



Transit Safety and Oversight Spotlight Newsletter

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U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Transit Administration

Message from the Associate Administrator

Dear Transit Colleagues:

I want to congratulate Veronica Vanterpool on her appointment as FTA Deputy Administrator. Prior to accepting this appointment, Ms. Vanterpool served as Senior Advisor since August 2021.

As Senior Advisor, Ms. Vanterpool not only focused on the agency's work on climate change, equity, innovation and safety, but also led FTA's listening session on transit oriented development and provided support for the development of FTA's first strategic plan published in more than 20 years. I'm excited for Ms. Vanterpool to collaborate with FTA Administrator Nuria Fernandez as we all work towards creating safer transit services for our communities.

As we continue to implement the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, FTA will issue a Special Directive about the Risk-Based Inspection Program to each State Safety Oversight Agency (SSOA) later this year. FTA hosted a webinar prior to releasing the directive, so you can see the tools we are developing. We will provide more information and updates in future newsletters.

Earlier this month, I had the pleasure of speaking at the American Public Transportation Association (APTA) Rail Conference and the International Level Crossing Awareness Day (ILCAD) Conference. At the APTA Rail Conference, I spoke at the Security and Emergency Management Roundtable and Rail Safety Committee Meeting. At the ILCAD Conference, I shared current transit data trends involving grade crossing accidents, and how FTA is working with partners to raise awareness to improve safety and prevent needless injuries and fatalities. I enjoyed connecting with you at these in-person events after so many months in a virtual conference environment.

A reminder to applicable SSOAs and Rail Transit Agencies (RTAs) that designated personnel and contractors under the [Public Transportation Safety Certification Training Program \(PTSCPT\) regulation](#) have until **August 20, 2022**, to certify compliance with the PTSCPT regulation.

Additionally, a reminder that the [FTA Joint State Safety Oversight \(SSO\) and RTA hybrid workshop](#) will be held from October 25-27, 2022. At this workshop, FTA personnel will cover topics that will equip SSOAs and RTAs with the knowledge and resources necessary to help provide safer transit systems.

Sincerely,

Joe DeLorenzo



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

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Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Resources

The following resources are available to help stakeholders better understand the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law requirements.

- [Bipartisan Infrastructure Law changes to Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan \(PTASP\) requirements](#)—Provides a redlined document to show the changes the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law changes to 49 U.S.C § 5329(d).
- [Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Changes to PTASP Requirements Webinar Presentation](#), [Recording](#) and [Transcript](#)—Provides an overview of the changes that the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law made to the PTASP requirements.
- [Dear Colleague Letter](#)—Includes deadlines by which the transit industry must implement certain Bipartisan Infrastructure Law changes to the PTASP requirements.
- [PTASP FAQs](#)—Addresses stakeholder questions about changes that the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law made to PTASP requirements.
- [Public Transportation Safety Program Fact Sheet](#)—Highlights changes that the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law made to the National Public Transportation Safety Plan, PTASP and State Safety Oversight Program.



All FTA Bipartisan Infrastructure Law updates are available on www.transit.dot.gov/BIL. For further questions about Bipartisan Infrastructure Law requirements, please email FTA-IIJA@dot.gov.

FTA Participation in Recent Transit Industry Events



Left: Senior Program Analyst Sharece Tyer speaks at the APTA Rail Conference. Right: Associate Administrator Joe DeLorenzo speaks at the International Level Crossing Awareness Day Conference in Denver, CO.

FTA staff attended the [Community Transportation Association of America \(CTAA\) Expo](#) in Louisville, KY, the [APTA Rail Conference](#) in San Diego, CA and the [International Level Crossing Awareness Day Conference](#) in Denver, CO. FTA provided updates and connected with the industry stakeholders.

At the CTAA Expo, Joe DeLorenzo, FTA Associate Administrator for Transit Safety and Oversight and Chief Safety Officer, provided an overview on the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and the latest resources available for the transit industry and workers. Paulina Orchard, Director of the Office of System Safety, provided an update on safety training and FTA's Enhanced Transit Safety and Crime Prevention Initiative.

At the APTA Rail Conference, Mr. DeLorenzo provided remarks at the Security and Emergency Management Roundtable and the Rail Safety Committee meeting. Dr. Melonie Barrington, Director of the FTA Office of Safety Review, and Ray Biggs, II, Safety Risk Management and Assurance Division Chief in the FTA Office of System Safety, both spoke at the Rail Safety Committee Meeting. Sharece Tyer, Senior Program Analyst of the FTA Office of System Safety, participated on a panel about Safety Management Systems and Agency Safety Plan implementation.

On June 8, 2022, Mr. DeLorenzo provided an update on trespass and suicide prevention trends for rail transit at the International Level Crossing Awareness Day Conference in Denver, CO.

[Presentations](#) for these events along with other FTA conference presentations are on the FTA website.

Developing Mitigations in Response to the Safety Risk Assessment

Transit agencies may choose to implement safety risk mitigations depending on the results of their Safety Risk Assessment process. Safety Risk Assessment (as discussed in the [May issue of the TSO Spotlight](#)) helps agencies determine the likelihood and severity of a potential consequence of a hazard to ascertain if mitigation is necessary (49 CFR § [673.25\(c\)\(2\)](#)).

