# PTASP Technical Assistance Available as Deadline Approaches

FTA's Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan (PTASP) regulation requires certain transit operators—and in some cases states—to develop Agency Safety Plans (ASP) based on Safety Management System principles. The PTASP Technical Assistance Center (TAC) provides voluntary reviews of ASPs to help the transit industry meet the PTASP regulation (49 CFR Part 673) requirements. FTA's Notice of Enforcement Discretion effectively extends the PTASP compliance deadline to December 31, 2020.[1]

To help agencies meet the approaching deadline, the TAC offers ASP reviews to provide technical assistance, including suggestions for enhancing ASPs and links to resources in the TAC Resource Library that are helpful for developing ASPs. The review process typically takes under two weeks. Agencies interested in a TAC review must **submit their ASP to the TAC by November 13, 2020 to guarantee feedback prior to the December 31, 2020 deadline**.

ASP reviews are completely voluntary and **not** required. Additionally, TAC reviews are not a certification of compliance with the PTASP regulation but serve as a great resource for agencies to prepare their plans. For more information on the TAC review process, see the documents "ASP Review: What to Expect" (for bus and rail) and "ASP Review for Rail Transit Agencies: What to Expect."

## Resources to Help You Develop, Strengthen, and Finalize Your ASP

The TAC Resource Library offers a wide variety of resources for bus and rail transit agencies. There are also libraries for small transit providers, State Departments of Transportation, State Safety Oversight Agencies and Metropolitan Planning Organizations. These include the PTASP Template for Bus Transit, Sample Small Public Transportation Provider ASP, and Sample Bus Transit Provider ASP.

For more information on common ASP issues and recommendations for addressing PTASP requirements, see FTA's Lessons Learned document. This resource compiles common recommendations the TAC issues when conducting voluntary ASP reviews and offers tips and

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[1] The contents of this document do not have the force and effect of law and are not meant to bind the public in any way. This document is intended only to provide clarity to the public regarding existing requirements under the law or agency policies. Grantees and subgrantees should refer to FTA's statutes and regulations for applicable requirements.

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considerations for how to enhance ASPs to take full advantage of the safety benefits of a Safety Management System.
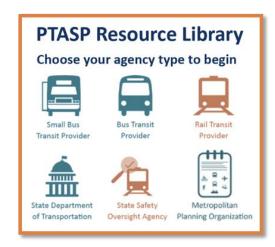
Register for a future webinar or view past presentations and recordings to learn more about how you can build and enhance your ASP. Visit FTA's PTASP web page to see a list of upcoming webinars. Past webinars are posted in the TAC Resource Library.

To help agencies make it over the finish line, FTA produced resources to guide agencies through the Certification and Assurances process, such as:

- Understanding the Agency Safety Plan Review, Approval, and Certification Process,

- Certifications and Assurances Overview (Recorded Presentations), and

- Certification Fact Sheet.

Consider also reviewing the following additional resources:

- ASP Reviews Overview

- Safety Performance Targets Guide

- Safety Performance Targets Fact Sheet



*Access the PTASP Resource Library at www.transit.dot.gov/PTASP-TAC.*

## Frequently Asked Questions

The following are two frequently asked questions regarding ASP approval and certification.

### Q: How do I certify that my ASP complies with 49 CFR Part 673?

**A:** Each applicable direct recipient must annually self-certify that they and/or their sub recipients meet the requirements of the PTASP regulation. States must certify that they developed an ASP compliant with the PTASP regulation for every small public transportation provider under their jurisdiction that did not voluntarily opt to develop their own ASP. FTA will use its existing oversight review programs to assess compliance with the requirements of the regulation. Find more information about this process on FTA's Certifications and Assurances website.

## Q: Who needs to sign my ASP?

**A:** The PTASP regulation requires that your Accountable Executive sign your ASP and the Board of Directors or an Equivalent Authority approve your ASP. State Safety Oversight Agencies must also review and approve the ASPs for the rail transit agencies they oversee.

For questions or to request resources or schedule a call with TAC specialists, contact the TAC at 877-827-7243 or PTASP-TAC@dot.gov.

### PTASP Technical Assistance Available Now

- Access one-on-one Agency Safety Plan support
- Learn and share through the PTASP Community of Practice
- Explore the PTASP Resource Library

https://www.transit.dot.gov/PTASP-TAC