

Research Management - FTA Awards Funding for First Transit Workforce Center

A well-trained and skilled transit workforce is central to the public transportation industry's response to COVID-19 recovery and to addressing a variety of technological advances and helping to combat climate change. Advanced technology is opening new doors for transit workforce training. Advanced technologies such as smart systems and transit automation, increased rider expectations for real-time information such as bus and train arrival, and new service models using shared services, micro-transit, and data analytics can transform the transit industry for the better.

FTA recently **announced** funding totaling \$5 million to the International Transportation Learning Center (ITLC) to support the creation of the **Transit Workforce Center (TWC)**. ITLC, a nonprofit organization dedicated to improving public transportation at the national level and within communities, focuses on frontline workers. ITLC builds labor-management training partnerships that improve organizational performance, promote career advancement, and expand workforce knowledge, skills, and abilities.



The U.S. transportation sector generates about 30% of all **climate change pollution**, and whereas the public transportation industry is a small share of climate change emissions, the industry is doing its part to help lower emissions by replacing fossil fuel vehicles with low and zero-emission vehicles. This switch requires reskilling and upskilling to futureproof the transit workforce.

Training the transit workforce of the future is essential to ensuring that the U.S. remains competitive in the global economy and does all it can to address climate change.

Frontline workforce shortages continue to challenge the public transportation industry, especially in positions relating to bus operation and bus maintenance; addressing these shortages by developing a highly-skilled public transportation workforce will create good-paying, secure jobs for workers in communities throughout the country.

The TWC is the first-ever FTA-funded national technical assistance center created specifically to support public transportation workforce development. With this new funding, the TWC will help address the national transit worker shortage and improve diversity and equity in the transit industry workforce. It will build on knowledge gained from previous rounds of FTA's Innovative Transit Workforce Development projects awarded in 2011–2015 totaling \$20 million.

The TWC will be managed by ITLC in coordination with FTA. For additional information about the TWC, contact **Betty Jackson**, Program Manager.