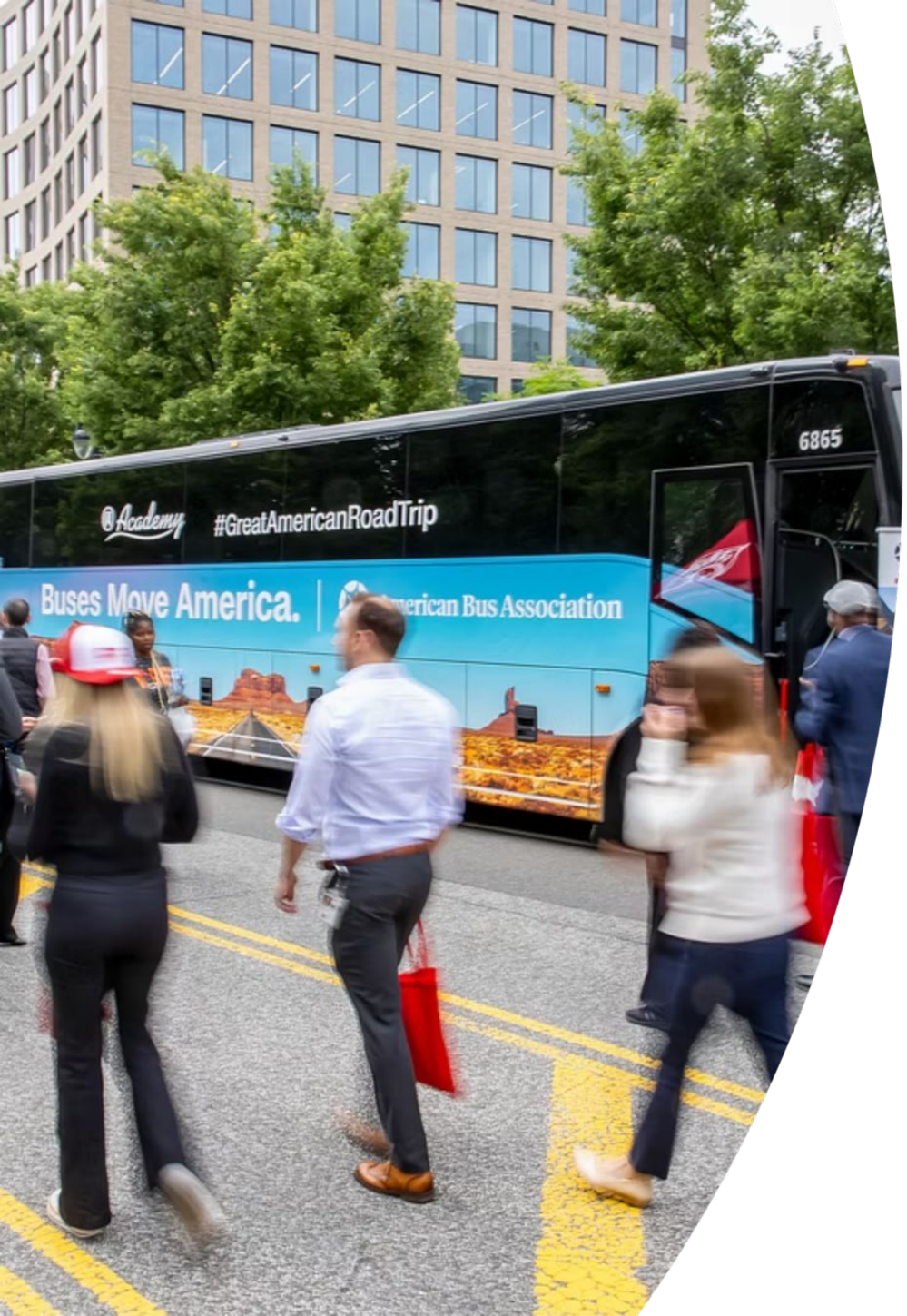


ABA Industry and Advocacy Updates Updates

March 11, 2026

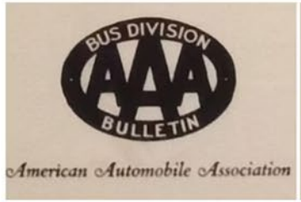
Lew Myers, Director of Government Relations & Research

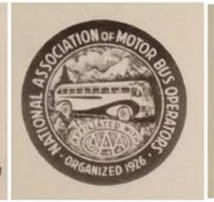
American Bus Association™
100 Years

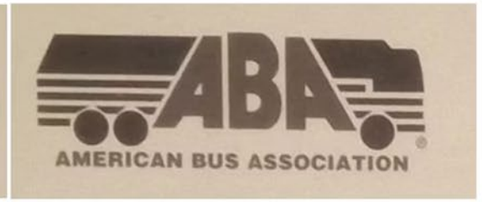
ABA is turning 100!

