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This issue of the Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan (PTASP) Technical Assistance Center (TAC) Update focuses on questions asked during the September Roundtable on Leadership, Tools, and Practices for Robust Safety Management Systems (SMS).

Featured Resources

Updated! [PTASP Checklist for Bus Transit](#) and [PTASP Checklist for Rail Transit Agencies and State Safety Oversight Agencies](#): Version 3 of the checklists includes the current Bipartisan Infrastructure Law PTASP requirements at 49 U.S.C § 5329(d).

New! [FTA Standards Development Program: Mitigations for Trespasser and Suicide Fatalities and Injuries Report](#): This report covers mitigation strategies, existing and emerging technology that can detect or prevent rail transit trespassing and suicides, and research findings for mitigations, injuries, and fatalities associated with trespassing and suicide events. Rail transit agencies can use this information to help promote rail safety in their systems and communities.

New! [Rail Transit Agency Accident Investigations—Background Research](#) (Report 0221): This document supports [Effective Practices in Performing Rail Transit Accident Investigations](#) (Report 0203) and provides a comprehensive examination of each SMS element to broaden understanding of how each component complements the others.

[Key Points for Developing Agency Safety Plans for Recipients with Contractors](#): This fact sheet reviews PTASP rule applicability and recommendations for ASP development for recipients with contractors and other external service providers.

Access the entire TAC Resource Library by visiting FTA's [PTASP TAC website](#).

Need Assistance?

Contact the PTASP TAC at



PTASP-TAC@dot.gov



1-877 PTASP-AID
1 (877) 827-7243



Contact the TAC for **one-on-one technical sessions** for ASP development and implementation support.

Reminder: Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Compliance Dates

Transit agencies that receive Section 5307 funding and serve a large urbanized area (population of 200,000 or more) have until **Saturday, December 31, 2022** to have their Safety Committee approve an update to their Agency Safety Plan (ASP).

Transit agencies that serve a small urbanized area (population of fewer than 200,000) have until **Saturday, December 31, 2022** to update their ASP in cooperation with frontline employee representatives.

Have questions about the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law? Email FTA-IIJA@dot.gov

See also the [Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Changes to PTASP Requirements Webinar](#).



Q & A Highlights

This month's Q&As, from the most recent PTASP webinar roundtable ([Leadership, Tools, and Practices for a Robust SMS](#)), have been lightly edited for clarity.

Question 1:

What advice would you give for approaching complete implementation of the ASP?

Panelist Response Summary:

Lead by example and show everyone *why* the agency is doing what it's doing. Work with your department heads to review the ASP and make sure everyone understands it. A lot of SMS implementation training is available, and everyone who is involved should take those training classes – they help explain the “why.” Safety Promotion is a critical component of SMS, and it includes promotion of the ASP from all levels of the organization.

Question 2:

I'm curious to hear about implementation by agencies that use third-party contractors to operate transit vehicles. How does the agency interact with those contractors along with their unions and union membership?

Panelist Response Summary:

Each agency should determine the communication strategy that works best for them. It is a good idea to work with your contracting agency. They may have expertise and preexisting documents about safety management that could help build the ASP. It helps to get feedback from the contractors and from the unions. Regular safety meetings, with both contractors and union representation, are another way to stay connected and receive feedback.

ASP Directory

FTA added an [Agency Safety Plan Directory](#) to the TAC Resource Library. Transit agencies can use these publicly available ASPs as a resource to help with their own ASP.

FTA has not assessed whether any of the plans meet applicable statutory or regulatory requirements. This directory is provided for technical assistance only.

If you would like to add your ASP to the ASP directory, please contact PTASP-TAC@dot.gov.



Question 3:

I've found that having a good relationship with the other agencies in the operating area can really help get issues corrected that are outside of the agency's jurisdiction (e.g., line-of-sight issues at intersections, signal phasing problems, etc.). Do you have a strategy to open those lines of communication with other agencies and create a spirit of cooperation?

Panelist Response Summary:

It is important to develop relationships with other local agencies and show them the benefits of having a close relationship with your transit agency. You will be more likely to create a "spirit of cooperation" if you proactively offer help to those agencies whenever possible. For example, you could notify a department of transportation when streetlights or signals are out. Your transit agency could also offer training for local agencies (such as police, fire, and rescue teams) to share helpful information that can benefit both parties – such as how to enter a transit vehicle during emergency response scenarios.

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.