Transportation Research Board

2022 Annual Meeting

Ray Biggs, II

Division Chief, Safety Assurance and Risk Management

Office of System Safety
Federal Transit Administration

FTA
FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION

U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Transit Administration

Presentation Purpose and Agenda

The purpose of this presentation is to provide an overview of the Federal Transit Administration's (FTA's) approach to reducing safety risk in the transit industry and an update on ongoing efforts to improve industry safety.

Presentation Agenda
- Safety Risk Management (SRM) Background
- SRM Overview
- Transit Worker Safety Initiative
- Safety Data Overview
- SRM Action Plan
- Q&A

SRM Background

FTA is responsible for administering a Public Transportation Safety Program to improve the safety performance of the Nation's transit systems.

FTA adopted the principles and methods of Safety Management Systems:

- As the foundation of the Safety Program,
- To proactively identify safety risks, and
- To address safety risks at the industry level

2016 — FTA published the Public Transportation Safety Program regulation, 49 CFR Part 670
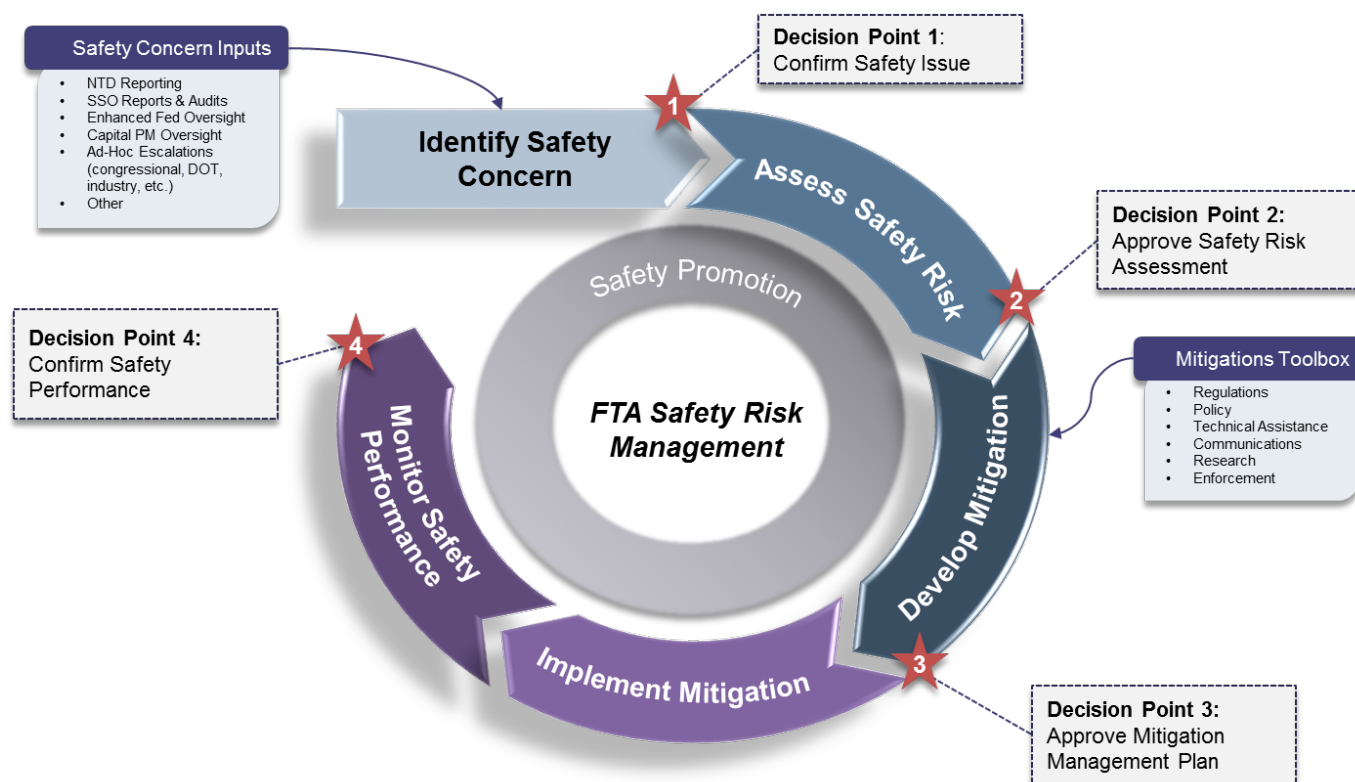
2018 — FTA published the Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan regulation, 49 CFR Part 673
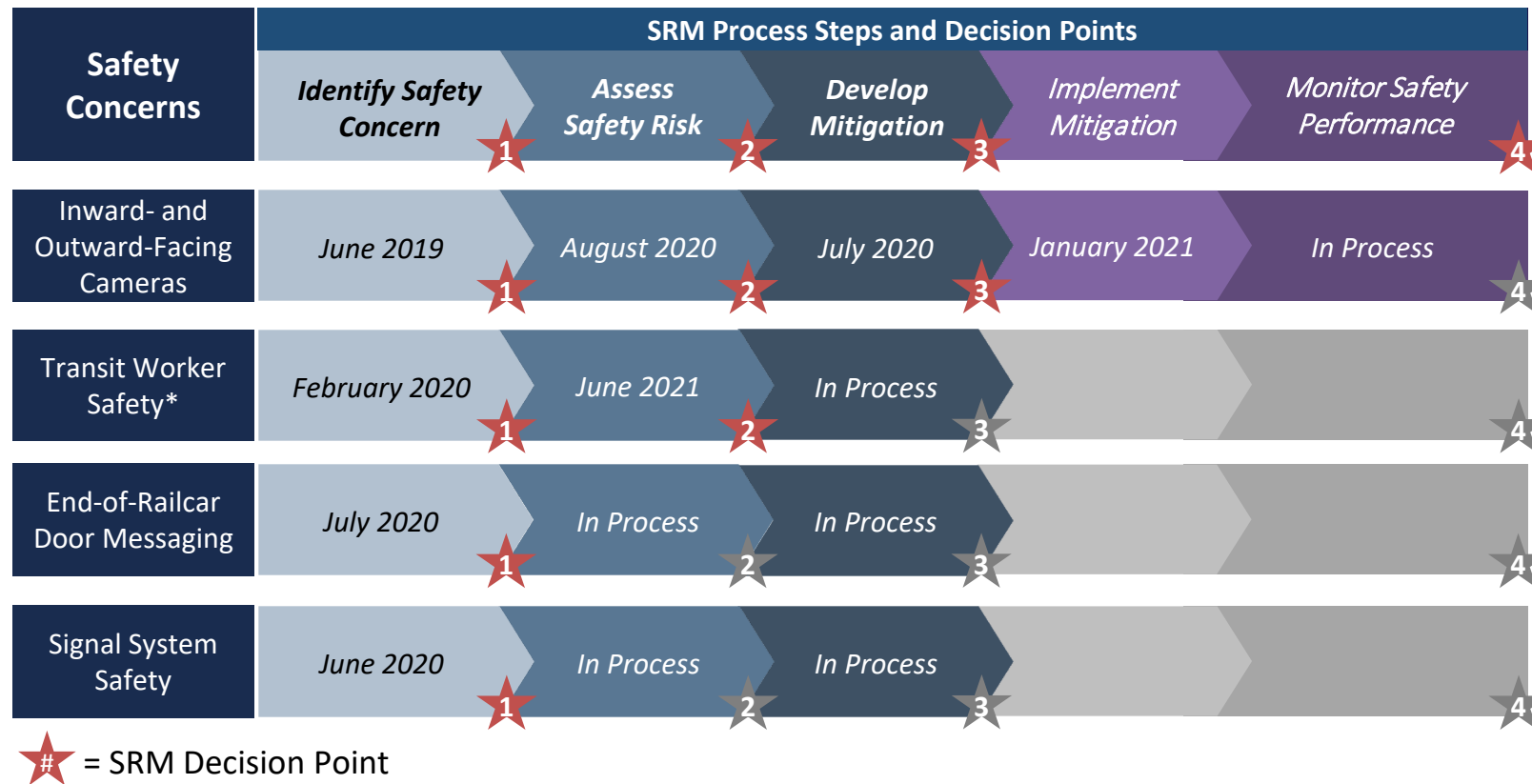
SRM Overview