Explore ABA through the years

Motorbus Division at AAA	National Association of Motorbus Operators at AAA	National Association of Motorbus Owners	American Bus Association	"Flying" Bus Logo	Community Wheel
1926	*1929*	*1960*	*1977*	*1997*	*2025* *2026*







American Bus Association

Big 3: What does the future hold, hold, where are we going?

1

Higher costs from insurance, labor, and tariffs are reshaping the economics of economics of transportation and pushing operators to vertically integrate, expand expand fleets and diversify offerings.

2

Consumer reliance on technology will continue to grow, and our industry must meet travelers where they are by embracing both technology and the real-life experiences we enable.

3

Operators should move to own more of the customer journey to create efficiencies and improve both their cost structures and the value delivered to consumers.

What is ABA doing to prepare for this for this future?

Growing the Board of Directors

Cementing the bus operator as the heart and soul of the association. 35/58 seats are held by bus held by bus operators, including new dedicated seats for small operators.

More Content, More Value

Doubling our event offer to deliver more sales, safety, professional development and advocacy advocacy programming to our members.

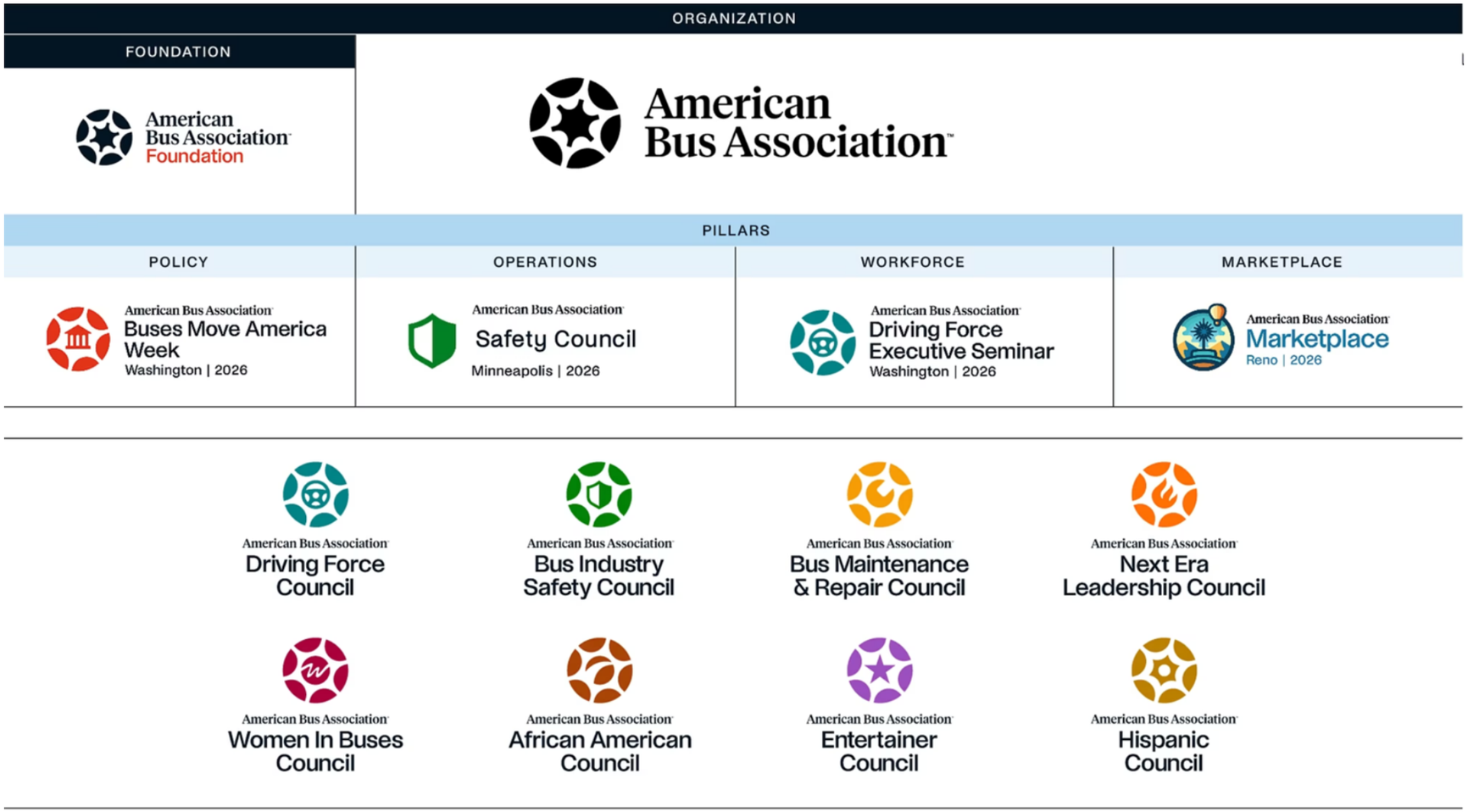
Expanding our Tent

Expand content to include 16-seat minibuses and shuttles as they become a larger part of member of member fleets.

Technology and innovation mandate

Activate the Next Era Council to help chart the future of group travel and ground transportation transportation amid technology and AI-driven disruption.

