

# Transit Safety and Oversight Spotlight Newsletter

February 2022  
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U.S. Department of Transportation  
Federal Transit Administration

## Message from the Associate Administrator

Dear Transit Colleagues:

Many working on the transit industry frontlines have struggled to overcome the challenges posed by the COVID-19 global pandemic and its impact on a personal level. Without a doubt, the pandemic has taken a toll on mental health. In recognition of this reality, FTA published [Mental Health Resources](#) to support transit industry workers during these challenging times. I encourage you to review these critical resources, share them widely and provide feedback to us at [FTASafetyStakeholder@dot.gov](mailto:FTASafetyStakeholder@dot.gov).

Last month, FTA published a [Federal Register Notice \(FRN\)](#) announcing its intent to reestablish the [Transit Advisory Committee for Safety \(TRACS\)](#). TRACS provides valuable information, advice and recommendations about transit safety to the U.S. Secretary of Transportation and the FTA Administrator. FTA also recently published an [FRN](#) inviting qualified individuals to apply by March 9, 2022 to serve as TRACS members for a two-year term. Please review the FRN for additional details and application requirements. We hope to receive applications from an impressive pool of candidates to serve on TRACS.

Finally, the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) [Entry-Level Driver Training \(ELDT\) Rule](#) became effective on February 7, 2022. The ELDT regulation sets the minimum Federal requirements for training that entry-level drivers must complete before being permitted to take commercial driver's license skills or knowledge tests. Last month we partnered with FMCSA to host a webinar for the transit industry on the ELDT Rule Requirement and Training Provider Registry and driver, training and Training Provider requirements that attracted over 1,300 participants. You can view the webinar [presentation slides](#) and [recording](#) for more information. If you have questions on the ELDT requirements, please refer to the [FMCSA website](#), [subscribe](#) to FMCSA Training Provider emails and email [TPR@dot.gov](mailto:TPR@dot.gov).

Thank you for your continued efforts as we work together towards a safer, more sustainable and equitable transportation system.

Sincerely,

Joe DeLorenzo



**Joe 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:

- [Mental Health Resources](#)—Tools to support mental health throughout the transit industry.
- [COVID-19 Recovery Practices in Transit](#)—Links to practices implemented by transit systems worldwide in response to COVID-19.
- [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?

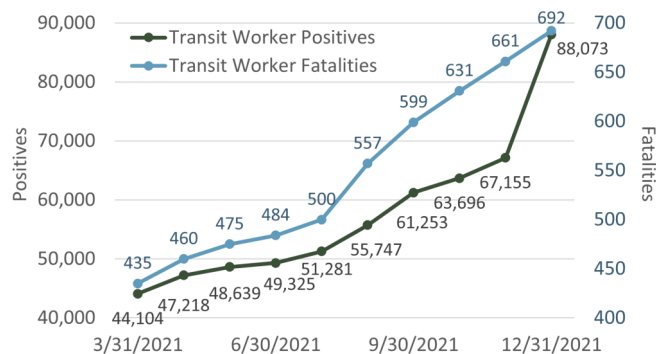
Email [TransitMaskUp@dot.gov](mailto:TransitMaskUp@dot.gov)

## FTA Transit COVID-19 Response Program Information Collection Update

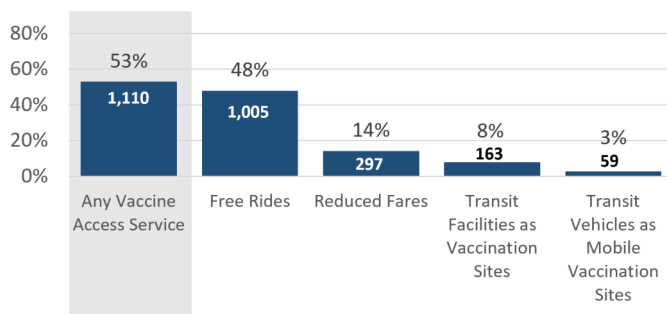
### Key Takeaways as of December 31, 2021

The [FTA Transit COVID-19 Response Program Information Collection](#) captures monthly COVID-19 related data from nearly 2,100 transit providers. Recent submissions captured data through December 31, 2021 and were due on January 18, 2022.

