



## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

# 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:

October is Cybersecurity Awareness Month and to highlight the importance of cybersecurity, FTA hosted a webinar featuring a guest speaker from the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency on October 24, 2023. The webinar [recording](#) and [presentation](#) is publicly available.

On the topic of cybersecurity, I want to congratulate former Office of Transit Safety and Oversight (TSO) Deputy Associate Administrator Angela Dluger as she begins her new position as Director of Sector Cyber Coordination for the Office of the Secretary. Angela was one of TSO's inaugural employees and helped to transform TSO into what it is today. We will miss her leadership and expertise but are excited for her and the Department of Transportation as she enters her new role.

On October 26, 2023, FTA notified stakeholders of [proposed updates](#) to the [Public Transportation Safety Certification Training Program \(PTSCPT\) regulation](#). These updates will help FTA maintain effective safety training for the industry. FTA published a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) in the [Federal Register](#) to outline the proposed changes and request public comments by December 26, 2023. Learn more on page 2.

Lastly, I look forward to seeing the rail transit community at the 2023 FTA Joint State Safety Oversight and Rail Transit Agency Hybrid Workshop in St. Louis, MO from November 14 to November 16. The exchange of information will help us work together to make transit an even safer mode. While we will discuss several topics, including how to use FTA data and managing safety at rail grade crossings at the workshop, I want us to remember that when it comes to transit safety, a simple approach helps lead us to the best solution.

Sincerely,  
Joe



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

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## FTA at Transit Industry Events



From top to bottom: Associate Administrator Joe DeLorenzo discusses FTA updates; APTA TRANSform attendees listen to a session on FTA updates; Senior Program Analyst Stewart Mader discusses transit worker assault.

Earlier this month, FTA participated in the [American Public Transportation Association's TRANSform Conference and Expo](#) in Orlando, FL.

Associate Administrator Joe DeLorenzo spoke at the Safety Coordinating Council meeting on Sunday, October 8, 2023. In addition, he discussed FTA's regulatory updates at the Safety Culture and Safety Risk Management session. Lastly, Senior Program Analyst Stewart Mader participated as a panelist at the "FTA's Transit Worker Assaults Directive: Agency Updates and Progress" session.

In addition to participating in conference sessions, FTA hosted a listening session and offered programmatic technical assistance at the FTA booth. Safety Assurance and Risk Management Division Chief Valerie Beck hosted a listening session on transit hours of service and fatigue risk management. Throughout the event, Kelly McFetridge, the [Oversight Tracking System \(OTrak\)](#) Program Manager, provided OTrak technical assistance to conference attendees.

On October 17, 2023, Associate Administrator Joe DeLorenzo attended the [American Association of State Highway Transportation Officials Safety Summit](#) in Kansas City, MO. He participated in the Federal Leadership Roundtable, where he gave the latest FTA updates.

See presentations from these events and other FTA conference presentations on FTA's [webpage](#).

## FTA Seeks Public Comments on Proposed Updates to the PTSCTP Regulation

FTA published a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) in the [Federal Register](#) outlining [proposed updates](#) to the [Public Transportation Safety Certification Training Program \(PTSCTP\)](#) regulation (49 CFR part 672). The proposed changes would expand refresher training requirements for mandatory participants and allow for greater flexibility in the curriculum to address changing industry training needs. It would also streamline administrative requirements to help ensure individuals who serve in designated roles are enrolled in the program and complete training requirements on time.

The PTSCTP sets requirements for safety professionals in rail transit agencies, including those working in agency safety departments and oversight functions and staff at State Safety Oversight Agencies. The NPRM builds upon the 2018 PTSCTP Final Rule, which established a uniform curriculum for safety oversight training by including minimum requirements to enhance the technical proficiency of those who conduct safety audits and examinations and those who are directly responsible for safety oversight. This program complements safety training requirements for rail and bus transit workers in the Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan regulation.

FTA also seeks comments on whether training certification requirements should extend to bus transit agencies and personnel. The comment period will close on December 26, 2023. Comments can be made on the Federal Register comment [docket](#).







## National Roadway Safety Strategy Pedestrian Safety Month Webinar



On October 23, 2023, USDOT hosted a webinar for Pedestrian Safety Month to highlight the continuing work of the [National Roadway Safety Strategy's \(NRSS\) Allies in Action](#). The Federal Highway Administration, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration and FTA shared their latest pedestrian safety initiatives. FTA spoke about [Safety Advisory 23-1: Bus-to-Person Collisions](#). In addition, NRSS Allies in Action Alameda-Contra Costa Transit District (AC Transit), Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) and New York Coalition for Transportation Safety (NYCTS) discussed working towards the NRSS goal of significantly reducing serious injuries and deaths on our Nation's highways, roads and streets.