How to get involved with ABA as we prepare for our 100th Anniversary



Buses Bring Business

Business Sales

$158B

Wages & Salaries

$50B

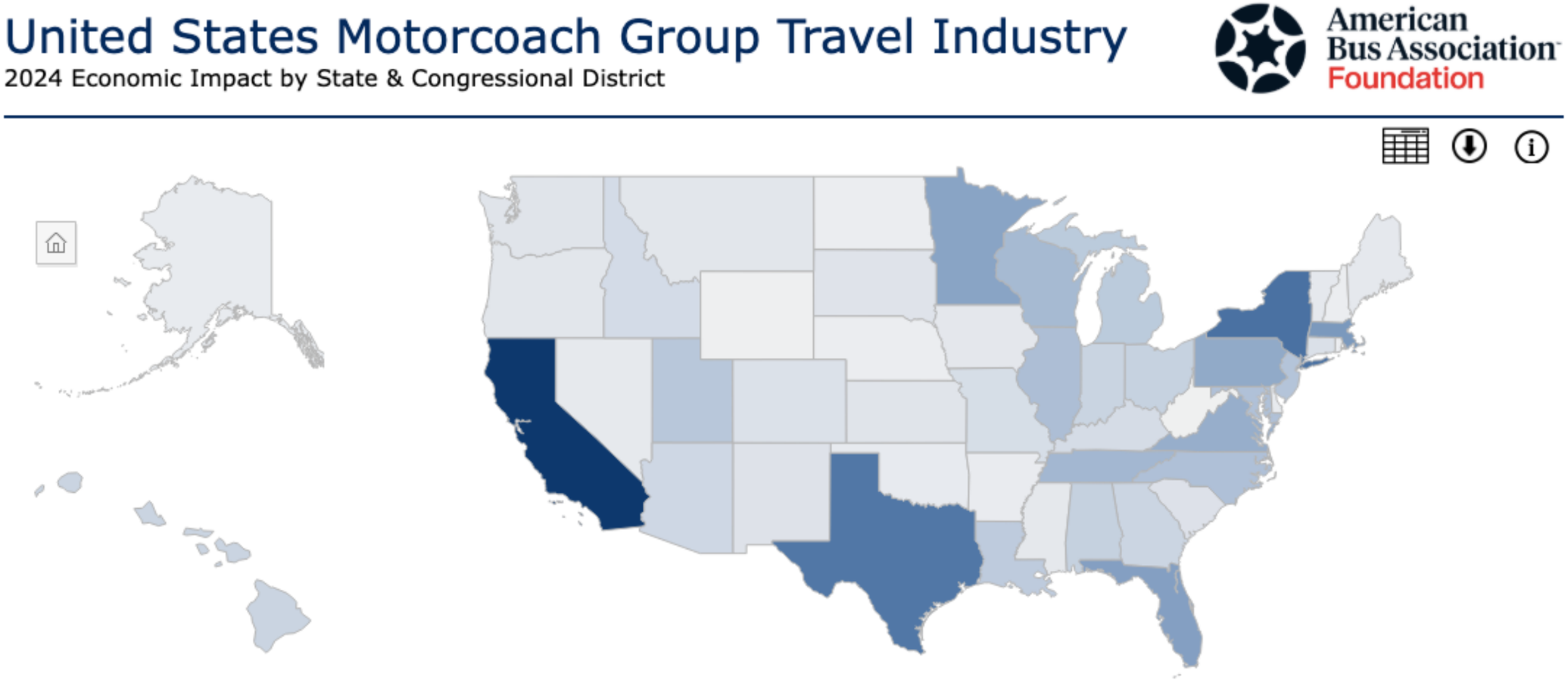
Jobs Created

885K

Tax Revenue

$27.7B

Let's Explore the Interactive Map



ABA African American Council Micro Fly-in

American Bus Association
African American Council

Effective Micro Fly-in

The first-ever event of its kind, bringing diverse voices to the heart of policy-making.

UMA's Pivotal Participation

Strategic involvement from UMA, contributing to impactful discussions and outcomes.

20 Dedicated Participants

A focused group of twenty professionals actively participating in discussions.

ABA Expands National Commitment to Anti-Human Human Trafficking

- Expanding ABA and ABA Foundation initiatives to train drivers, dispatchers, and travel and travel professionals to identify and stop trafficking.

- Building on ABA's 2024 **Truckers Against Trafficking Champion Award** to lead national lead national prevention and awareness efforts.

- ABA leadership joined **Hoʻōla Nā Pua's Annual Dinner**, hosted by Polynesian Adventure Tours, to support survivors and advance industry collaboration.

NYC Anti-Idling Campaign

Industry Unity in Action: BANY, Buses 4 NYC, Operators & ABA Partner for Progress.

01

The Problem

DEP issued >100,000 citations in 2024, planned to double in 2025. NYC/NY State NYC/NY State buses exempt.

