

# SWTA/TTA Joint Annual Conference

February 23, 2022



**Joseph P. DeLorenzo**

Associate Administrator for Transit Safety and  
Oversight & Chief Safety Officer,  
Federal Transit Administration



U.S. Department of Transportation  
Federal Transit Administration

# Presentation Overview

The purpose of this presentation is to provide an overview of FTA's approach to reducing safety risk in the transit industry and updates on ongoing efforts to improve industry safety.

## Agenda

- Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Overview
- Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Changes to PTASP Requirements
- Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan Technical Assistance
- Enhanced Transit Safety and Crime Prevention Initiative
- Mental Health Resources for Transit Workers
- FTA Seeks Members for the Transit Advisory Committee for Safety
- COVID-19 Vaccine Access Services and Mask Requirements



# Bipartisan Infrastructure Law

- ✓ Enhances State Safety Oversight (SSO) programs by strengthening rail inspection practices.
- ✓ Enhances practices related to:
  - Developing transit Agency Safety Plans (ASPs)
  - Improving safety training
  - Reducing transit worker assaults
  - Instituting measures to reduce vehicular and pedestrian bus accidents
- ✓ Increases the set-aside for SSO grants from 0.5% to 0.75%, equaling approximately \$251 million over 5 years.
- ✓ Requires additional content be added to the National Public Transportation Safety Plan.
- ✓ Requires ASPs consistency with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and State health authority guidelines to minimize exposure to infectious diseases.

## BIPARTISAN INFRASTRUCTURE LAW

[www.transit.dot.gov/BIL](https://www.transit.dot.gov/BIL)



# Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Changes to PTASP Requirements

- On February 17, 2022, FTA published a Dear Colleague Letter to inform the transit industry of Bipartisan Infrastructure Law changes to Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan (PTASP) requirements.
- The new requirements apply to transit agencies that are required to have an ASP in place under the PTASP regulation (49 CFR Part 673).
- FTA is hosting a **Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Changes to PTASP Requirements Webinar on March 1, 2022 (3:00 pm–4:00 pm ET).**

## Resources:

- [Dear Colleague Letter](#)
- [Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Changes to PTASP Requirements Webinar Registration](#)



# PTASP Technical Assistance

- **100%** of transit agencies and States certified to meeting PTASP requirements by the July 20, 2021 deadline.
- The PTASP Technical Assistance Center continues to help with ASP implementation, voluntary reviews, and updates.

## Upcoming Webinar:



SMS Techniques for Monitoring Operations and Maintenance Procedures Webinar—February 24, 2022 (2:00 pm-3:00 pm ET)

[www.transit.dot.gov/PTASP-Webinars](http://www.transit.dot.gov/PTASP-Webinars)



# Enhanced Transit Safety and Crime Prevention Initiative


- Safety is a top priority for the Biden-Harris Administration and the U.S. Department of Transportation.
- FTA's Enhanced Transit Safety and Crime Prevention Initiative provides information and resources to help transit agencies prevent and address crime in their systems to protect transit workers and riders.

## Enhanced Transit Safety and Crime Prevention Initiative



### Overview

Transit worker and rider safety is a top priority for the Biden-Harris Administration and the U.S. Department of Transportation. Public transit is a safe form of transportation. Transit workers should expect a safe workplace and riders should expect a safe trip.

 <https://www.transit.dot.gov/regulations-and-programs/safety/enhanced-transit-safety-and-crime-prevention-initiative>

 [FTASystemSafety@dot.gov](mailto:FTASystemSafety@dot.gov)





# Upcoming Assault and Violence Prevention Courses

- [Assault Awareness and Prevention Video Resource](#): Provides access to the Assault Awareness and Prevention course in a video format (Available 24/7).
- [Assault Awareness and Prevention Train-the-Trainer Course](#): Provides transit agencies' instructional staff with the necessary support to deliver the course within their agencies.
  - March 9, 2022 (1:00 pm–4:30 pm ET)
- [Violence in the Transit Workplace Video Resource](#): Provides transit agencies' staff with access to the Violence in the Transit Workplace–Prevention, Response and Recovery course in a video format (Available 24/7).
- [Violence in the Transit Workplace Train-the-Trainer Course](#): Provides transit agencies' instructional staff with the support necessary to deliver the course within their agencies.
  - March 10, 2022 (1:00 pm–4:30 pm ET)



