



American Bus Association
**Women In Buses
Council**

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Women in Buses Fly-In: What to Expect & How to Prepare

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POWER BROKER LEVEL



POLICY SHAPER LEVEL

PREVOST

We're excited to welcome everyone to Washington, DC, this week for the inaugural Women in Buses Fly-In. Below is a recap of the prep webinar, along with a few important links and reminders.

Wednesday, June 24

BusPAC Reception

The Fly-In kicks off with a special BusPAC reception featuring six female Members of Congress, four of whom serve on the House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee. This is a unique opportunity to engage directly with policymakers who help shape legislation affecting the motorcoach and group travel industry. These conversations help build relationships, elevate the visibility of our industry, and ensure our voice is heard on key issues.

RSVP for the reception:

[BusPAC Reception Registration](#)

BusPAC Contribution

A minimum personal contribution of **\$10** is requested to attend the reception.

Make your contribution here:

[BusPAC Contribution Portal](#)

First-time users:

1. Click the contribution link above.
2. Enter the email address associated with your ABA membership.
3. Select "**Forgot Password**" to create your account.
4. Follow the emailed instructions to set your password and access the system.
5. Complete your contribution.

A few important reminders:

- Contributions must be made with **personal funds** (not a corporate credit card).
- If you do not receive the password reset email, contact Callie so she can verify your email address in the system.
- If you're bringing a colleague, one contribution can cover both attendees, but contributions must still come from personal funds.

Dinner at Gatsby

Following the reception, DC Trails will provide transportation to dinner at Gatsby in Navy Yard. The bus will stop briefly at the hotel before continuing to the restaurant.

At dinner, attendees will receive:

- Hill meeting schedules (if finalized)
- Printed issue briefs
- Leave-behind materials
- Congressional meeting folders

This will also be a great opportunity to network with fellow attendees before Hill Day.

Thursday, June 25 – Hill Day

Morning Schedule

- Bus departs the Hampton Inn at **7:45 a.m.**
- Group photo at the Capitol before meetings begin
- Congressional meetings throughout the day

Most meetings will take place between **9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.**, although many groups are expected to finish earlier in the afternoon.

Your ABA staff lead will:

- Navigate Capitol Hill
- Keep the group on schedule
- Lead check-ins at congressional offices
- Handle logistics throughout the day

Updated meeting schedules will be distributed by your ABA group leader prior to arrival.

Debrief at ABA Headquarters

Beginning around **3:30 p.m.**, ABA will host an informal debrief at headquarters with light refreshments.

This is intended to be a casual opportunity to:

- Share highlights from meetings
- Discuss follow-up opportunities
- Identify any congressional offices that expressed particular interest in ABA priorities
- Say goodbye before heading home

Drop in as your schedule allows.

Hotel & Travel Logistics

Host Hotel

Hampton Inn & Suites – Navy Yard

The hotel, reception venue, and dinner location are all located within close proximity of one another.

Airport Options

- Reagan National (DCA) – closest and most convenient
- Dulles (IAD)
- Baltimore/Washington (BWI)

Uber, taxi, and Metro service are all readily available.

Luggage Storage

If you're flying home Thursday evening, the hotel can hold your luggage after checkout. Simply leave it with the front desk and pick it up before departing for the airport.

What to Wear

Business professional attire is recommended for both days.

Examples include:

- Dresses
- Professional separates
- Slacks and blouses
- Sweaters
- Pantsuits
- Skirt suits
- Blazers

You do **not** need to wear a jacket if that's not your style. Professional business attire is the goal.

Shoes Matter

Expect a lot of walking.

You'll be moving between House and Senate office buildings throughout the day, so comfortable shoes are strongly encouraged. Many attendees find it helpful to bring:

- Comfortable professional footwear
- Band-Aids for potential blisters
- A light sweater or blazer for air-conditioned buildings

Capitol Hill Security

Congressional office buildings operate similarly to airports.

Please remember:

- Bring a government-issued ID.
- Leave prohibited items and sharp objects at home.
- Phones and laptops are allowed.
- Water bottles are generally permitted.
- You may need to remove your shoes during security screening, particularly in Senate buildings.

Fortunately, ABA staff will guide everyone through the process.

Hill Meeting Tips

Each meeting will typically begin with introductions.

Be prepared to briefly share:

- Your name
- Company
- Location
- Number of employees (if applicable)
- Services you provide
- Your connection to the congressional district or state

The most effective meetings combine:

1. A personal story.
2. A local impact story.
3. A clear policy ask.

One of the most valuable things you can do is explain how your business serves the community, supports jobs, and contributes to local tourism and transportation.

Don't Forget

If appropriate, invite Members of Congress or their staff to visit your facility when they are back in their district. These visits often create lasting relationships and help policymakers better understand the industry firsthand.

Also, exchange business cards and follow up after the meeting.

As Callie noted during the webinar:

"A lot of people show up, but they don't follow up."

The follow-up is often where relationships are built.

Industry Facts Worth Knowing

The motorcoach and group travel industry:

- Generates approximately **\$158 billion in economic activity annually**
- Supports nearly **900,000 jobs**
- Facilitates more than **400 million passenger trips each year**

These figures help demonstrate the scale and importance of our industry when speaking with congressional offices.

Key Policy Priorities

This year's meetings will focus primarily on three issues:

1. Highway Bill Reauthorization

Congress is currently working on the next major federal surface transportation bill.

ABA is advocating for provisions that:

- Preserve the partial fuel tax rebate
- Improve motorcoach access to transit facilities
- Maintain tolling parity and HOV access
- Protect current insurance minimums
- Strengthen charter service enforcement
- Improve rural bus transportation programs
- Enhance FMCSA safety data and enforcement tools

Because Congress is actively developing this legislation now, the timing of this Fly-In is particularly important.

2. Bus Idling Restrictions

This will be one of ABA's primary advocacy asks.

ABA is working to address increasingly restrictive local idling regulations that are creating operational challenges for operators and drivers.

ABA recently helped introduce bipartisan legislation that would:

- Establish a federal 15-minute idling standard
- Prevent bounty-hunter style enforcement programs
- Reduce excessive legal exposure for operators

Participants will be asking Members of Congress to review and consider co-sponsoring this legislation.

3. Access to Public Lands

ABA continues to advocate for policies that ensure motorcoach and group tour access to national parks and other federally managed destinations remains practical and accessible for travelers.

We look forward to seeing everyone in Washington this week. If you have any questions before you arrive, please don't hesitate to reach out to Callie at choyt@buses.org. It's going to be a fantastic opportunity to learn, build relationships, and make sure the voices of women in the motorcoach and group travel industry are heard on Capitol Hill.