

Transit Safety and Oversight Spotlight Newsletter

January 2022
Vol. 7 No. 1

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U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Transit Administration

Message from the Associate Administrator

Dear Transit Colleagues:

Happy New Year! I am honored to serve as the new Associate Administrator (AA) for Transit Safety and Oversight (TSO). Previously, I served as the AA for Enforcement and Compliance at the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA), where I was responsible for policy and program development for the agency's enforcement and compliance program for approximately 600,000 regulated entities. First, let me acknowledge Gail Lyssy for serving as TSO's Acting AA from June through December of last year. Gail was a tremendous steward and leader who ensured FTA delivered on its safety and oversight priorities through this transition.

Last year, TSO continued to enhance transit safety by:

- Seeking industry input through Requests for Information on [transit safety](#) and [transit worker safety](#)
- Publishing [Bus and Rail Safety Data Reports](#) to provide transit agencies with national safety performance data to help promote performance-based safety standards management
- Launching the [Enhanced Transit Safety and Crime Prevention Initiative](#) and hosting roundtables with transit labor representatives, executives and law enforcement officers
- Offering support through the [Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan Technical Assistance Center](#) by addressing stakeholder inquiries, completing voluntary Agency Safety Plan reviews, delivering webinars and virtual workshops and publishing guidance documents
- Delivering safety training courses through the [Transportation Safety Institute](#) including 144 courses with 7,668 participant course completions and training 4,651 transit safety professionals
- Conducting audits to assess [State Safety Oversight \(SSO\) Program](#) and [Drug & Alcohol Program](#) compliance
- Developing a new framework for completing reviews and audits and hosting webinars to support these virtual reviews, which attracted 3,000 participants

Finally, we fully supported the implementation of the [Federal mask requirement for public transportation](#). We launched [TransitMaskUp@dot.gov](#) to respond to the industry's questions, hosted stakeholder calls including a COVID-19 vaccination national peer exchange to support the Administration's vaccination goals and led a collaborative webinar with the Centers Disease Control and Prevention to build the transit workforce's vaccine confidence. Thanks to the dedicated safety and oversight team at FTA for this impressive list!

Looking ahead as we build our nation's infrastructure, the threat of cyber disruption to critical infrastructure is at an all-time high. FTA supports transit agencies in their preparedness for cybersecurity plans and continues to partner with the U.S Department of Homeland Security on requirements and resources to promote enhanced security for transit agencies. During the [2021 FTA Joint State Safety Oversight and Rail Transit Agency Virtual Workshop](#), three Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency representatives discussed cyber threats and vulnerabilities associated with the rail industry. I encourage you to view the presentations.

Finally, earlier this month FTA hosted a webinar to review programmatic changes authorized under the [Bipartisan Infrastructure Law](#) and share our funding plan to support transit systems across the country. The presentation and recording are available [Bipartisan Infrastructure Law webpage](#). Here's to making an agency and industry-wide impact on critical transit safety initiatives throughout 2022! I look forward to working with you to advance public transportation safety.

Sincerely,
Joseph DeLorenzo



Joseph DeLorenzo
Associate Administrator for
Transit Safety and Oversight
& Chief Safety Officer, FTA

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COVID-19 Resources and Updates

FTA continues to provide [updated resources](#) on COVID-19, including:

- [COVID-19 Recovery Practices in Transit](#)—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](#)—Answers to frequently asked questions (FAQs) regarding COVID-19 relief funding and other requirements.
- [Federal Mask Requirement for Transit](#)—Links to resources, stakeholder call materials, [FAQs](#) and updated information on the Federal mask requirement.

Sign-Up for Updates
[Subscribe](#) to FTA COVID-19 updates.