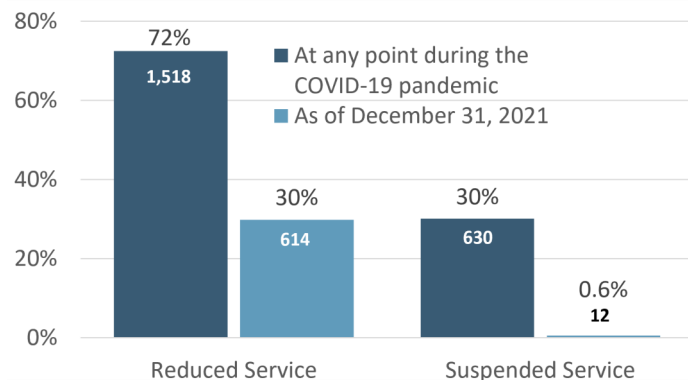
### Transit Worker COVID-19 Positives and Fatalities



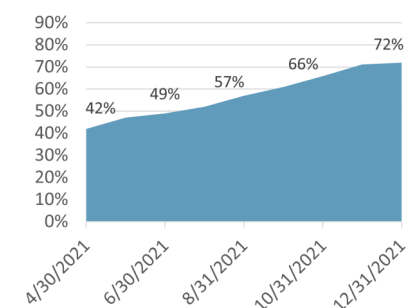
### Percentage of Agencies That Used FTA Funds to Provide Vaccine Access Services—By Service Type (At Any Point Since the Beginning of the COVID-19 Pandemic)



### Percentage of Agencies with Reduced or Suspended Service

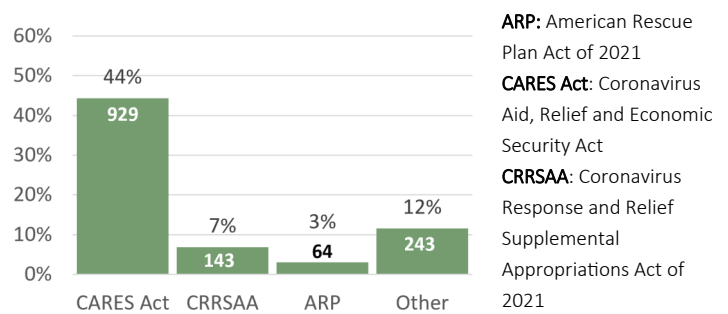


### Transit Worker Vaccination Rates Over Time



**Note:** This chart presents the percentage of fully vaccinated transit workers from agencies that reported workforce vaccination data.

### 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:** 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

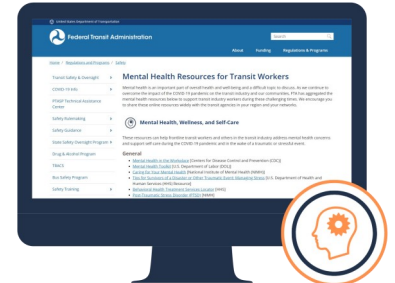
## FTA Publishes Mental Health Resources for Transit Workers

FTA published [Mental Health Resources](#) to support transit industry workers. We encourage you to share these resources widely with your networks and send feedback to [FTASafetyStakeholder@dot.gov](mailto:FTASafetyStakeholder@dot.gov).

**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

FTA reestablished the [Transit Advisory Committee for Safety \(TRACS\)](#). On February 7, 2022, FTA published a [Federal Register Notice](#) inviting qualified individuals interested in serving as TRACS members for a two-year term. The application is available on the [TRACS webpage](#) and the deadline to apply is March 9, 2022.

Applicants should be knowledgeable of trends and issues related to rail and/or bus transit safety. Along with their transit industry experience, applicants will be evaluated and selected based on factors including leadership and organizational skills, region of the country represented, diversity characteristics and overall balance of industry representation. Please contact [TRACS@dot.gov](mailto:TRACS@dot.gov) with any questions.



## Amtrak Unveiled a One-Of-A-Kind Locomotive to Honor Operation Lifesaver's 50th Anniversary

Last month, Joe DeLorenzo, FTA Associate Administrator for Transit Safety and Oversight & Chief Safety Officer, participated in the [Amtrak unveiling](#) of a one-of-a-kind locomotive to honor [Operation Lifesaver's \(OLI\)](#) 50th anniversary. A specially painted Amtrak locomotive with "See Tracks? Think Train!" decorated on

both sides to emphasize rail safety was highlighted during a special ceremony at Washington, DC's Union Station.

OLI is an FTA partner, a non-profit organization and leader in rail safety education committed to preventing collisions, injuries and fatalities on and around railroad tracks and highway-rail grade crossings. OLI's national programs provide free safety presentations to law enforcement, first responders, school-aged children, school bus operators, truckers, student drivers and more, educating and empowering the public to make safe choices on and around railroad property. FTA is proud to support OLI and its efforts to help improve rail transit safety.

