



United States Department of Transportation
Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration
Docket No. 2013-0392
Comments of the American Bus Association

Proposed Enhancements to the Motor Carrier Safety Measurement System (SMS) Public Web Site

December 22, 2013

The American Bus Association appreciates the opportunity to comment on the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration's (hereinafter "FMCSA" or "the Agency") request for comments on the Notice and request for public comments on the Proposed Enhancements to the Motor Carrier Safety Measurement System (SMS) Public Web Site. The Notice was published on November 5, 2013 at 78 Federal Register 66420-66422) and comments on the Notice are due by January 6, 2014.

The American Bus Association (ABA) is the premier private bus and motorcoach industry trade association in North America. The ABA has been in existence for 75 years. The ABA is home to some 3800 member companies and organizations and approximately 850 bus operator companies. ABA motorcoaches or Over-The-Road Bus (OTBR) members represent 65% of all OTBRs on the road. ABA members provide all manner of transportation services including: scheduled service, charter and tour, commuter operations and airport shuttle service. In addition, there are ABA members that provide all manner of services to bus companies and there are several bus manufacturer members of ABA. Finally, ABA members include many tour, travel companies, convention and visitors' bureaus (CVBs) destinations and attractions.

The FMCSA has proposed several enhancements to the SMS Public Web Site. FMCSA's goal is to make the site clearer, easier to navigate and providing improved access to more and more detailed information about motor carriers, including motorcoach operators, to the public and to the motorcoach industry (78 Fed. Reg. 66422).

ABA applauds the FMCSA for its efforts in this regard and supports the Agency's proposal. For the ABA and its members getting good, timely and detailed information about motorcoach operators to the public is vital. Only then can people be expected to choose experienced, safe and safety conscious motorcoach operators. Making the motor carrier information gathering process easier for the public at large will pay dividends in increasing the public's awareness of safe operators and in hiring the best motor carrier.

ABA's one suggestion is that FMCSA consider adding more educational webinars for the public addressing the proposed enhancements to the SMS public site.

Respectfully submitted,

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