

# BUS TALK

POWERING INTELLIGENT TRANSPORTATION

## What to FIX in 2026?

### Fuel Prices and the Bottom Line

Fuel prices in recent weeks have skyrocketed in some areas to over \$5 per gallon. Typically, fuel is one of the top five largest budget expenses for a motor coach company. Fuel can also be one of the most controlled costs as well.

Fuel surcharges can be added to customer invoices and continuous searching of the best daily market prices for ordering, but shouldn't the focus be on how to adjust both the drivers' and the operational teams' behaviors be adjusted to increase MPG's and lower overall fuel costs?

### How Speed and Behaviors Affect Bus Fuel Consumption

#### The speed that a bus travels has a definite impact on MPG

Fuel economy decreases rapidly at speeds above 50-60 mph. Engines must work much harder to overcome air drag. This may impact MPG by as much as 30% at speeds over 60 mph. The most fuel-efficient speed is usually in the 35-50 mph range, allowing the engine to operate efficiently

#### Driver behaviors also have a strong impact on MPG

Frequent and aggressive acceleration and heavy braking in city driving can reduce fuel efficiency by 10% to 40%. This along with multiple vehicle starts and stops directly impacts MPG. The longer the bus runs consecutively the better MPG that will be attained. Over the road trips versus inner city trips tend to have better MPG's overall.



#### Idling is one of the easiest challenges to overcome to gain MPG

Leaving a bus engine idling wastes significant fuel, with studies suggesting it can use 0.7 to 1 gallon per hour. The most common idlers in a company may not be the drivers. Telematics show that technicians and cleaners are some of the most prevalent idlers in a company. Coordination with the shops and cleaning crews helps to cut down on idling as well.

#### Vehicle scheduling may be one of the less considered methods to improve fuel economy

Operations teams need to be very efficient in the use of the fleet to have less vehicles on the road with dead head miles to and from the pickup locations which also saves fuel. Consideration should be given to booking trips that can be tied together with the same bus and driver within compliance regulations.

[Read Full Story](#) >>

### Smarter Data. Faster Insights. Stronger, Continuous Support.

For more information on this topic or if you have suggestions for future topics, please reach out to Mike McDonal at [mmcdonal@saucontech.com](mailto:mmcdonal@saucontech.com).




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## SAUCON WEBINARS 2026

TUESDAY, MAY 19, 2026

**Topic:**  
The Finer Points of Hours of Service

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# SPOTLIGHT

## DID YOU KNOW!

Saucon offers functions, features, guidance, and support that focuses on operational aspects including:

- Saucon can send idling messages to the driver via the Touch display with a reminder to shut the bus off after a period that is set for the fleet.
- Saucon works with three different Tire Pressure Monitoring Systems (TPMS) to record tire pressures and temperatures. This allows the driver and the shop to see the tire pressures and performance for optimal MPG's.
- Saucon Safe Driver alerts drivers and managers to behaviors that impact MPG's. Behaviors such as speeding, idling, hard starts and stops all contribute to lost MPG's.
- Saucon has a full list of available reports to share all of the KPI's discussed in the Fuel Prices article as well as many others that impact the bottom line.
- Saucon has staff members to guide through all products and processes in one on one or group educational opportunities.
- Saucon has staff available to visit on site and provide an assessment of your operation and lend guidance on how to improve any aspect of the company.
- Saucon has staff to assist with IFTA and IRP reporting. The first quarter IFTA reports will be due shortly and is another great tool to look at fuel usage and measure year over year MPG gains and losses.
- Saucon can assist in filing Florida Refund of Tax Paid on Undyed Motorcoach Idling Fuel Annual Report, just to name a specific example.

### How Can Saucon Help!


For more information on fuel savings and lowering operational costs, please reach out to Mike McDonal at [mmcdonal@saucontech.com](mailto:mmcdonal@saucontech.com).



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## SAUCON SAFE DRIVER

Brings Safety and Savings to the Forefront of Operations



**Saucon Safe Driver**  
Reliable technology where safety is paramount

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### Integrated Bus Solutions that improve Safety and Performance

Saucon's intelligent transportation for today's passenger transport industry.

With GPS tracking, safety systems, video surveillance, remote diagnostics, electrification, and Saucon VISION AI, the IoT-enabled tools boost visibility, streamline operations, and deliver real-time cost savings.

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## Join Saucon at Upcoming Industry Events 2026

April 13-14	<b>Ontario Transportation Expo</b> Toronto Congress Centre Toronto, Ontario
April 13-14	<b>GNEMA Spring Meeting</b> Resorts World Catskills Catskills, NY
May 19	<b>Saucon Webinars 2026</b> Topic: The Finer Points of Hours of Service Presented by: Mike McDonal
May 27-29	<b>2026 MCASC-GMOA Joint Meeting</b> Le Conte Hotel & Convention Center Pigeon Forge, TN

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## IoT INTEGRATED PLATFORM

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