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# Transit Safety and Oversight Spotlight Newsletter

January 2024  
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U.S. Department of Transportation  
Federal Transit Administration

## Message from the Associate Administrator

Dear Transit Colleagues:

Happy New Year! Over the holidays, I hope you were able to spend some time with family and friends and recharge. 2024 is off to a busy start and I want to take a moment to highlight the Office of Transit Safety and Oversight's (TSO) 2024 priorities. This year, reducing assaults on workers and riders, continuing safety rulemaking including publishing the Public Transportation Agency Safety Plans Final Rule, and using data to inform safety, improve oversight and inform critical decisions will be our main focus areas.

As mentioned during the 2023 FTA Joint State Safety Oversight and Rail Transit Agency Workshop, TSO is bolstering its data program. With our increased focus on data and data-driven decision-making, I hope this inspires transit agencies to consider how they approach data by developing a comprehensive data approach that will identify safety risks and find solutions to preventable safety incidents.

In terms of our safety rulemakings, FTA extended the comment period by 30 days for both the [Transit Worker Hours of Service and Fatigue Risk Management Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking \(ANPRM\)](#) and [State Safety Oversight \(SSO\) Notice of Proposed Rulemaking \(NPRM\)](#). The last day to provide public comments on the Transit Worker Hours of Service and Fatigue Risk Management ANPRM will be January 29, 2024. The SSO NPRM will be open for public comment until February 15, 2024.

In recognition of January's Human Trafficking Prevention Month, FTA is hosting a [webinar](#) on Wednesday, January 24, 2024, at 2 p.m. ET to raise awareness on how the transit community can play an active role in preventing human trafficking. We hope you can attend.

Sincerely,  
Joe



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

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## FTA at Transit Industry Event



Associate Administrator Joe DeLorenzo and Safety Data Program Manager Ivey Glendon address attendees at the Transportation Research Board's Annual Meeting.

In early January, FTA attended the [Transportation Research Board's Annual Meeting](#) in Washington, DC from January 7 to 10, 2024.

Associate Administrator Joe DeLorenzo participated in multiple sessions, including "How Transit Agencies Navigate Within Our Communities in Crisis," the Committee on Transit Safety and Security and the Rail Safety Committee meeting. Safety Data Program Manager Ivey Glendon spoke at the "Special Topics on Transit Collisions and Events" panel, where she discussed data on collision events in transit and how FTA initiatives that are underway address collision related events.

In addition to speaking at committee meetings and panels, FTA staff assisted at the FTA table to share resources and meet stakeholders.

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



Associate Administrator Joe DeLorenzo at a committee meeting during the Transportation Research Board's Annual Meeting.

## Safe Streets and Roads for All Grant Program Technical Assistance

In preparation for the next [Safe Streets and Roads for All \(SS4A\) grant program](#) funding opportunity, the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) is hosting [technical assistance office hours](#) to answer any questions applicants may have. Applicants for the Fiscal Year 2024 SS4A grant program are encouraged to request technical assistance in preparation to apply for the grant.

Established by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, the SS4A discretionary program is a \$5 billion grant program that supports the development of a comprehensive safety action plan that identifies the most significant roadway safety concerns in a community and implementing projects and strategies to address roadway safety issues. The SS4A program supports the USDOT's [National Roadway Safety Strategy](#) and its goal of zero roadway deaths using a [Safe System Approach](#).

Counties, cities, towns, transit agencies and other political subdivision of a State, metropolitan planning organizations and Federally recognized Tribal governments are eligible to apply for the grant. The SS4A program provides funding for two types of grants: planning and demonstration grant and implementation grant. If you are interested in applying for funding, or for more insight into the types of projects and activities SS4A funds, please complete the [interest form](#).

For more information about the grant and application process, please visit the SS4A Grants [webpage](#).

## Meet the Transit Advisory Committee for Safety Members: Enjoli DeGrasse and Rebecca Frankhouser

The [Transit Advisory Committee for Safety \(TRACS\)](#) provides information, advice and recommendations on transit safety to the U.S. Secretary of Transportation and FTA Administrator. TRACS is comprised of a diverse panel of professionals representing a variety of stakeholders and interests to address transit safety issues cooperatively.