02

Bounty Hunter Program

Citizens submit complaints for 25% of fines, fostering a 'cottage industry'.

03

Variance Requests

ABA, BANY, BUS4NYC proposed EPA's 15-min idling limit. DEP responded with responded with expensive equipment requirements.

04

Variance Hearing

Hearing set for October 29 to discuss variance application - setting the able for the able for future operators to gain relief. Federal EPA and Congress watching watching closely and plans in place to engage as needed.

Highway Reauthorization & Tariff Challenges

Highway Reauthorization Priorities Priorities

- Strengthen rural and urban mobility
- Increase motorcoach fuel tax, maintain rebate rebate structure
- Parity with public transit: tolling and congestion mitigation
- Enforcement of FTA Charter Bus Rules
- Reasonable access to federally funded transit transit facilities
- Maintain insurance minimums for motorcoach operators

Tariff Impact

- ABA, UMA, and Leading Manufacturers Unite Unite to Urge Tariff Relief
- Steel and Aluminum tariffs removed - saving ~$55 million/yr
- IEEPA tariffs removed, saving ~$35 million annually
- New 10% tariff levied on October 17 - adding new costs to all finished coaches
- Heavy duty trucks hit with 25% tariff - same 25% rate would have added $220 million in costs
- Motorcoach sales declined 5.5% in Q2, reversing 37% gain from prior year.