National Transit Institute (NTI)  
848-932-1700 or [nti\\_info@nti.rutgers.edu](mailto:nti_info@nti.rutgers.edu)

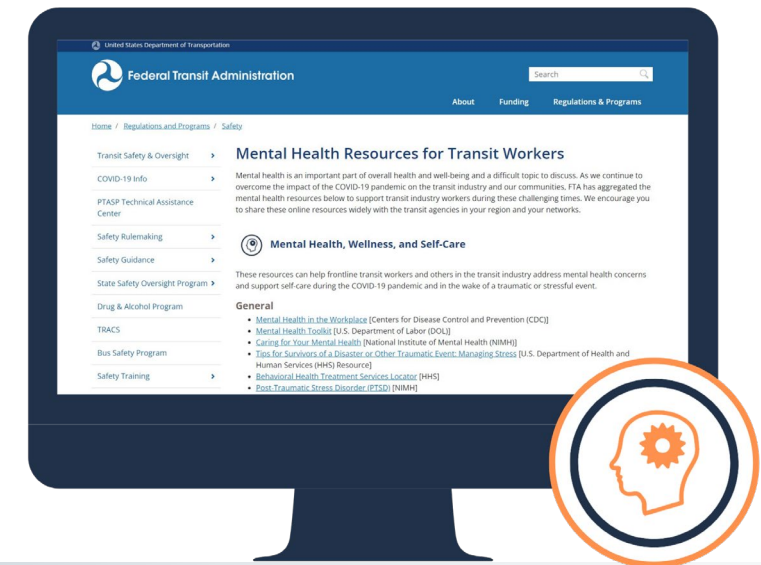


[FTASafetyPromotion@dot.gov](mailto:FTASafetyPromotion@dot.gov)



# Mental Health Resources for Transit Workers

- On February 1, 2022, FTA published [Mental Health Resources](#) to support transit industry workers. We encourage you to share these resources widely with your networks.
  - **Mental Health, Wellness and Self-Care:** These resources help transit stakeholders address mental health concerns and support self-care during the COVID-19 pandemic and in the wake of a traumatic or stressful event.
  - **Suicide Prevention:** These resources highlight free and confidential support for people in emotional distress and offer potential interventions for organizations.
  - **Active Shooter Preparedness:** These resources offer information to help transit stakeholders recognize indicators of potential workplace violence and understand actions to take when confronted by an active shooter.





# FTA Seeks Members for the Transit Advisory Committee for Safety

- The FTA Transit Advisory Committee for Safety (TRACS) provides information, advice and recommendations on transit safety to the U.S. Secretary of Transportation and FTA Administrator.
- **Qualified individuals interested in serving as TRACS members for a two-year term can apply by March 9, 2022.**

