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This issue of the PTASP TAC Update focuses on how transit agencies can use the National Transit Database (NTD) to support safety analysis in a Safety Management System (SMS).

Featured Resources

New! Using the NTD to Support Safety Analysis in an SMS (January 6, 2022):
Webinar Presentation | Webinar Video Recording

The Accessing and Using Safety and Security Event Data Guide reviews how to access NTD Safety and Security data to support a transit agency's safety performance measurement activities and benchmarking efforts.

The Safety Performance Targets (SPTs) Guide includes clarifications on the seven required SPTs, additional information about modal categories and Reduced Reporters, and examples.

The SPTs Fact Sheet contains guidance on how to determine SPTs.

The Introduction to Safety Performance Indicators and Targets helps agencies develop safety performance indicators and SPTs as part of their ongoing safety performance monitoring and measurement activities for Safety Assurance.

Access the entire TAC Resource Library by visiting FTA's PTASP TAC website.

Q & A Highlights

Question 1:

Can our agency set an SPT only for the number of safety events per vehicle revenue mile (VRM) and exclude the SPT for total events? Over the last couple of years, the VRM has changed significantly and the total events figure is not as useful as events/VRM.

Need Assistance?

Contact the **Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan (PTASP) Technical Assistance Center (TAC)** to speak with a specialist today!

✉ PTASP-TAC@dot.gov

☎ 1-87 PTASP-AID
1 (877) 827-7243

9 a.m. to 8 p.m. EST, M-F

Contact the TAC for **one-on-one technical sessions** for ASP development and implementation support.

ASP Implementation Workshop Recorded Version

The recorded version of the workshop and its accompanying Participant Workbook are available in the TAC Resource Library.

Upcoming Webinar

SMS Techniques for Monitoring Operations and Maintenance Procedures

When: Thursday, February 24, 1-2:30 p.m. EST

Registration Coming Soon

FTA Response:

No, per the PTASP regulation and the National Public Transportation Safety Plan, transit agencies must set SPTs for the total number of safety events reported to the NTD by mode and the rate per total VRM by mode. However, to address the fluctuations in total safety events and VRM over the last two years, your agency may choose to add a footnote to explain critical impacts from the COVID-19 public health emergency. You may choose to note how the COVID-19 public health emergency impacted VRM and safety event totals and rates over the last two years to help those who review the SPTs better understand their context.

Question 2:

Should the data for our agency's SPTs be from the last two years or a projection for the following year based on that previous data?

FTA Response:

FTA has not specified how transit providers must set their targets nor established a required methodology. Generally, an agency sets SPTs for each mode representing its goals for the upcoming year (for example, calendar, fiscal, or NTD reporting year). These goals could maintain current safety performance levels or aim to improve upon current safety performance. The SPTs should represent an achievable goal based on safety practices in place, resources available, and previous experience.

You may choose to set your targets based on the safety data for each mode reported to the NTD in the past year or an average of the data (per mode) you reported over a certain number of years. You may consider benchmarking peer agencies or transit industry averages based on data reported to the NTD.

Question 3:

What data is available in the NTD that could support Safety Risk Management?

FTA Response:

For NTD Full Reporters, the NTD offers a Major Safety Events dataset and a Monthly Module Adjusted Data Release, which can help with determining the likelihood and severity of hazards. Reduced Reporters can use the NTD's Annual Database Safety Information and Annual Database Service for data specific to the size and complexity of their operations. See FTA's Accessing and Using National Transit Database Safety and Security Event Data Guide and the January 6 Using the NTD to Support Safety Analysis in an SMS webinar presentation for more information on available data products.