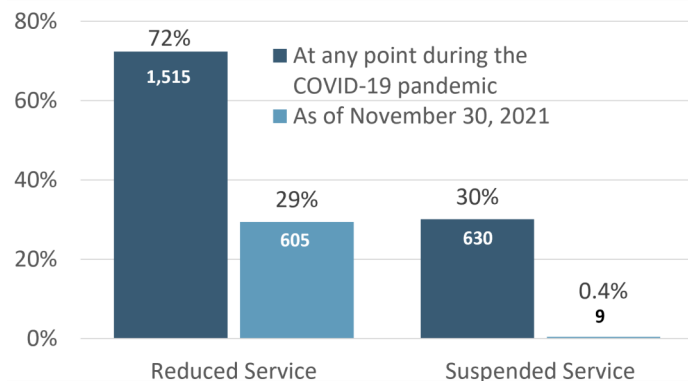
Mask Requirement Questions?
 Email TransitMaskUp@dot.gov

FTA Transit COVID-19 Response Program Information Collection Update

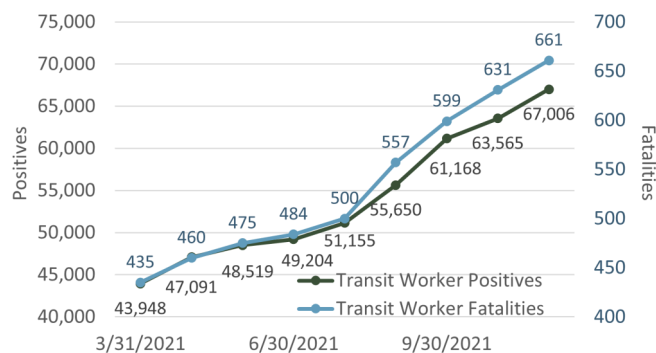
Key Takeaways as of November 30, 2021

The [FTA Transit COVID-19 Response Program Information Collection](#) captures COVID-19 related data monthly from nearly 2,100 transit providers. December submissions captured data through November 30, 2021 and were due on December 15, 2021.

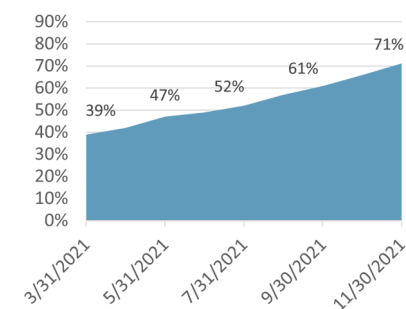
Percentage of Agencies with Reduced or Suspended Service



Transit Worker COVID-19 Positives and Fatalities

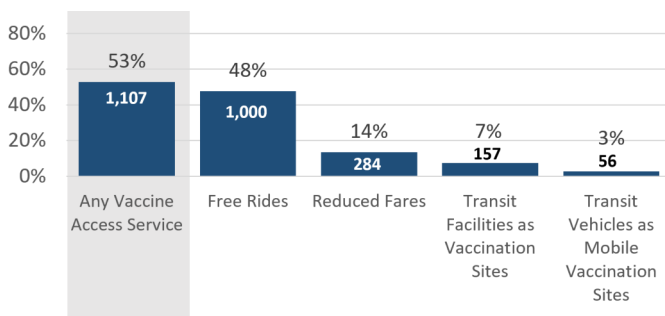


Transit Worker Vaccination Rates Over Time

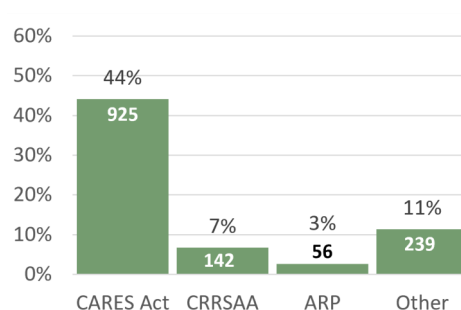


Note: This chart presents the percentage of fully vaccinated transit workers from agencies that reported workforce vaccination data, approximately 72 percent of the total transit workforce.

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 Act: 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 to Reestablish the Transit Advisory Committee for Safety

On January 18, 2022, FTA published a [notice](#) in the Federal Register announcing its intent to reestablish the Transit Advisory Committee for Safety (TRACS).

TRACS provides information, advice and recommendations on transit safety and other issues as determined by the Secretary of Transportation and the FTA Administrator. TRACS has provided FTA with valuable recommendations for over 10 years on issues such as Safety Management Systems, State Safety Oversight, the Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan, transit worker assaults, safety culture, trespass and suicide prevention, roadway worker protection, employee safety reporting and more.



A Federal Register Notice soliciting membership nomination will be published in the coming weeks.