Also, while at the ceremony, FTA Associate Administrator DeLorenzo and the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) Associate Administrator for Railroad Safety & Chief Safety Officer Karl Alexy posed for a photo.



FRA Associate Administrator **Alexy** (Left) and FTA Associate Administrator **DeLorenzo** (Right)

## Supporting Safety Management System Safety Analysis with the National Transit Database

The [National Transit Database \(NTD\)](#) records the financial, operating and asset condition of American transit systems. NTD data supports FTA’s grant programs; local, State and regional planning efforts; and implementation of Safety Management Systems (SMS) to improve public transportation safety.

NTD data can help agencies set Safety Performance Targets (SPTs), conduct Safety Risk Management (SRM) analysis and develop safety objectives. The tables below list datasets that can support these processes for Full Reporters and Reduced Reporters. These two FTA-established tiers of safety data reporting requirements for urban reporters are based on system size and modes operated (see the [NTD Reporting Policy Manual](#) for details).

### Resources

The [Using the NTD to Support Safety Analysis in an SMS Webinar](#) discusses ways to use the NTD data.

The [Accessing and Using NTD Safety and Security Event Data Guide](#) shows how to access the data.

NTD Resources for Full Reporters	SPTs	SRM	Safety Objectives
<a href="#">Safety and Security Major-Only Time Series Data</a> : Major safety event totals and associated injuries and fatalities by agency, mode and year.	X		
<a href="#">Monthly Module Data Release</a> : Ridership and service information by agency, mode and month.	X	X	X
<a href="#">Annual Database Vehicle Maintenance</a> : Information on major mechanical failures by agency and mode.	X		X
<a href="#">Major Safety Events</a> : Safety event-level details.		X	X
NTD Resources for Reduced Reporters	SPTs	SRM	Safety Objectives
<a href="#">Annual Database Safety Information</a> : Annual safety totals by agency.	X	X	X
<a href="#">Annual Database Service</a> : Annual service data by agency.	X	X	X

### Using NTD Data to Support SMS Activities

NTD data can help agencies set and assess the required [seven SPTs per mode](#) based on the four safety performance measures established in the [FTA National Public Transportation Safety Plan](#): fatalities, injuries, safety events and system reliability. You can use industry, modal or agency-level averages and rates from the NTD to inform your SPTs.

NTD data can also provide context for your SRM process. Agencies must establish and carry out a process for identifying hazards and analyzing, assessing and mitigating safety risks. The NTD data offers valuable information to support agencies’ risk assessments and can inform your agency’s likelihood and severity determinations.

Finally, agencies can also use NTD data to develop safety objectives. Safety objectives provide a broad description of the agency’s overarching safety goals, such as “reduce rear-end bus collisions in line with our peers.” You can use NTD data to assess your agency’s safety performance in relation to the rest of the industry or specific subsets of the industry.

If you need assistance accessing NTD data or have questions about NTD data products, contact the [NTD Help Desk](#) at 888-252-0936 or email [NTDHelp@dot.gov](mailto:NTDHelp@dot.gov).

Have a Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan (PTASP) question? Call the [PTASP Technical Assistance Center](#) at 877-827-7243 or email [PTASP-TAC@dot.gov](mailto:PTASP-TAC@dot.gov).

## 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.

The availability of in-person TSI courses depends on each host's local guidance. Please contact TSI at [TSI@dot.gov](mailto: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

<a href="#">SMS Principles for Transit</a> : Includes an introduction to the principles and four components of a Safety Management System (SMS): Safety Policy; Safety Risk; Safety Assurance; and Safety Promotion.	April 5–7, 2022 June 22–24, 2022 July 26–28, 2022
<a href="#">SMS Safety Assurance</a> : 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.	March 22, 2022 May 11, 2022 July 29, 2022
<a href="#">Effectively Managing Transit Emergencies</a> : 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.	April 19–22, 2022 May 31–June 3, 2022 July 19–22, 2022

### Rail PTSCTP Virtual Live Training Courses

<a href="#">SMS Principles for SSO Programs</a> : 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.	April 8, 2022 June 29, 2022 July 7, 2022
<a href="#">Transit Rail System Safety</a> : Provides basic rail system safety and SMS principles and 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 PTSCPT 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 the 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-PTSCPT 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 System (SMS) framework at their organizations.

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 public transportation professionals' risk of distracted driving.

[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 and 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) offers 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. **To participate in these free courses, complete the quick self-registration.**

Please contact NTI at 848-932-1700 or [nti\\_info@nti.rutgers.edu](mailto:nti_info@nti.rutgers.edu) with any questions. For questions about FTA safety training offerings, please contact [FTASafetyPromotion@dot.gov](mailto: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 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.