Launched on February 3, 2023 the NRSS [Call to Action Campaign](#) invites organizations and individual to participate in the campaign and share how they will actively reduce deaths and injuries on America's roadways, expand adoption of the NRSS's five-pronged Safe Systems approach ([Safer People](#), [Safer Roads](#), [Safer Vehicles](#), [Safer Speeds](#) and [Post-Crash Care](#)) and a zero-fatalities vision, and transform how we as a nation think about road safety.

As the Call to Action campaign continues, FTA encourages all transit agencies to commit to action in support of the NRSS Call to Action and help us reach zero fatalities. Please [join](#) the NRSS Allies in Action because no commitment is too small nor too ambitious.

## Fiscal Year 2024 Transportation Safety Institute (TSI) Safety Training Available

[Registration](#) is open for the Transportation Safety Institute's (TSI) Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 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. The FY24 safety training schedule offers some additional face-to-face deliveries.



- [FTA Safety Training Page](#) — outlines training requirements and available training courses. Contact [FTASafetyPromotion@dot.gov](mailto:FTASafetyPromotion@dot.gov) for more information about course offerings, Individual Training Plans, credit for non-FTA sponsored coursework and other safety-training related matters.
- [FTA-Sponsored Training Courses](#) — provides information on FTA-sponsored FY24 training delivered by the TSI.
- [TSI Course Schedule](#) — includes TSI safety training courses for transit personnel to support FTA grantees subject to the [PTSCTP](#) regulation with initial training and refresher training requirements. In addition to PTSCTP bus and rail courses, training includes courses for bus, rail, general transit safety and transit crime prevention and emergency management. Contact TSI at [TSI@dot.gov](mailto: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.
- [Enhanced Transit Safety and Crime Prevention Initiative Related Training](#) — offers virtual Assault Awareness and Prevention (AAP) and Violence in the Transit Workplace (VTW) courses provided by the National Transit Institute (NTI). The AAP and VTW courses support the FTA Enhanced Transit Safety and Crime Prevention Initiative. Transit agencies can also use the AAP course to fulfill the new [Bipartisan Infrastructure Law requirement](#) for de-escalation training. Contact NTI at [nti\\_info@nti.rutgers.edu](mailto:nti_info@nti.rutgers.edu) or 848-932-1700 with any questions.

## FTA Employee Spotlight: Christian Hernandez



**Christian Hernandez**

Regional Safety Officer, Program Operations, Office of Safety Review, Office of Transit Safety and Oversight, FTA

**How would you explain your job to someone you have never met?** I am the offsite Regional Safety Officer based in Los Angeles, CA, who is part of Office of Safety Review's Program Operation Division. My current role consists of providing oversight support with the Safety Management Inspection (SMI) of the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA) and the Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities (DPU).

**What were you doing prior to this role?** Prior to joining FTA, I was working on a capital project for the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (LA Metro). I provided construction management support for the construction of the Westside Extension Section 3 Purple Line design-build project in Los Angeles, CA. I was the Office Engineer for the \$410 million tunnel contract and was responsible for coordination, review and assessment of contract submittals, Request for Information and Request for Comments. I tracked the tunnel construction progress and provided support in evaluating and issuing change documents submitted by the contractor.

**What is your favorite moment of your professional career so far?** For the past 10 years, I have been working in the private sector as a consultant providing design and construction services for transit agencies. My favorite moment was working on my first major capital project which was the Crenshaw/LAX Transit Corridor Design-Build for LA Metro valued at \$2 billion. On this project, I was a project engineer that provided design support for LA Metro during the construction. Having worked on this project gave me an introduction to the different phases of a project from design to construction. I worked on-site and had to coordinate with different stakeholders. I have met many great colleagues who I have had the opportunity to work with on other projects. Last year, the Crenshaw/LAX train line opened for revenue service, and I was able to ride the Crenshaw/LAX train line known as the "K" line which was a fulfilling experience.

**What is your favorite transit system in the U.S.?** Being from Los Angeles, my favorite would be the LA Metro. Also, most of my experiences come from working for LA Metro.

**What was your first time using public transit like?** I first started using public transit when I was a student attending middle school. It was my first time traveling on a public bus, and I enjoyed the experience. I continued using the public bus system as a student until my last year in college, when I finally bought my first car.

**What people or experiences have shaped you?** Without a doubt my parents and wife had the greatest impact on my life in different stages. My parents have been fundamental to my success and my wife keeps me grounded and is the sunshine of my life.





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

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## Upcoming FTA TSO Office Speaking Engagements

### [New York State Public Transit Conference](#)

November 2, 2023 | Albany, NY

### [AASHTO Council on Public Transportation Winter Meeting](#)

November 7–8, 2023 | Nashville, TN

### [2023 FTA Joint SSO and RTA Workshop](#)

November 14–16, 2023 | St. Louis, MO

### [FRA Rail Share](#)

November 28–29, 2023 | Kansas City, MO

### [APTA Safety and Risk Management Seminar](#)

December 10–13, 2023 | Austin, TX

*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.*