FMCSA Entry-Level Driving Training Requirement for Transit

On January 20, 2022, FTA and the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) hosted a webinar on the [FMCSA Entry-Level Driver Training \(ELDT\) Rule Requirement](#). The webinar provided an overview of the ELDT Final Rule and Training Provider Registry, plus outlined the driver, training and training provider requirements. View the webinar [presentation slides](#) and [recording](#) for more information.

Issued in 2016, the ELDT regulation sets Federal standards for mandatory training of entry-level drivers obtaining a Class A or B Commercial Driver's License (CDL) for the first time, upgrading an existing Class B CDL to a Class A CDL, and obtaining the hazardous materials, passenger or school bus driving endorsements for the first time. Entry-level drivers must complete ELDT before being eligible to take the applicable CDL skills test or knowledge test for the hazardous materials endorsement. **Compliance with these regulations is required by Monday, February 7, 2022.**

ELDT also establishes the need for the Training Provider Registry (TPR). Entities, including transit-related entities, that want to provide entry-level driver training must register and self-certify that they meet all Federal and State requirements related to curricula, facilities, instructors, licensing and vehicles.

Beginning February 7, 2022, registered training provider users will log in to the Training Provider Registry and start the process to enter driver trainees' training certification information. State Driver Licensing Agencies must verify that an entry-level driver has completed the required training before allowing the driver to proceed with testing, based on the type of license or endorsement the applicant is seeking.

To register, access educational resources, watch tutorials and view previously recorded webinars, please visit the [FMCSA Training Provider webpage](#). Training providers and transit agencies can also [subscribe](#) to receive news and information from FMCSA regarding ELDT and the TPR.

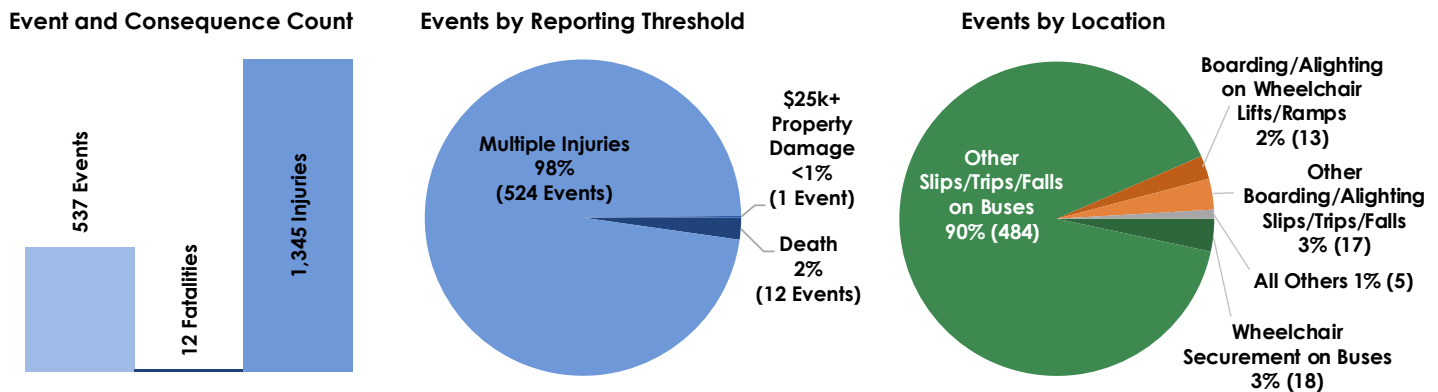


Data Spotlight: Locations of Bus Slip, Trip and Fall Events, January 2016—July 2021

This month's data spotlight is on the National Transit Database (NTD) bus mode data for "slip, trip and fall" events from January 2016 to July 2021.¹ The national safety data presented below may help bus transit agencies review and update performance targets for their [Agency Safety Plans](#).

