

Transit Safety and Oversight Spotlight Newsletter

U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Transit Administration

Message from the Acting Associate Administrator

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Dear Transit Colleagues:

Earlier this week, we hosted the [FTA Joint State Safety Oversight \(SSO\) and Rail Transit Agency \(RTA\) Virtual Workshop](#) and welcomed nearly 300 stakeholders including representatives from 31 SSO programs and over 51 RTAs. This year’s virtual workshop focused on effective working relationships among SSOs and RTAs, combating cyber threats in the transit industry, and current transit safety policy and guidance updates. If you joined us, thank you! We hope you found the virtual workshop insightful and helpful in your role in transit safety. Each year we aim to improve the workshop as we work together to advance safe, reliable and equitable transit service. We are reviewing your evaluations and will incorporate your feedback into next year’s workshop. Please stay tuned for a recap of the virtual workshop in next month’s newsletter.



Gail Lyssy
Acting Associate Administrator for Transit Safety and Oversight & Chief Safety Officer, FTA

On September 28, 2021, FTA [announced](#) a [Request for Information \(RFI\) on Transit Worker Safety](#) seeking the public’s input to help make transit safer for frontline transit workers. Through the RFI, FTA is soliciting public input regarding safety topics that affect transit workers in two areas: rail transit roadway worker protection and transit worker assault prevention. FTA will use this information to evaluate potential actions to mitigate the identified safety risks for transit workers. Your feedback is critical to help FTA gain an understanding of the current safety challenges transit workers face. The deadline to submit comments is November 23, 2021.

We would like to thank the public for responding to our most recent [RFI on Transit Safety Concerns](#) that will inform FTA’s identification of transit safety concerns relevant to the transit industry. Currently, we are reviewing the public’s feedback to identify and proactively mitigate safety concerns impacting the transit community.

Finally, the monthly reporting received from the [FTA Transit COVID-19 Response Program Information Collection](#) continues to provide us with valuable information we use to better understand transit agency response and recovery. Additional details are included on page two of this newsletter.

Sincerely,
Gail Lyssy

COVID-19 Resources and Updates

FTA continues to provide [updated resources](#) on COVID-19. The following resources are available:

Sign-Up for Updates
[Click here](#) to sign-up for FTA COVID-19 updates.

Mask Requirement Questions?
 Email TransitMaskUp@dot.gov

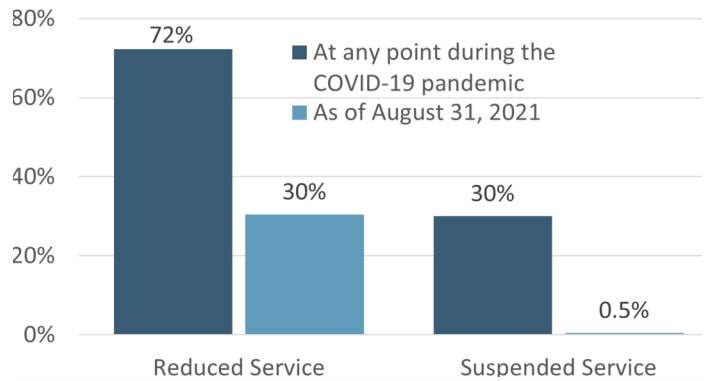
- [COVID-19 Recovery Practices in Transit](#)—Provides web links to practices implemented by transit systems worldwide in response to COVID-19, updated monthly.
- [COVID-19 Resource Tool](#)—A compilation of Federal COVID-19 guidance and recommendations, updated weekly.
- [FAQs from FTA Grantees Regarding COVID-19](#)—Provides answers to frequently asked questions (FAQs) regarding COVID-19 relief funding and other requirements.
- [Federal Mask Requirement for Transit](#)—Provides links to resources, stakeholder call materials, [FAQs](#) and updated information on the Federal mask requirement.

FTA Transit COVID-19 Response Program Information Collection Update

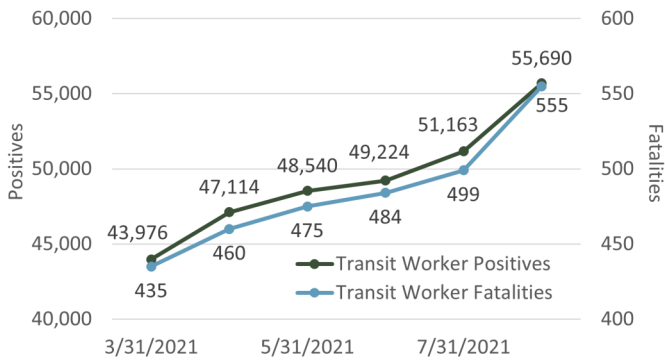
Key Takeaways as of August 31, 2021

The [FTA Transit COVID-19 Response Program Information Collection](#) captures COVID-19 related data monthly from over 2,100 transit providers. August submissions captured data through August 31, 2021 and were due on September 15, 2021.

