

ADA Legacy Tour Road to Freedom Bus Description

The Road to Freedom bus drew governors, mayors, and commissioners to events in cities and towns across the nation. Tom Olin drove the bus to 48 states in 2007 and is driving the Bus again on the 2014 ADA Legacy Tour.

The 2007 Road to Freedom Tour came up from the grassroots. At ADAPT actions and NCIL meetings, people with disabilities were talking about the need to stop legislative and litigation attacks on ADA. Tom Olin and Janine Bertram Kemp came up with the idea of a 50 state bus trip at a psychiatric survivors conference in Nebraska. They spoke of Justin and Yoshiko Dart's 50 state tours and how those tour stops helped energize state and local disability groups.

Later they brought the idea to ADAWatch. The Road to Freedom Tour was born with a dual purpose: to garner support for the ADA amendments act and to use the bus as a vehicle for local disability groups to draw media and public support for their issues.

ADA Watch purchased the 37' accessible RV and had it wrapped with historic pre ADA photos from the Olin Collection. Olin drove the Road to Freedom bus to 48 states. The Road to Freedom stops in Hawaii and Alaska occurred by air travel.

Thousands of signatures in support of the ADA amendments Act were presented to the United States Congress at the conclusion of the tour.

This disability rights movement artifact was recently purchased by the Disability Rights Center to become the ADA bus. Partnering with The ADA Legacy Project, Tom Olin will be driving the ADA Bus on a 25,000 mile, yearlong tour to celebrate the twenty fifth anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act and educate the public about disability rights.