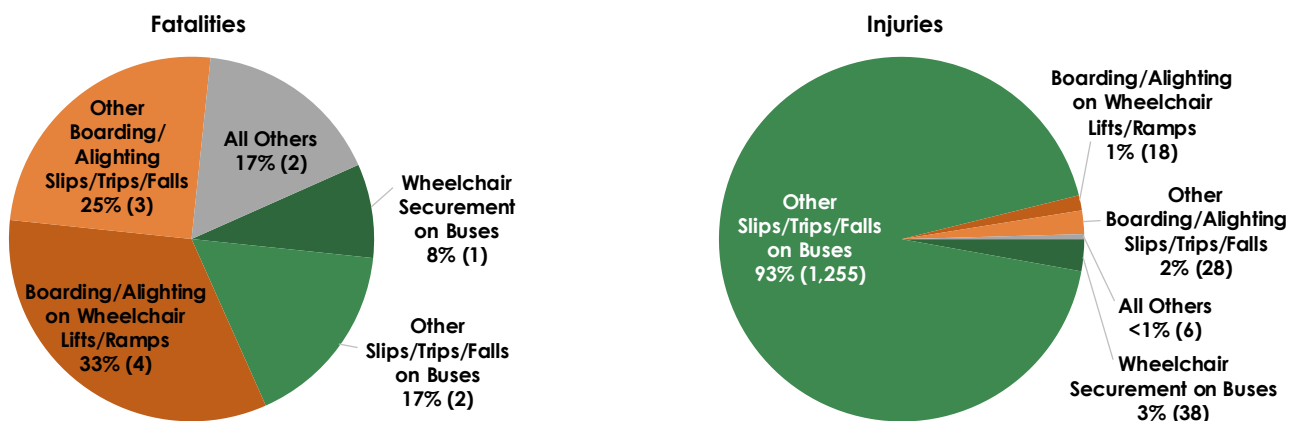
FTA requires bus transit agencies that qualify as Full Reporters² (typically large urban agencies) to submit major safety event reports for all events that result in any of the following: a fatality; one or more injuries to people who require immediate medical transportation; \$25,000 or more in property damage; fire suppression, an evacuation for life-safety reasons or a collision requiring towing for at least one vehicle. This reporting excludes events resulting from medical conditions or occurrences in administrative buildings. Also excluded are non-major slip, trip and fall events resulting in injuries to one person.

Major Bus Slip, Trip and Fall Events, January 2016—July 2021¹



Since 2016, Full Reporters have submitted 537 major event reports on slip, trip and fall events for bus modes, accounting for 12 fatalities and 1,345 injuries. Ninety-three percent of these events (502) occurred within a bus, including 18 events involving wheelchair securement devices. Another 6 percent of major slips, trips and falls (30) occurred when boarding or alighting from a bus, including 13 events involving a wheelchair lift or ramp. The remaining 1 percent occurred in other locations, including outside of buses and in bus facilities. The charts below present a detailed breakdown of the most common locations of bus slip, trip and fall fatalities and injuries.

Most Common Locations of Major Bus Slip, Trip and Fall Fatalities and Injuries, January 2016—July 2021¹



Another resource for bus safety data is the recently published [FTA Bus Safety Data Report \(BSDR\)](#), which presents bus transit safety and security event data for all events NTD reporters submitted for bus modes. The BSDR presents detailed trends and patterns of bus safety performance from 2008 to 2018. Questions about this data spotlight or the BSDR? Please contact FTA's [Marjorie Collins](#), Office of Transit Safety and Oversight.

¹Data reflects NTD major event submissions from Full Reporter agencies received as of September 7, 2021. NTD data for 2020—2021 are preliminary.

²Full Reporters are typically large, urban agencies. FTA's criteria for determining if an agency is a Full Reporter are available in the [NTD Full Reporter Policy Manual](#).

FY2022 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. All rail PTSCTP courses will be delivered virtually. The [FY2022 TSI Training Schedule](#) is also available.

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

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.	February 7–9, 2022 April 5–7, 2022 June 22–24, 2022 July 26–28, 2022
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.	February 1, 2022 March 22, 2022 May 11, 2022 July 29, 2022
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.	February 15–18, 2022 April 19–22, 2022 May 31–June 3, 2022 July 19–22, 2022

Rail PTSCTP Virtual Live Training Courses

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.	February 10, 2022 April 8, 2022 June 29, 2022 July 7, 2022
Transit Rail System Safety : Provides basic rail system safety and SMS principles, as well as the required elements of FTA safety regulations.	March 28–April 1, 2022 May 2–6, 2022 June 13–17, 2022 July 11–15, 2022

Rail PTSCTP 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 49 CFR Part 674.