Example: Developing Mitigations for an Open Platform Edge

In this example, a rail transit agency determines it is not willing to accept the safety risk associated with falls on or from one of its open platforms. Passengers could fall into the right-of-way and potential consequences could include passenger injuries and fatalities resulting from either the fall, making contact with the energized third rail or a collision between a fallen passenger and an oncoming train.

When deciding on a safety risk mitigation, the transit agency could identify a mitigation that reduces the potential consequence's likelihood, severity, or both likelihood and severity. Here are several ways the transit agency could mitigate this safety risk:

- Increase platform monitoring to warn individuals to stay clear of the platform edge.** This mitigation **reduces the likelihood** of the potential consequence of the hazard. Having additional personnel to warn people to stay clear of the platform edge reduces the likelihood of someone being injured or killed by falling due to a fall onto the right-of-way.
- Install sensors that feed into the Operations Control Center (OCC) to alert controllers when someone has fallen onto the right-of-way.** This mitigation **reduces the severity** of the potential consequence of the hazard. It allows the OCC to warn an incoming train to stop before entering the station, thus preventing a collision. This limits the consequences to potential injuries from the fall (as opposed to additional injuries or fatalities due to a subsequent collision).
- Install platform screens or barriers that prevent passengers from falling onto the right-of-way.** This mitigation **reduces both the likelihood and severity** of the consequences of the hazard. It reduces the likelihood by minimizing opportunities for passengers to fall onto the tracks. It reduces the severity, since slips and falls on the platform would result in passengers striking the screen or barrier, rather than falling onto the tracks.



Transit agencies with an open platform edge can mitigate potential safety risks in various ways.

As the agency decides whether, when and how to mitigate the safety risk, the agency may consider whether it is more practical or cost effective to focus on reducing the likelihood, severity or both the likelihood and severity of the hazard's potential consequences.

Once the mitigation is in place, an agency must track its effectiveness and whether it has been implemented as intended. The next issue of the TSO Spotlight will continue exploring this topic, focusing on mitigation documentation and monitoring.

Visit the [PTASP Technical Assistance Center \(TAC\) Resource Library](#) for guides, fact sheets and webinars on the PTASP regulation. Contact the PTASP TAC at PTASP-TAC@dot.gov for assistance with any PTASP-related topic. See also the May TAC webinar, [Developing and Monitoring Safety Risk Mitigations](#).

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.	July 26–28, 2022
SMS Safety Assurance : Examines the SA component within an SMS and discusses the three key subcomponents and essential SA activities and tools necessary to verify the effectiveness of safety risk mitigations and when mitigations or changes are implemented, no new safety risks are present.	July 29, 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.	July 11–15, 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
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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 general concepts about sleep and fatigue as well as the knowledge and skills to identify individuals at high risk for obstructive sleep apnea and other sleep disorders.

[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](#).



U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Transit Administration

We're Hiring!

Check out the FTA Transit Safety & Oversight
Office's open positions

FTA Employee Spotlight: Matt Keamy



Matt Keamy

Director, Office of Program Management and Oversight, Office of Regional Services, FTA

How would you explain your job to someone you have never met? I would start off by saying I'm part of a team that works to improve public transportation for all. Over the last 20 plus years, I've seen so many positive changes in the transit systems that serve New England—now increased and improved transportation options are available. I'm proud to have played a very small part in that.

What were you doing prior to this role? I was an engineer with the Federal Highway Administration working on the Big Dig highway project in Boston. I majored in structural engineering in college and this project gave me opportunities to experience so many unique engineering aspects like cable-stayed bridges, tunnel jacking and ground freezing. I've also been teaching undergraduate engineering classes at a local university. Both my parents were teachers, and I think they passed that desire on to me.

What's your favorite moment of your professional career so far? Going to my daughter's second grade class and explaining what engineers do. The students used survey equipment, load tested a popsicle bridge until it failed, and built towers out of spaghetti and marshmallows. It was definitely the coolest day of my career!

What's your favorite form of transportation? Why? My favorite form of public transportation is a train, more specifically the Amtrak train from Boston to New York City because it reminds me of my dad. As kids, he would take us for the day into Times Square for a late lunch and a walk around the city. My favorite form of private transportation is a slow boat ride.

What's the best piece of advice you have been given? Someone once told me early in my career, "it's all about the people." Of all the things we build, relationships are the most important.

What can you not live without? I would usually answer coffee to this question, but the real answer is my family and friends.

If you could take a month to travel anywhere, where would you go? My wife and I would love to go to Dubai in the United Arab Emirates, and someday we will. There's so much we want to see and experience there. We might need two months.

If Hollywood made a movie of your life, who would you like to see play the leading role as you? Jason Momoa because we look so much alike.





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Access the [FTA Transit Safety and Oversight Spotlight Newsletters](#).

Upcoming FTA TSO Office Speaking Engagements

[PTASP Webinar: The Safety Risk Register in Action](#)

July 27, 2022 | 2:00pm-3:30pm ET | Virtual

[AASHTO/APTA/CTAA State Public Partnerships Conference](#)

August 29-30, 2022 | Spokane, WA

[APTA TRANSform Conference](#)

October 9-12, 2022 | Seattle, WA

[FTA Joint SSO and RTA Workshop](#)

October 25-27, 2022 | Washington, DC Hybrid

Save the Date: SSO Quarterly Calls

August 17, 2022 | 3:00–4:30 pm ET | Virtual

November 16, 2022 | 3:00–4:30 pm ET | Virtual

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.