Transit Safety and Oversight Spotlight Newsletter

U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Transit Administration

Message from the Associate Administrator

Dear Transit Colleagues:

FTA recently published Cybersecurity Resources to support transit agencies during a time of unprecedented ransomware attacks targeting the transportation sector. We encourage you to share these online resources widely with your networks. You can also share any feedback or questions with us at FTASafetyStakeholder@dot.gov.

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

We continue to implement the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law changes to the Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan (PTASP) requirements. The new PTASP requirements apply to transit agencies that are required to have an Agency Safety Plan (ASP) in place under the PTASP regulation (49 CFR Part 673). We encourage transit agencies to review this Dear Colleague Letter and the statutory language for details about the requirements. We also included an article, "Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Updates to the PTASP Regulation," in this month's newsletter to explain the changes underway for our safety program. The PTASP Technical Assistance Center (TAC) is available to support agencies implementing and updating their ASPs and newly applicable agencies developing ASPs. The PTASP TAC provides direct engagement through its service desk, a technical assistance resource library and webinars.

On May 26 at 2:00 pm ET, we are hosting a PTASP webinar, "Developing and Monitoring Safety Risk Mitigations." This webinar will review practices for developing and documenting mitigations to address the results of safety risk assessment and provide examples of mitigations and monitoring plans developed to reduce safety risk at differently sized transit agencies. Resources, past webinar recordings and upcoming webinar registrations are available on the PTASP TAC Webinars webpage.

Finally, the application period to apply to be a Transit Advisory Committee for Safety (TRACS) member has concluded. Thank you to all who applied! FTA plans to select up to 25 TRACS members to serve a two-year term and provide information, advice and recommendations about transit safety to the U.S. Secretary of Transportation and the FTA Administrator. We received 154 TRACS applications and look forward to creating an advisory committee of experts to tackle transit safety challenges. Please refer to the TRACS webpage for future updates.

Sincerely,

Joe DeLorenzo

Federal Mask Requirement Lifted for Public Transportation

FEDERAL MASK REQUIREMENT LIFTED FOR PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

As a result of a court order, effective April 18, 2022, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) January 29, 2021 Order requiring masks on public transportation conveyances and at transportation hubs is no longer in effect. Therefore, CDC will not enforce the Order. CDC continues to recommend that people wear masks in indoor public transportation settings at this time. In addition, effective immediately, the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) will not enforce its mask-related Security Directives. TSA is also withdrawing its Security Directive 1582/84-21-01E, which was issued on April 15, 2022, and was scheduled to take effect on April 19, 2022.

Visit the FTA Transit Mask Up webpage for updates on mask guidance for public transportation.

Cybersecurity Resources for Transit Agencies

FTA published Cybersecurity Resources to support transit agencies during a time of unprecedented ransomware attacks targeting the transportation sector. We encourage you to share these widely resources with your networks. Please share feedback to FTASafetyStakeholder@dot.gov.

National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST): NIST resources include a Cybersecurity Framework, voluntary guidance based on existing standards, guidelines and practices for organizing to better manage and reduce cybersecurity risk.

Transportation Security Administration (TSA): TSA resources include a Surface Transportation Cybersecurity Toolkit that provides cybersecurity information to surface transportation operators with fewer than 1,000 employees.

Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA): CISA resources include a Cyber Essentials Starter Kit and how to report cyber incidents such as phishing and malware to CISA.

Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Updates to the PTASP Regulation

The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, signed into law on November 15, 2021, changes the Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan (PTASP) requirements at 49 U.S.C. § 5329(d). These requirements apply to agencies that are required to have an Agency Safety Plan (ASP) in place under the PTASP regulation (49 CFR Part 673).

Identifying Urbanized Areas Served

Many of the PTASP requirements under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law apply based on the size of the urbanized area (UZA) they serve. Transit agencies can identify the UZAs they serve based on data they report to the National Transit Database (NTD).

FTA makes this information publicly available on its NTD Data webpage. The Annual Database Federal Funding Allocation file shows the UZAs served and the population of those UZAs by the transit agency. The latest available data is in the 2020 Annual Database Federal Funding Allocation File.

> **Urbanized Area Definitions**
>
> - Small UZA: An urbanized area with a population of fewer than 200,000
> - Large UZA: An urbanized area with a population of 200,000 or more

Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Updates to the PTASP Regulation Continued From Page 2

New PTASP Requirements Under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law
All Transit Agencies Required to Have an ASP in Place
– Address in their ASP strategies to minimize exposure to infectious diseases, consistent with Centers for Disease Control and Prevention or State health authority guidelines
Transit Agencies Required to Have an ASP in Place and Serving Only Small UZA(s)
– Develop or update the ASP in cooperation with frontline employee representatives
Transit Agencies Required to Have an ASP in Place, Receiving 49 U.S.C. § 5307 funding, and Serving One or More Large UZA(s)
– Establish a Safety Committee that is convened by a joint labor–management process and that consists of an equal number of frontline employee representatives and management representatives. The Safety Committee is responsible for the following: ⇒ Approving the ASP and any updates to the ASP ⇒ Identifying and recommending risk-based mitigations or strategies necessary to reduce the likelihood and severity of consequences identified through the agency's safety risk assessment ⇒ Identifying mitigations or strategies that may be ineffective, inappropriate or were not implemented as intended ⇒ Identifying safety deficiencies for purposes of continuous improvement ⇒ Establishing performance targets for the agency's risk reduction program[1] – Establish a risk reduction program – Ensure that the agency's comprehensive safety training program includes maintenance personnel and includes de-escalation training for maintenance personnel, operations personnel and personnel directly responsible for safety

[1]Performance targets for a risk reduction program are not required to be in place until FTA has updated the National Public Transportation Safety Plan to include the performance measures required by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.