March 7–11, 2022
April 11–15, 2022
May 16–20, 2022
June 6–10, 2022

Non-PTSCTP 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

March 1–4, 2022
August 15–18, 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 systems.

[Curbing Transit Employee Distracted Driving](#): Provides participants with a raised awareness of distracted driving with the desired outcome of reducing the risk of distracted driving by public transportation professionals.

[Fatigue and Sleep Apnea Awareness for Transit Employees](#): Provides participants with the knowledge and skills to identify individuals at high risk for obstructive sleep apnea and other sleep disorders as well as general concepts about sleep and fatigue.

[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 Principles for Transit and Safety Assurance courses.

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. The AAP and VTW 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.

The recorded versions of the AAP and VTW courses are on the [FTA Enhanced Transit Safety and Crime Prevention Initiative webpage](#).

NTI Virtual AAP and VTW Courses

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

February 17, 2022

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

March 9, 2022

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

February 10, 2022
March 10, 2022



John P. Chism

Program Manager, Office of Safety Review,
Office of Transit Safety and Oversight, FTA

FTA Employee Spotlight: John P. Chism

How would you explain your job to someone you have never met? As a Program Manager for the FTA Office of Safety Review, Office of Transit Safety and Oversight, we review, oversee and maintain transit safety policy compliance and monitor compliance of the States that have direct safety oversight of rail transit systems.

What were you doing prior to this role? I worked for the Government of the District of Columbia (DC) as a Safety Oversight Officer for the DC Circulator bus system, tasked with building staff safety culture and adherence to our Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan. I performed audits, ride checks, facility inspections and met with contracted operations and maintenance staff to discuss all matters of safety. Before that I was a Safety Oversight Officer (SSO) for the DC Streetcar, assuring compliance with Federal and State safety regulations. I was involved with the development and implementation of the DC Streetcar staff, track, structures and vehicles including

system integration and testing, safety compliance and operational readiness in preparation for revenue service. A career highlight was opening day as the Launch Coordinator. I had the opportunity to usher the DC Mayor onto the Streetcar for the first revenue service ride. Prior to my work with DC Streetcar, I was the State SSO for the District of Columbia and part of the Tri-State Oversight Committee and performed safety oversight of the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority's (Metro) rail system. I performed safety audits, compliance checks, and inspections of Metrorail's operations, facilities and staff.

What is the one recommendation you would make to new professionals getting started in the transit industry? Do exactly what your supervisor tells you to do in the way they tell you to do it.

What is your favorite form of transportation and why? After public transit, I would say air travel. I usually travel by plane when going on vacations because it offers the fastest way to get to my destination. The takeoff, flight and landing of the plane is thrilling. The people I meet in airports are excited about where they are going or joyful about where they are coming from, just like me.

If you could have any superpower, what would it be? I would fly!

What is the bravest thing you have ever done? When I climbed the tower at Savage Mill in Savage Mill, Maryland and bungee jumped down.

If you could time travel, which period would you go back to visit? The years 26-33 AD.

Which holiday is your favorite and why? Thanksgiving because there is plenty of home cooked food, people are more relaxed, plus napping and vegging out is socially acceptable! I also enjoy good TV shows, but most importantly I catch up with loved ones.



U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Transit Administration

Federal Transit Administration
Office of Transit Safety and Oversight
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

Access the [FTA Transit Safety and Oversight Spotlight Newsletters](#) on the FTA website.

Upcoming Events and Webinars

[FTA SSOR Refresher Training Webinar](#)

February 15, 2022 | 2:00 pm–3:15 pm ET

[FTA Drug & Alcohol Program Management Information Systems Overview Training](#)

February 16, 2022 | 11:30 am–1:00 pm ET

[FTA Drug & Alcohol Program Management Information Systems Overview Training](#)

March 1, 2022 | 1:00 pm–2:30 pm ET

Save the Date

SSO Quarterly Call

February 16, 2022 | 3:00 pm ET

SSO Quarterly Call

May 18, 2022 | 3:00 pm ET

SSO Quarterly Call

August 17, 2022 | 3:00 pm ET

SSO Quarterly Call

November 16, 2022 | 3:00 pm ET

