



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.¹

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 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).

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

NTD Resources for Reduced Reporters	SPTs	SRM	Safety Objectives
Annual Database Safety Information : Annual safety totals by agency.	X	X	X
Annual Database Service : Annual service data by agency.	X	X	X

¹ 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.

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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.

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.



PTASP Technical Assistance Available Now

- Access one-on-one Agency Safety Plan support
- Learn and share through the PTASP Community of Practice
- Explore the PTASP Resource Library

<https://www.transit.dot.gov/PTASP-TAC>