Resources

- The FTA February 2022 Dear Colleague Letter informs the transit industry about Bipartisan Infrastructure Law changes to the PTASP requirements.
- On March 1, 2022, FTA held a webinar on these changes. The presentation, recording and transcript are available on FTA's website.
- FTA published Frequently Asked Questions to help transit agencies make these changes.
- For additional information, visit the FTA Bipartisan Infrastructure Law webpage or email FTA-IIJA@dot.gov.

FHWA Details Efforts to Advance Complete Streets Design Model, Improve Safety for All Road Users in Report to Congress

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) released a report to Congress detailing the agency's commitment to advance widespread implementation of the Complete Streets design model to help improve safety and accessibility for all users. The report identifies five opportunities that will inform FHWA as it moves ahead with its efforts to increase the number of federally funded transportation projects that are routinely planned, designed, built and operated as Complete Streets.

Read the press release and report or explore "Complete Streets Transformations" and other material on the new FHWA Complete Streets webpage.

For questions about Complete Streets or the Report to Congress, contact Barbara McCann, Senior Advisor to the Associate Administrator, FHWA Office of Safety at barbara.mccann@dot.gov or Kenneth Petty, Director, FHWA Office of Planning at kenneth.petty@dot.gov.

FTA Participation in Recent Transit Industry Events

On March 13, Angela Dluger, FTA Deputy Associate Administrator for Transit Safety and Oversight, provided updates on FTA's ongoing efforts to reduce safety risks and improve transit safety and highlighted public transportation's connections and FTA resources regarding the Safe System Approach during the Lifesavers Conference in Chicago, IL.

Event: APTA Legislative Conference General Session: The Year Ahead in Transit—Federal Transit Administration Update

From Left to Right: Welbes, James, Fernandez, Robinson, DeLorenzo

On March 14, Joe DeLorenzo, FTA Associate Administrator for Transit Safety and Oversight and Chief Safety Officer, joined FTA Administrator Nuria Fernandez, FTA Executive Director Matthew Welbes, FTA Associate Administrator for Planning & Environment Felicia James and FTA Associate Administrator for Program Management Bruce Robinson for an update on FTA's implementation of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law to improve transit safety during the American Public Transportation Association Legislative Conference in Washington, DC.

Both presentations along with other FTA conference presentations are available on the FTA website.

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 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 (SA); and Safety Promotion.	June 22–24, 2022 July 26–28, 2022
SMS Safety Assurance: Examines the 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.	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.	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.	June 29, 2022 July 7, 2022
Transit Rail System Safety: Provides basic rail system safety and Safety Management System (SMS) principles and the required elements of FTA safety regulations.	May 2–6, 2022 June 13–17, 2022 July 11–15, 2022
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).	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 RTAs transition to a SMS framework at their organizations.	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](#), which provides resources to help transit agencies address and prevent crime and protect transit workers and riders. The AAP course can also be used by transit agencies to fulfill the new [Bipartisan Infrastructure Law requirement](#) for de-escalation training. **To participate in these free courses, complete the quick self-registration.**

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](#).

FTA Employee Spotlight: Arnebya Herndon

Arnebya Herndon
Program Analyst, Office of System Safety, Office of Transit Safety and Oversight, FTA

How would you explain your job to someone you have never met? As a Policy Program Analyst for the FTA Office of Transit Safety and Oversight's Office of System Safety, I develop, draft and support the implementation of safety policies for the transit industry.

What were you doing prior to this role? Prior to joining FTA, I was a Policy Writer for the DC Government, first at the Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs, then the Office of Human Resources. I also serve as an adjunct professor at the University of the District of Columbia where I teach public speaking and technical writing.

What's your favorite moment of your professional career so far? Nothing beats having students be disinterested in, or afraid of, public speaking and closing a semester with students volunteering to speak.

What's your favorite form of transportation? Why? I love traveling by train. Watching the world go by, slowly, is calming. If there's a quiet car, though, I need to be in it.

What's your favorite TV series for binge-watching? I can waste an entire day rewatching "Living Single" and laughing like it's new.

What can you not live without? Onions.

If you could time travel, which period would you go back to visit? I would go back to 2019 and spend more time with my sister who died at the end of 2020.

Share an interesting fact about yourself. I made it to the National Spelling Bee in seventh grade but was eliminated in the first round. Thankfully, I've finally forgotten the word I misspelled that made Jim Vance, Washington, DC's longest serving local news anchor, look so sad when he said, "I'm sorry, that's incorrect."

How to Subscribe to FTA Email Updates

https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/USDOTFTA/subscriber/new

*Enter your email address to receive FTA email notifications and click **Submit**.*

Select the categories and topics for updates:
- *All topics in the **Safety & Oversight** category*
- ***Transit Safety & Oversight** (Programs category)*
- ***Calendar of Events** (News & Events category)*

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.

....

Upcoming FTA TSO Office Speaking Engagements

APTA Mobility Conference
May 1–4, 2022 | Columbus, OH

CTAA Expo
May 8–12, 2022 | Louisville, KY

PTASP Webinar: Developing and Monitoring Safety Risk Mitigations
May 26, 2022 | 2:00 pm–3:30 pm ET| Virtual

APTA Rail Conference
June 5-8, 2022 | San Diego, CA

International Level Crossing Awareness Day Conference
June 8-10, 2022 | Denver, CO

FTA Joint State Safety Oversight and Rail Transit Agency Workshop
October 25-27, 2022

Save the Date: SSO Quarterly Calls
May 18, 2022 | 3:00–4:30 pm ET | Virtual
August 17, 2022 | 3:00–4:30 pm ET | Virtual
November 16, 2022 | 3:00–4:30 pm ET | Virtual