



For Immediate Release

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NSTA RETURNS TO WASHINGTON D.C. FOR 2022 CAPITOL HILL BUS-IN

After a two-year hiatus, the National School Transportation Association (NSTA) returned to Washington D.C. for its annual Capitol Hill Bus-In event last week. The Capitol Hill Bus-In is an annual program, held in the Nation’s Capital, where NSTA members engage with elected officials and policy-makers in order to highlight the importance of student transportation. Due to the effects of the Covid-19, the previous two Bus-In programs were cancelled, as the nation dealt with the impact of the pandemic. This year’s event took place from April 5 through April 8 at the Washington Marriott at Metro Center.

The Bus-In program was highlighted by group’s presentation of four Bronze Bus – Legislative Champion Awards to the prime sponsors of the STOP for School Buses Act, including Senators Gary Peters (MI) and Todd Young (IN), as well as Members of Congress Julia Brownley (CA-26) and Jackie Walorski (IN-2). Provisions of the STOP Act were included in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) that was signed into law on November 15, 2021 and came in response to a tragic and fatal school bus crash that occurred on October 30, 2018 in Rochester, IN.

In addition to elected officials, Bus-In participants also heard from several Agency representatives who focused on key NSTA issues, including officials from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA), and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA). EPA outlined provisions of the School Bus Program – a \$5 billion grant program designed to upgrade the existing fleet of school buses to zero or nearly zero emissions vehicles. The program was also included in the IIJA, and its funding distribution methods are undergoing a review process by the Agency.

Attendees also heard from panelists at a session entitled, “Working with your State Legislatures – Coordination between State and National Associations.” This program highlighted the importance of collaboration between national and state partners and how this coordination can lead to successful legislative and regulatory outcomes. Cherie Hime, Executive Director of the Wisconsin School Bus Association spoke, as did NSTA Executive Director Curt Macysyn, and NSTA Counsel Rich Kelly, Esq.

“NSTA’s return to Washington was a success, as evidenced by record attendance and an increase in association membership in recent weeks and months. We are grateful for



the participation of our members and the support of our federal Agency partners, who provided us with key information on programs under their purview that directly impact student transportation,” said NSTA President, Carina Noble.

“This three-day event provided an opportunity for private school bus operators to hear directly from policy-makers, as pupil transportation continues to rebound from the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic. We are looking forward to having more industry engagement at our Annual Meeting and Convention, scheduled for July 24 – 27, 2022 in Niagara Falls,” according to NSTA Executive Director Curt Macysyn.

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About NSTA: National School Transportation Association has been the voice of private school bus contractors, manufacturers and suppliers since 1964. The association provides school transportation professionals with the tools and resources they need to make school buses safe, affordable, and efficient nationwide.