommodate this short-term need.
7. **Local – Rural Locations** – Motorcoaches have been a vital part of our local economy going back to the stagecoach days, as they can travel into very remote locations and only need a small corner of a parking lot to be ready to vaccinate. Eliminates need for multiple locations in remote areas.
8. **Disinfection** – Motorcoaches can easily be disinfected between each group of patients using electrostatic sprayers and environmentally friendly disinfection solution. The coach will also be equipped with UV lights in the air system to effectively eliminate any air or contact challenges. The motorcoach operators will also supply hand sanitizer for all patients entering the motor coach. Speeds up process and reduces potential of a facility becoming infected with virus.
9. **3,000 per coach / per week = 30 Million Vaccinated** in one week with 10,000 coaches; 60 Million Vaccinated per week using 20,000 coaches. April 1 entire USA population vaccinated.
10. **Employees and Motorcoaches back to work** – No need for additional funding, just pay us for doing work. Move money from PPP for Motorcoach companies to other hard-hit areas of the economy.

Obviously, the coach moves, so we could send a driver to a location that has the vaccines, i.e., FED EX / UPS / Airport. Then it would travel to a local parking lot (Care centers or local doctor offices) and setup for day, could board 10 passengers at a time and social distance in coach, one nurse administers shot to each person setting in their socially distanced seat and then they can wait for the reaction time and depart from front to rear. There is no need for building rental and the coach has climate control.

Finally, John Bailey, President of Bailey Coach (jbailey@baileycoach.com or 717-424-5511) and Chair of PBA, **offers to donate a coach and a driver for 7 days to pilot this mobile vaccination unit proposal in Pennsylvania at a location chosen by the Department of Health.**

If you have any questions or would like to discuss this proposal further, please do not hesitate to contact me at (717) 236-9042 or director@pabus.org .

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia A. Cowley, Executive Director

CC: Meaghan Abbott, Director, Office of Intergovernmental Affairs, DOH meabbott@pa.gov
Kate Roberts, Deputy Secretary, Office of Legislative Affairs Katroberts@pa.gov