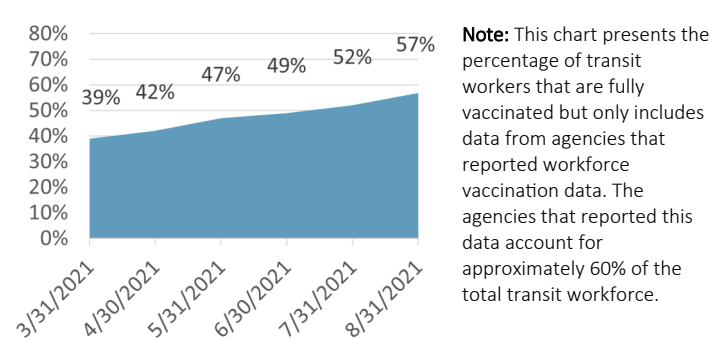
Percentage of Agencies with Suspended or Reduced Service



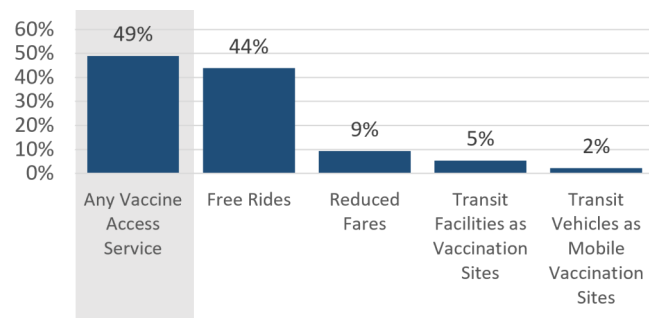
Transit Worker COVID-19 Positives and Fatalities



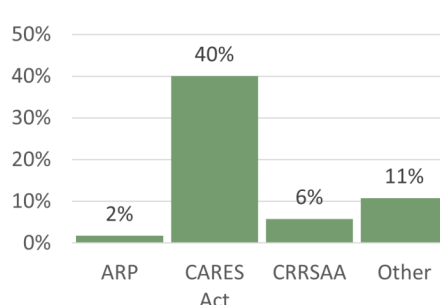
Transit Worker Vaccination Rates Over Time



Percentage of Agencies That Used FTA Funds to Provide Vaccine Access Services—By Service Type (At Any Point Since the Beginning of the COVID-19 Pandemic)



Percentage of Agencies That Used FTA Funds to Provide Vaccine Access Services—By Funding Type (At Any Point Since the Beginning of the COVID-19 Pandemic)



ARP: American Rescue Plan Act of 2021
CARES Act: Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act
CRRSAA: Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2021
Other: Other FTA funds

FTA Announces Request for Information on Transit Worker Safety



On September 28, 2021, FTA [announced](#) a [Request for Information \(RFI\)](#) soliciting public input on potential transit worker safety mitigations in two areas: rail transit roadway worker protection and transit worker assault prevention. Your feedback is critical to help FTA gain an understanding of the current safety challenges transit workers face. The deadline to submit comments is November 23, 2021.

The transit industry’s input is critically important in identifying and proactively mitigating safety concerns. FTA will use this information to evaluate potential action to mitigate identified safety risks for transit workers. On October 12, 2021, FTA hosted a webinar to discuss the RFI. The webinar [presentation](#) and [recording](#) are available on the FTA website.

FTA Publishes New Bus and Rail Safety Data Reports

FTA recently published the [2021 Bus and Rail Safety Data Reports](#) which inform the public and the transit industry about the state of transit’s safety performance across the nation. On October 5, 2021, FTA hosted a webinar to provide an overview of the new Bus and Rail Safety Data Reports. The webinar [presentation](#) and [recording](#) are available on the FTA website. Questions? Please contact FTA’s [Marjorie Collins](#), Program Analyst, Office of System Safety.

Bus Safety Data Report (BSDR)

The BSDR analyzes the 2008-2018 safety and security event data transit agencies reported to the National Transit Database.