March 10, 2022



**Stewart Mader**

Program Analyst, Safety Policy, Office of System Safety, Office of Transit Safety and Oversight, FTA

## FTA Employee Spotlight: Stewart Mader

**How would you explain your job to someone you have never met?** FTA provides safety oversight, financial and technical assistance to transit systems across America. Along with my colleagues in the FTA Office of Transit Safety & Oversight, I help agencies ensure the ongoing safety of transit riders and workers. I serve as program manager for two FTA programs: the Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan (PTASP) Technical Assistance Center and the Transit COVID-19 Response Program. FTA provides information and support to help make transit safe and support COVID-19 response and recovery through these programs.

**What were you doing before this role?** Before joining FTA, I founded and led the VaxTransit initiative, advising transit agencies on supporting COVID-19 vaccine access and building public awareness of more than 580 agencies in the U.S. and Canada providing free rides to vaccines, hosting vaccine clinics at transit hubs and using transit vehicles to support mobile vaccine clinics. Before that, I led customer experience initiatives for NJ Transit, including contactless fare payment on its light rail systems, and helped the Port Authority of New York & New Jersey establish its customer advisory board, the PATH Riders Council.

**What recommendation would you make to new professionals getting started in the transit industry?** Ride transit as often as you can, anywhere you can, talk to other riders and spend time with frontline workers. They can share a wealth of knowledge and perspective on the importance of transit in their lives and how it can be enhanced to strengthen their communities.

**What is your favorite form of transportation? Why?** I am grateful for the buses that are the backbone of transit and a vital part of daily life. My eight-year-old daughter rides a yellow school bus, and it is part of the fabric of her day—a time to gear up for the day at school or catch up with friends on the way home. My four-year-old daughter and I ride the bus every morning to her school, and she proudly says, "Thank you, bus driver!" to the people who make it possible. Riding the London Underground on a family trip at age seven, I remember being enthralled by the "magic moving floor" that could swiftly take us wherever we needed to go. That sparked an affection for transit that has made me a bus, train and ferry rider all my adult life.

**If you could have any superpower, what would it be?** The ability to instantly grant lanes and signal priority to buses everywhere!

**What is the bravest thing you have ever done?** One of my most meaningful "behind-the-scenes" transit experiences was walking the Downtown Hudson Tubes from Manhattan, New York to Jersey City, New Jersey, on a hot June night in 2015 with an overnight crew working on the PATH signal system upgrade. It gave me a deeper appreciation for what it takes to make transit run, the tremendous power of our infrastructure and the ways it keeps us safe and connected.

**If you could time travel, which period would you go back to visit?** I am currently reading *The Iron Way: Railroads, the Civil War* and *The Making of Modern America*. It chronicles railroads' complex economic, social and political roles in the mid-19th century, as they grew from "3,000 miles of railroad track in service in 1840" to "nearly 9,000 miles in 1850 and over 30,000 miles by 1860." It would be fascinating to experience their rapid growth, feel the "great compression of space and time" and see how they contributed to making a more modern nation.

**Which holiday is your favorite and why?** Thanksgiving. It is a time to enjoy family, friends and good food!



**U.S. Department of Transportation  
Federal Transit Administration**

Federal Transit Administration  
Office of Transit Safety and Oversight  
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Access the [FTA Transit Safety and Oversight Spotlight Newsletters](#).

## **Upcoming FTA TSO Office Speaking Engagements**

### **[Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Changes to PTASP Requirements Webinar](#)**

March 1, 2022 | 3:00 pm–4:00 pm ET | Virtual

### **[APTA Legislative Conference](#)**

March 13, 2022 | 9:30 am–11:00 am ET | Washington, DC

### **[Lifesavers Conference](#)**

March 13, 2022 | 10:30 am–12:00 pm CT | Chicago, IL

### **[APTA Safety Spotlight Webinar](#)**

March 17, 2022 | 2:00 pm–3:00 pm ET | Virtual

### **[FTA Joint State Safety Oversight and Rail Transit Agency Workshop](#)**

October 25-27, 2022

## **Save the Date: SSO Quarterly Calls**

May 18, 2022 | 3:00 pm ET

August 17, 2022 | 3:00 pm ET

November 16, 2022 | 3:00 pm ET

*The contents of this document do not have the force and effect of law and are not meant to bind the public in any way. This document is intended only to provide clarity to the public regarding existing requirements under the law or agency policies. Grantees and subgrantees should refer to FTA's statutes and regulations for applicable requirements.*