Charter Bus Services

Rule & Guidance

Registration

Quarterly Reports

Resources

Forms

Contact Us

Charter Bus Service Registration

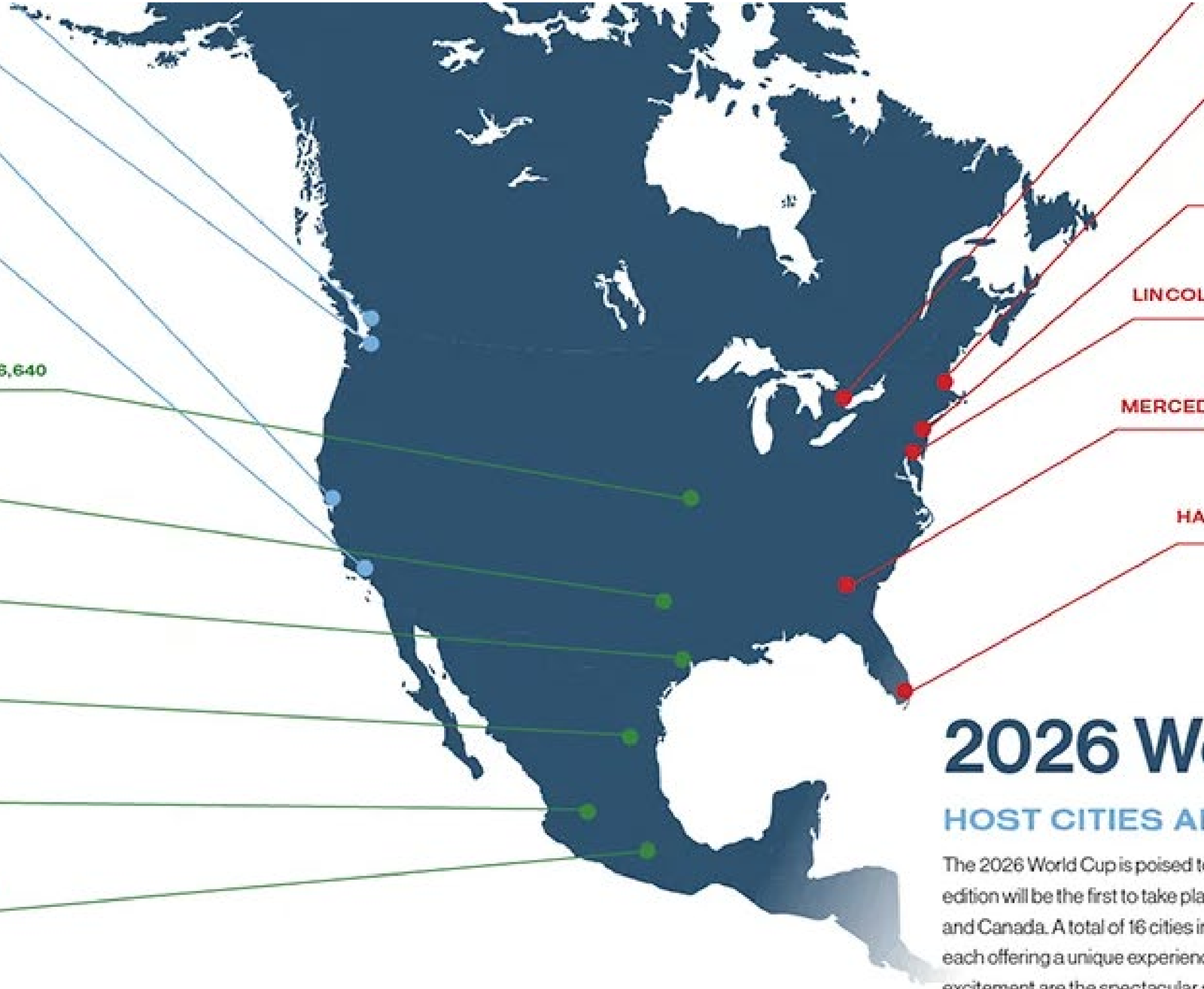
Charter Registration Website:

The Charter Registration Tool allows private charter providers to receive notices of upcoming charter opportunities. Private operators must register on a bi-annual basis, otherwise they will no longer receive notices after their registration expires. Qualified Human Service Organization's (QHSO) that do not receive funds from one of the 64 Federal programs included in Appendix A of the Charter Rule must also register on the website.

In order to take advantage of the charter rule provisions private charter operators and applicable QHSO's must be registered on FTA's Charter Registration Website.

Charter Registration Website Help:

- Registration Website Quick Reference Guide (MS Word)
- Registration Website Quick Reference Guide for Resubmitting Expired Submissions (MS Word)
  (**Note:** Files are large and download time will vary depending on your connection)



2026 World Cup

HOST CITIES AND VENUES

The 2026 World Cup is poised to make history. The upcoming edition will be the first to take place in three countries: USA, Mexico, and Canada. A total of 16 cities in this trio of nations will act as hosts, each offering a unique experience for soccer fans. Adding to the excitement are the spectacular state-of-the-art host stadiums that will elevate the fan experience and provide the setting for countless

ABA Resources

2024 Economic Impact of Motorcoach Group Travel
INTERACTIVE MAP

2024 Economic Impact of Motorcoach Group Travel in the US Report
DOWNLOAD

ABA WEBINARS

American Bus Association Foundation

Thank you

Lmyers@buses.org

American Bus Association™
100 Years