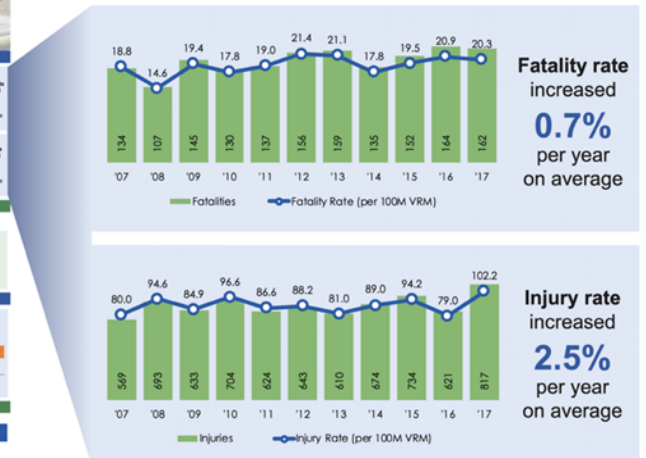
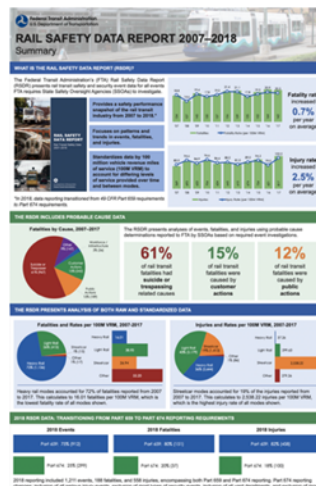
This [one-page BSDR summary](#) provides an overview of the bus transit data analysis and includes key takeaways from the full BSDR.



Rail Safety Data Report (RSDR)

The RSDR analyzes the 2007-2018 safety and security event data submitted to FTA by State Safety Oversight Agencies.

This [two-page RSDR summary](#) provides an overview of the rail transit data analysis and includes key takeaways from the full RSDR.



Fiscal Year 2022 TSI Safety Training

[Registration](#) is open for Transportation Safety Institute (TSI) safety training courses for transit personnel. These courses also support FTA grantees subject to the [Public Transportation Safety Certification Training Program \(PTSCTP\) regulation](#) with initial training and refresher training requirements. The [Fiscal Year 2022 TSI Training Schedule](#) is also available. New this fiscal year, all rail PTSCTP courses will be delivered virtually.

In-person TSI courses depend upon each host's local guidance. Please contact TSI at TSI@dot.gov or 405-954-3682 for more information. TSI can verify the status of scheduled courses and assist with any other course-related questions.

General Rail/Bus PTSCTP Virtual Live Training Courses

<p>SMS Principles for Transit: Includes an introduction to the principles and four components of a Safety Management System (SMS): Safety Policy; Safety Risk; Safety Assurance; and Safety Promotion.</p>	<p>January 3–5, 2022 February 7–9, 2022 April 5–7, 2022 June 22–24, 2022 July 26–28, 2022</p>
<p>SMS Safety Assurance: Examines the Safety Assurance (SA) component within a SMS and discusses the three key subcomponents and essential SA activities and tools necessary to verify the effectiveness of safety risk mitigations and that no new safety risks have been introduced through the implementation of the mitigations or changes.</p>	<p>November 10, 2021 February 1, 2022 March 22, 2022 May 11, 2022 July 29, 2022</p>
<p>Effectively Managing Transit Emergencies: Provides participants with information on understanding the necessity, purpose, development and implementation of emergency management and how it relates to the other safety functions of a transit system.</p>	<p>December 14–17, 2021 January 18–21, 2022 February 15–18, 2022 April 19–22, 2022 May 31–June 3, 2022 July 19–22, 2022</p>

Rail PTSCTP Virtual Live Training Courses

<p>SMS Principles for SSO Programs: Provides participants with the knowledge, skills and tools State Safety Oversight Agencies (SSOAs) need as their Rail Transit Agencies (RTAs) move from SMS planning and implementation to SMS operation.</p>	<p>January 6, 2022 February 10, 2022 April 8, 2022 June 29, 2022 July 7, 2022</p>
<p>Transit Rail System Safety: Provides basic rail system safety and SMS principles, as well as the required elements of MAP-21 rulemaking and the SSO Rule 49 CFR Part 674.</p>	<p>November 1–5, 2021 December 6–10, 2021 March 28–April 1, 2022 May 2–6, 2022 June 13–17, 2022 July 11–15, 2022</p>

Rail PTSCPT Virtual Live Training Courses

[Transit Rail Incident Investigation](#): Provides participants with the knowledge and skills to successfully investigate various types of transit incidents and comply with the requirements of State Safety Oversight (SSO) Rule 40 CFR Part 674.

