

Human Trafficking Awareness in Transit

January 19, 2022

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Webinar Purpose and Agenda

The purpose of this meeting is to brief the American Public Transportation Association (APTA) on the Federal Transit Administration's (FTA's) Human Trafficking Awareness and Public Safety Initiative and the grants and cooperative agreements FTA has awarded to combat human trafficking on public transit.

Meeting Agenda

- Human Trafficking Awareness and Public Safety Initiative
- Why is FTA Involved?
- Cooperative Agreement Spotlight: Council of State Governments (CSG)
- Cooperative Agreement Recipients
- Grant Spotlight: City of Greensboro
- Grant Recipients
- FTA Point of Contact

Human Trafficking Awareness and Public Safety Initiative

Initiative Origin

- In 2012, the U.S. Department of Transportation formed the Transportation Leaders Against Human Trafficking (TLAHT) initiative for transportation and travel industry stakeholders to collaborate on combatting human trafficking
- On January 28, 2020, U.S. Secretary of Transportation Elaine Chao announced \$5.36 million in grant selections as part of FTA's Human Trafficking Awareness and Public Safety Initiative, which supports the broader TLAHT initiative

Initiative Goals

- To combat human trafficking through transit-focused industry engagement, education, public awareness and outreach, and research and technical assistance
- To maximize the transit industry's collective impact to address human trafficking and other public safety concerns
- To support existing programs such as FTA's operator assault and crime prevention efforts



Human Trafficking Awareness and Public Safety Initiative

Initiative Programs

- FTA is funding 24 projects across two programs:
 - 3 Crime Prevention and Public Safety Awareness (CPPSA) cooperative agreements (all awarded)
 - 21 Innovations in Transit Public Safety (ITPS) grants (16 awarded as of November 2, 2021)
- CPPSA cooperative agreements are administered directly by the Office of Transit Safety and Oversight (TSO)
- ITPS grants are administered through FTA's regional offices

Initiative Funding

- \$5.36 million for projects preventing human trafficking and other crimes on public transportation from the Public Transportation Innovation Program (49 U.S.C. §5312)
 - \$2 million for CPPSA cooperative agreements
 - \$3.36 million for ITPS grants
- FTA will not allocate additional funds until the conclusion of these current projects



Why is FTA involved?

- Traffickers often use public transit because it is low cost, offers greater anonymity in buying fare cards, and provides less direct interaction with government or transportation officials.
- In 2018, the [Polaris Project](#) issued a report on human trafficking that included a survey of 104 survivors. Of the survivors who responded to questions regarding transportation systems used to facilitate exploitation:



42% stated they or their traffickers utilized buses

- 33% utilized long distance buses
- 19% utilized public buses



19% stated they or their traffickers utilized subways/metros

CPPSA Cooperative Agreement Spotlight: CSG



The Council
of State
Governments

Project Description

- The purpose of this cooperative agreement was to conduct a two-day Virtual Learning Seminar and to bring together leaders from states, including legislative members and executive branch members
- Policy researchers from CSG also conducted scans of literature and legislation relevant to safety on public transit systems and will publish a report summarizing the scans and seminar findings
- The products include a webinar and a series of blog posts and articles

Virtual Learning Seminar Details

- CSG held its Virtual Learning Seminar on November 17 and 18, 2021
 - Featured 36 attendees from 24 states, including:
 - Representative from FTA
 - Representatives from APTA, Community Transportation Association of America
 - State legislators from California and Georgia
 - State judge from Minnesota
 - CSG is currently developing a lessons learned document from the seminar

CPPSA Cooperative Agreement Recipients

- Council of State Governments, Lexington KY \$117, 825
- Community Transportation Association of America (CTAA), Washington DC, \$242, 677
- End Child Prostitution, Child Pornography and Trafficking of Children for Sexual Purposes, New York NY, \$1,639,498



ITPS Grant Spotlight: City of Greensboro (Closed)

Project Description

- The City of Greensboro, North Carolina received a \$34,400 award from FTA's ITPS FY19 discretionary grant program
- The City of Greensboro/Greensboro Transit Agency (GTA) is utilizing these funds for a two-year subscription to a real time safety reporting application (elerts) enabling transit riders to report any safety or security incidents they witness on revenue vehicles or in transit facilities
- A portion of the funds are being utilized for public education and outreach efforts on proper use of this application and for a human trafficking awareness campaign

Project Benefits

- Contributes to improved safety and security on GTA's fixed route buses and in transit facilities
- Educates citizens of Greensboro on human trafficking and what to do if they are a victim or a witness to suspected activities



Project Locations

- Involves transit facilities and transit vehicles that travel throughout the city limits of Greensboro
- Directs the public education and awareness campaign at all citizens of Greensboro

ITPS Grant Recipients (1 of 2)

Recipient	State	Amount
Northern Arizona Intergovernmental Public Transportation Authority (NAIPTA)	AZ	\$87,612
City of Tucson	AZ	\$221,100
Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA)	CA	\$350,000
SunLine Transit Agency	CA	\$37,320
Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA)	DC	\$176,000
Hillsborough Transit Authority (HART)	FL	\$100,240
Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority (PSTA)	FL	\$43,630
Gwinnett County Board of Commissioners	GA	\$352,000
Capital Area Transportation Authority (CATA)	MI	\$75,000
Bi-State Development Agency	MO	\$187,500
Total Amount (including ITPS grants on other pages) = \$3,362,873		

ITPS Grant Recipients (2 of 2)

Recipient	State	Amount
City of Greensboro (grant closed)	NC	\$34,400
North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT)	NC	\$120,000
Regional Transportation Commission of Southern Nevada (RTC)	NV	\$160,000
Toledo Area Regional Transit Authority	OH	\$474,232
Grand Gateway Economic Development Association (EDA) Pelivan Transit	OK	\$350,475
Tri-County Metropolitan Transportation District of Oregon (Tri-Met)	OR	\$151,052
Central Midlands Regional Transit Authority (The Comet)	SC	\$151,776
Greenville Transit Authority (Greenlink)	SC	\$20,936
West River Transit Authority (Prairie Hills Transit)	SD	\$60,000
Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART)	TX	\$49,600
Metropolitan Transit Authority of Harris County	TX	\$160,000
Total Amount (including ITPS grants on other pages) = \$3,362,873		

FTA Point of Contact

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