FTA developed an SRM process in 2019 to proactively address safety concerns impacting the transit industry and to systematically apply FTA's statutory oversight authority to improve the safety of the Nation's transit infrastructure.

FTA's 5-Step Approach for Managing Safety Risk

Safety Concern Inputs
- NTD Reporting
- SSO Reports & Audits
- Enhanced Fed Oversight
- Capital PM Oversight
- Ad-Hoc Escalations (congressional, DOT, industry, etc.)
- Other

Decision Point 1: Confirm Safety Issue

Decision Point 2: Approve Safety Risk Assessment

Mitigations Toolbox
- Regulations
- Policy
- Technical Assistance
- Communications
- Research
- Enforcement

Decision Point 4: Confirm Safety Performance

Decision Point 3: Approve Mitigation Management Plan

Identify Safety Concern

Assess Safety Risk

Safety Promotion

FTA Safety Risk Management

Develop Mitigation

Implement Mitigation

Monitor Safety Performance

SRM Overview: Current Safety Concerns

FTA began piloting the SRM process in 2019 and is in the process of analyzing four safety concerns:

Safety Concerns	SRM Process Steps and Decision Points				
	Identify Safety Concern ★1	Assess Safety Risk ★2	Develop Mitigation ★3	Implement Mitigation	Monitor Safety Performance ★4
Inward- and Outward-Facing Cameras	June 2019 ★1	August 2020 ★2	July 2020 ★3	January 2021	In Process ★4
Transit Worker Safety*	February 2020 ★1	June 2021 ★2	In Process ★3		★4
End-of-Railcar Door Messaging	July 2020 ★1	In Process ★2	In Process ★3		★4
Signal System Safety	June 2020 ★1	In Process ★2	In Process ★3		★4

★# = SRM Decision Point

*Transit Worker Safety includes both Roadway Worker Protection and Transit Worker Assault Prevention

Transit Worker Safety Initiative

Request for Information Quick Facts

Date Open: September 24, 2021
**Date Closed:** November 23, 2021
Audience: Public (industry, transit providers, transit users, researchers, contractors, etc.)
Purpose: Solicit public input regarding transit worker safety mitigations related to roadway worker protection (RWP) programs and transit worker assault prevention
Scope of Questions:
- Types of redundant protections
- RWP and transit worker assault prevention best practices
- Minimum requirements recommendations
- Information, data, and technology