November 15–19, 2021
January 10–14, 2022
March 7–11, 2022
April 11–15, 2022
May 16–20, 2022

Non-PTSCPT Virtual Live Training Courses

[Overseeing the Safety Management Process for SSOAs](#): Provides a practical approach for managing SSO programs while rail transit agencies transition to a Safety Management

November 30–December 3, 2021
March 1–4, 2022

eLearning Self-Paced Virtual Courses Available 24/7

[Bus Nomenclature](#): Provides participants with an introduction to the basic terminology and components used in bus transit

[Curbing Transit Employee Distracted Driving](#): Provides participants with a raised awareness of distracted driving with the desired

[Fatigue and Sleep Apnea Awareness for Transit Employees](#): Provides participants with the knowledge and skills to identify

[Rail Nomenclature](#): Provides participants with an introduction to the basic terminology and components used in rail systems.

[Roadmap to Drafting an Agency Safety Plan for Bus Agencies](#): Provides participants with examples of how to translate the requirements of the Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan Regulation 49 CFR Part 673 into a compliant Agency Safety Plan.

[SMS Awareness](#): Provides participants with an introduction to SMS. This course is the mandatory prerequisite for the SMS

NTI Virtual AAP and VTW Courses

The National Transit Institute (NTI) is offering additional virtual Assault Awareness and Prevention (AAP) and Violence in the Transit Workplace (VTW) courses. These courses support the [FTA Enhanced Transit Safety and Crime Prevention Initiative](#) to provide information and resources to help transit agencies address and prevent crime on their systems and protect transit workers and riders. **Registration is required.** Please contact NTI at 848-932-1700 or nti_info@nti.rutgers.edu with any questions. For questions about FTA safety training offerings, please contact FTASafetyPromotion@dot.gov.

NTI Virtual AAP and VTW Courses

[AAP Direct Delivery Course](#): Provides transit bus operators with prevention strategies necessary to reduce the likelihood of assault incidents.

November 4, 2021
December 2, 2021

[AAP Train-the-Trainer Course](#): Provides transit agency instructional staff with the support necessary to deliver the course within their agencies.

November 10, 2021
December 9, 2021

[VTW Train-the-Trainer Course](#): Provides participants with knowledge and skills to prevent, respond to and recover from workplace violence.

November 18, 2021
December 16, 2021

FTA Employee Spotlight: Dana Jenkins



Dana Jenkins
Transportation Specialist, Office of
Program Oversight, Office of Transit
Safety and Oversight, FTA

How would you explain your job to someone you've never met? As a Transportation Program Specialist, I support FTA's program oversight and technical assistance efforts nationally. Two of my primary duties are to manage purchase requisitions for FTA's oversight review contracts and provide financial planning and monitoring for the oversight review programs. In addition, as a Contracting Officer's Representative, I will be able to lead critical tasks and initiatives for the Office of Program Oversight. This role provides me with the opportunity to collaborate with other FTA program offices to help ensure that Federal funding is spent appropriately, program guidelines are current, and regulations are implemented effectively.

What excites you most about your job? It is my first Federal position; therefore, I can learn a different aspect of the transportation community as well as being poised to help transit agencies across the country.

What were you doing before this role? Previously, I was a subcontractor with AECOM, serving as Project Administrator for a Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) transit infrastructure project. I coordinated, monitored and managed the full life cycle for projects, managed requisitions for Federal contracts as well as monitored financial activity and status. In addition, I influenced the project's technical or administrative contract functions. The position provided hands-on experience with Design-Build as well as the opportunity to earn my Associate Design-Build Professionals certification.

What is your favorite form of transportation and why? My favorite form of transportation is horseback riding. Although, I only ride for pleasure and sport. Also, boats and submarines are fascinating—there is something about being out in the open ocean.

What is the best piece of advice you have been given? Stay positive, even when faced with adversity. Find the silver lining in a situation and a reason to be grateful. Share positivity with others as much as possible. Be the light in the room!

Spring, summer, fall or winter: What's your favorite season and why? Spring and Fall, hands down. I love how during the Spring everything, in nature, is made new. I tend to treat this season more like my New Year. The Fall season is a favorite due to its transformation and harvesting qualities. I am an Equinox season fan.



U.S. Department of Transportation
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Federal Transit Administration
Office of Transit Safety and Oversight
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Access the [FTA Transit Safety and Oversight Spotlight Newsletters](#) on the FTA website.

Upcoming Events and Webinars

[CTAA EXPO](#)

November 7–11, 2021

[AASHTO Council on Public Transportation & MTAP Winter Meeting](#)

November 8–9, 2021

[APTA TRANSform Conference & EXPO](#)

Session: Hot Topics in Safety and FTA Safety-Related Initiatives

November 9, 2021 | 3:30 pm–5:00 pm ET

State Safety Oversight Quarterly Call

November 17, 2021

[APTA Mid-Year Safety Virtual Seminar](#)

December 15–16, 2021

