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This issue of the Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan (PTASP) Technical Assistance Center (TAC) Update focuses on recent questions to the TAC.

Featured Resources

New! [2023 FTA Joint State Safety Oversight \(SSO\) and Rail Transit Agency \(RTA\) Workshop](#): Selected materials from the workshop include information on rail transit system safety, SSO responsibilities, and other FTA safety policy and program updates.

New! [Using Your Safety Management System \(SMS\) to Protect Transit Workers from Assaults; Mitigate Infectious Disease and Respiratory Hazard Exposure](#): For technical assistance resources to support safety risk assessment for assaults on transit workers and for infectious disease/respiratory hazard exposure, visit FTA’s new pages on [Using SMS to Protect Transit Workers from Assaults](#) and [Using SMS to Mitigate Infectious Disease and Respiratory Hazard Exposure](#).

New! [Cybersecurity Awareness for Transit Agencies Webinar](#): Provides information on cyber hygiene, ransomware guidance, and support for transit agencies available through the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency.

[Presentation](#) | [Recording](#)

[Transit Worker Hours of Service and Fatigue Risk Management Listening Session](#): Discusses transit worker hours of service and fatigue risk management programs.

[Rail Vehicle Replacement Program Webinar](#): Includes information on an approximately \$197 million competitive funding [opportunity](#) that will help replace aging railcars, improving reliability, safety, and accessibility on the nation’s rail transit systems.

[Presentation and Recording](#)

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 Agency Safety Plan (ASP) development and implementation support and voluntary ASP reviews.

Public Transportation Safety Certification Program (PTSCPT) Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM)

On October 26, 2023, FTA published an NPRM in the [Federal Register](#) (Docket No. FTA-2023-0025) proposing new requirements for the PTSCPT regulation to streamline administrative requirements and clarify voluntary participation and refresher training requirements. [Submit comments](#) on the proposed changes by **December 26, 2023**.

FTA hosted a webinar about the NPRM on November 8, 2023.

[Presentation](#) | [Recording](#)

Webinar Mailbag Episode Your Questions Answered

Available here in December



Please note: The Q&A Highlights below, as well as the [PTASP Frequently Asked Questions](#), pertain to the [PTASP Final Rule](#) in effect as of July 19, 2019, and the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law [statutory requirements in 49 U.S.C. 5329\(d\)](#). They do not pertain to the PTASP [Notice of Proposed Rulemaking](#) published April 26, 2023 in the *Federal Register*.

Q & A Highlights

Question 1:

Does the individual who carries out the responsibilities of the Chief Safety Officer (CSO) need to formally serve under the title of CSO? Can the agency use their own title for that individual?

FTA Response:

Under 49 CFR 673.23(d)(2), the Accountable Executive must designate a CSO or SMS Executive who has the authority and responsibility for day-to-day implementation and operation of an agency's SMS. The PTASP regulation does not require a transit agency to use the CSO title for the individual in that role. However, the ASP should document the job title of the individual who serves in the role. The agency may also consider documenting the names of the individuals in that position.

Question 2:

What type of change in the ASP requires a new approval?

FTA Response:

If an agency makes any updates to its ASP during the annual review process, including to its Safety Performance Targets, the PTASP regulation requires that the ASP be signed by the Accountable Executive and approved by the agency's Board of Directors (or Equivalent Authority) (49 CFR [§ 673.11\(a\)\(1\)](#)). Additionally, recipients of Urbanized Area Formula Funding (49 U.S.C. § 5307) serving an urbanized area with a population of 200,000 or more (large urbanized area) are required to establish a Safety Committee that must approve any updates to the ASP (49

Transit Worker Hours of Service and Fatigue Risk Management Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (ANPRM)

On October 30, 2023, FTA published an ANPRM on Transit Worker Hours of Service and Fatigue Risk Management in the [Federal Register](#) (Docket No. FTA-2023-0018). FTA seeks information on these two topics to better understand current industry practices, priorities, requirements, and the costs and benefits of Federal requirements. [Submit comments](#) on hours of service and fatigue risk management programs by **December 29, 2023**.

[Register here](#) for the Tuesday December 5, 2023, virtual listening session.

State Safety Oversight (SSO) NPRM

On November 15, 2023, FTA published an NPRM in the [Federal Register](#) (Docket No. FTA-2023-0008) proposing revisions to the SSO regulation to implement new requirements of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (enacted as the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA)), remove outdated references, and simplify notification requirements. [Submit comments](#) on the proposed changes by **January 16, 2024**.

[Register here](#) for the Thursday November 30, 2023, webinar.



U.S.C. [§ 5329\(d\)\(1\)\(A\)](#)). The Board of Directors' approval of the updated ASP should be carried out after the Safety Committee's approval.

Minor changes to the ASP may be documented as they occur and then formally incorporated into the ASP during the agency's scheduled ASP annual review and update process.

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.