## Resources:

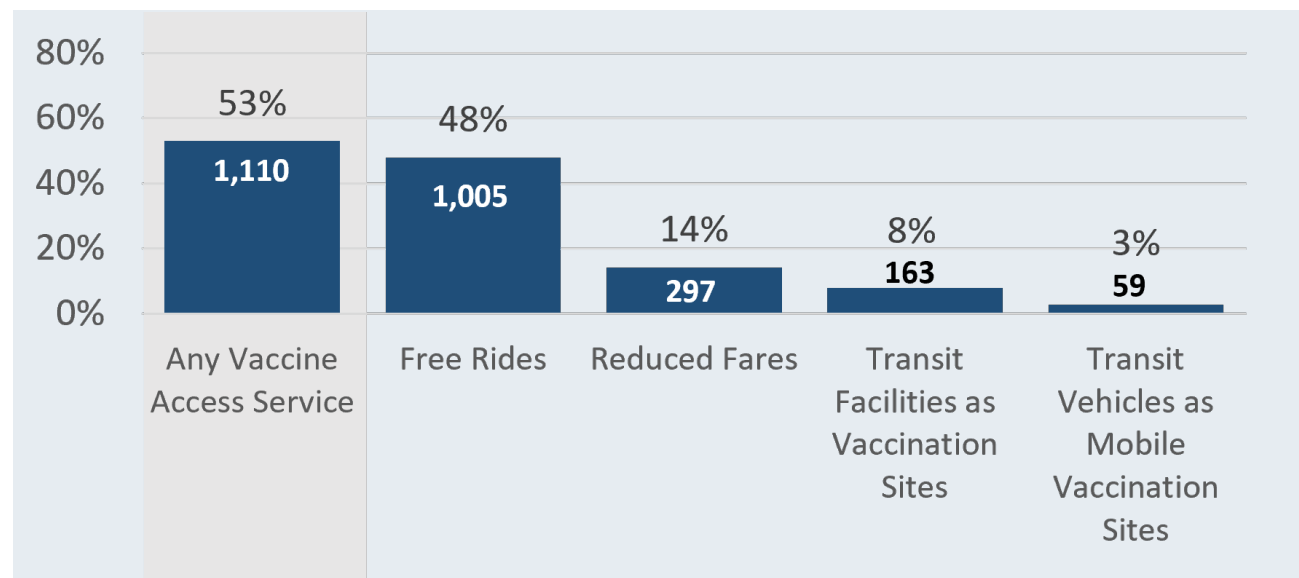
- [2022-2024 TRACS Charter](#)
- [TRACS Membership Applications Solicitation Federal Register Notice](#)
- [TRACS Webpage](#)



# COVID-19 Vaccine Access Service

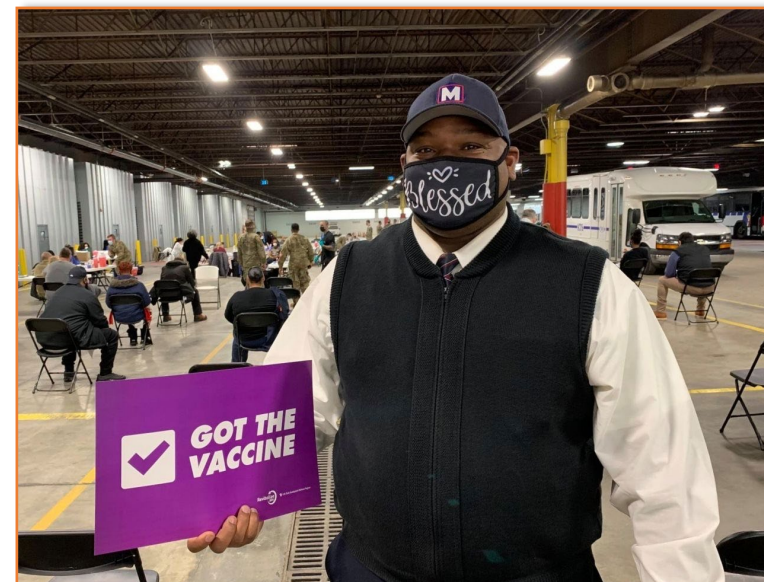
- In January 2022, we saw a 31.9% increase in the number of transit worker positive cases (28,138 new cases).
- The transit worker vaccination rate held steady at 74% (among agencies reporting this data point); this percentage is similar to the national adult vaccination rate, 74.1%.

## Percentage of Agencies That Used FTA Funds to Provide Vaccine Access Services—By Service Type



## FTA COVID-19 Webpage

[www.transit.dot.gov/coronavirus](http://www.transit.dot.gov/coronavirus)



# TSA Federal Mask Requirement Updates

- The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) extended the face mask requirement to **March 18, 2022**.
- Range of Penalties:
  - **\$500-\$1,000** for first offenders
  - **\$1,000-\$3,000** for second offenders

## Resources:

- [TSA COVID-19 Webpage](#)
- [FTA Transit Mask Up Webpage](#)





# Questions?



[TRANSIT.DOT.GOV](https://www.transit.dot.gov)