FTA received 47 responses, representing at least 20 States and the District of Columbia
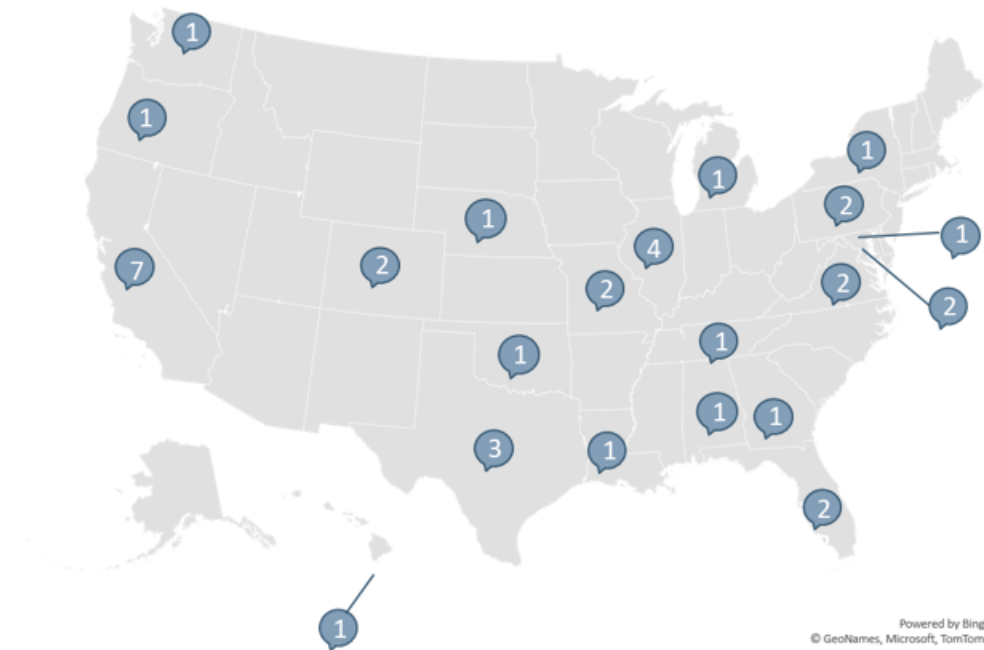
⬤ = indicates the number of responses received from commenters located in that State
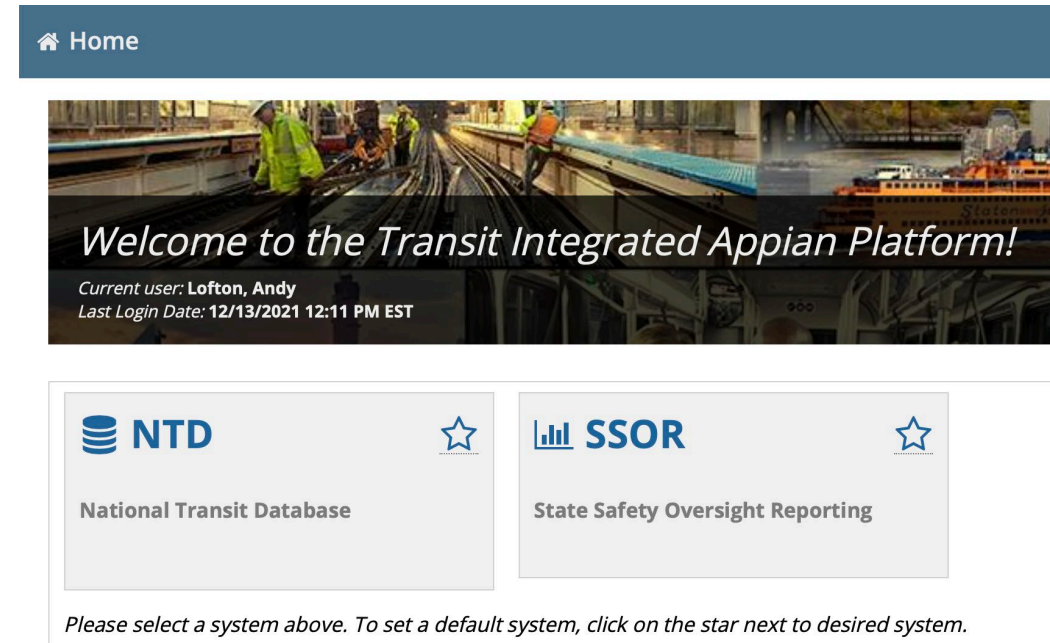
Safety Data Collection Sources

National Transit Database – Detailed major event data and summarized non-major event data

State Safety Oversight Reporting (SSOR) Tool – Corrective action plans, hazards, internal audits, and causal data for certain events

> *Both applications are part of FTA's Transit Integrated Appian Development (TrIAD) platform.*
> https://faces.fta.dot.gov/suite/

Safety Advisories – FTA has also used additional data collection authority through the State Safety Oversight (SSO) Program to capture topic-specific information from the industry if not available from existing data sources.

Home

Welcome to the Transit Integrated Appian Platform!
Current user: **Lofton, Andy**
Last Login Date: **12/13/2021 12:11 PM EST**

NTD
National Transit Database

SSOR
State Safety Oversight Reporting

Please select a system above. To set a default system, click on the star next to desired system.

FTA Uses of Safety & Security Data

FTA leverages safety and security data for a wide range of activities:

- ✓ Development of Published Safety Statistics Reports
- ✓ Development of Monthly Safety Spotlight Newsletter Articles
- ✓ Safety Risk Management Activities
- ✓ Targeted Analyses through FTA's SSO Program
- ✓ Bureau of Transportation Statistics Annual Updates of the National Transportation Statistics report
- ✓ Safety Advisories
- ✓ Prioritization and Conduct of Research Projects
- ✓ USDOT Strategic Goals
- ✓ Conditions and Performance (C&P) Reports
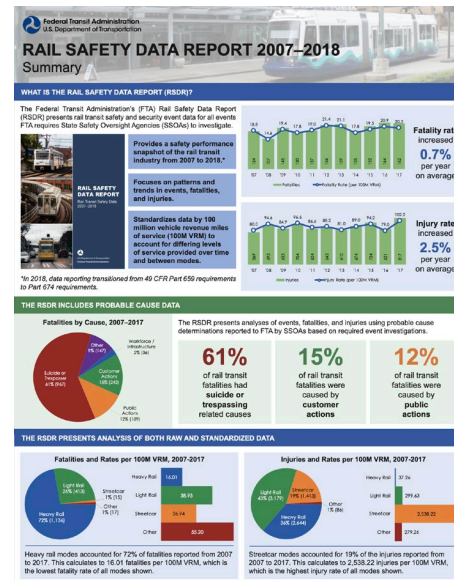
Rail & Bus Safety Data Reports

FTA recently published two reports on safety in the transit industry using the previously discussed safety and security data:

Rail Safety Data Report (RSDR)

Source: SSOR Accident records

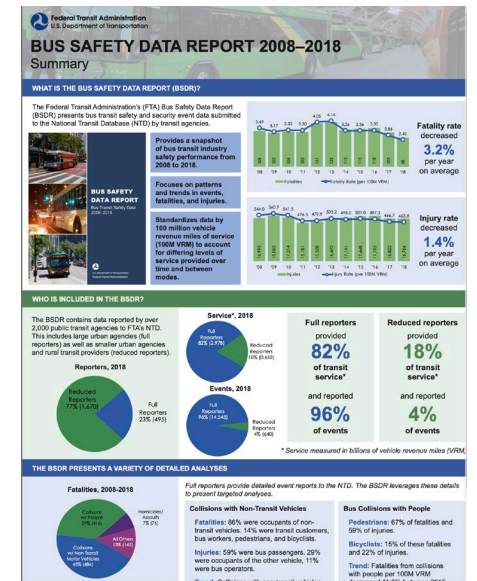Analyzes rail transit agency safety performance data.

Leverages causal data reported by SSOAs to SSOR.

Bus Safety Data Report (BSDR)

Source: NTD event data

Uses data from all types of urban agencies that report safety data to the NTD.

SRM Action Plan

FTA also uses available data to determine which safety concerns in the industry are the highest priority for analysis and possible mitigation through the SRM process.

FTA prioritizes safety concerns to undergo evaluation through the SRM process through its SRM Action Plan.

Safety concerns are considered based on:
- A data-driven review of leading causes of injuries and fatalities in the industry,
- Recommendations from the National Transportation Safety Board and the Transit Advisory Committee for Safety, and
- Congressional and administration priorities.

FTA also sought public input about high-priority safety concerns in the transit industry through an RFI published in the Federal Register.
- The RFI requested information and data from the public on safety concerns the industry believes FTA should consider including in its next SRM Action Plan.

Questions and Contact Information

Questions?

Ray Biggs, II

Office of System Safety

Federal Transit Administration

Ray.Biggs@FTA.gov