### Enjoli DeGrasse

**Acting Director of Safety and Health Department, International Brotherhood of Teamsters**

*Why did you join TRACS?* Early in 2023, I attended the Teamster Passenger Transportation Division Conference, and while there I learned about the many concerns our members have in transit including assaults, COVID, hours of service and fatigue, workplace stress and surveillance and automation to name a few. The tasks assigned to TRACS aligned with the concerns of Teamster members and I wanted to contribute the labor voice to finding solutions to these concerns.



Enjoli DeGrasse



Rebecca Frankhouser

### Rebecca Frankhouser

**Director of Safety, Security and Quality Assurance; King County Metro**

*What is your background in the transit industry?* I have worked in the transit industry for over 25 years and currently serve as the Chief Safety Officer and Director of Safety, Security and Quality Assurance at King County Metro Transit in Seattle, WA. I began my journey in transit at the San Diego Trolley in California, where I served many functions before accepting the Rail Division of System Safety Manager position at the San Diego Metropolitan Transit System (MTS). When I took on the additional MidCoast Corridor Safety & Security Manager duties with the San Diego Association of Governments, I was exposed to safety and security certification and grew a deep love for project management. I have always felt drawn to the natural beauty and recreation in the Pacific Northwest, so when I had the opportunity to

relocate to Seattle, it was a dream come true. At King County Metro, I moved into my current role leading the Safety, Security and Quality Assurance division, which marked a significant step in my career and allowed me to fulfill a personal vision – the creation of a pathway program for frontline workers known as the Transit Safety and Security Academy. I am committed to education and giving back to the industry and I enjoy teaching two Transportation Safety Institute courses and guest instructing at my Alma Mater, San Jose State University. I am also honored to serve as the Chair of the American Public Transportation Association's Safety Coordinating Council and Transit Cooperative Research Program panels.

## Procurement Cost and Price Analysis Regulations and Best Practices E-Learning

FTA's new [Procurement Cost and Price Analysis-Regulations and Best Practices e-Learning course](#), published on FTA's Program Oversight's webpage in early January, provides recipients with an understanding of the fundamentals and best practices for procurement cost and price analysis as required by the Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards (2 CFR 200), the Federal Acquisition Regulations (FAR), and other federal third-party contracting requirements. Most importantly, the lessons from this e-learning course will assist in mitigating procurement findings during State Management and Triennial Reviews.

By taking this e-learning course, recipients will gain a clearer, more concise understanding of price analysis, allowing recipients to distinguish it from other analytical methods while enabling better comprehension of the intricacies of cost structures and their implications. Moreover, recipients will be able to explore and understand critical regulations and guidance relevant to cost and price analysis, helping them improve compliance and accuracy in their analysis. Check out the [Procurement Cost and Price Analysis-Regulations and Best Practices e-Learning course](#). If you have questions about the e-learning course, contact FTA's Procurement System Review Program Manager [Sandra McCrea](#).

## 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: Margaretta “Mia” Veltri



**Margaretta “Mia” Veltri**

Senior Program Analyst, Safety Policy and Promotion Division, Office of System Safety, Office of Transit Safety and Oversight, FTA

**How would you explain your job to someone you have never met?** I evaluate public transportation safety in the United States and try to identify solutions that could be effective on a national scale. Then I work to implement those solutions by drafting Federal policy, administrative rules or other outreach efforts.

**What were you doing prior to this role?** Prior to joining the Office of Transit Safety and Oversight, I was managing the Low and No Emissions Bus Program for FTA’s Office of Program Management.

**What is your favorite moment of your professional career so far?** I have a few. In law school, I worked with the Wisconsin Innocence Project and helped a client overturn a wrongful conviction. In the transportation space, I am proud to have helped Senate staff draft the Clean School Bus Act of 2019 and drafted and organized FTA’s Transit Fleet of the Future plan.

**What is your favorite transit system in the U.S.?** The Chicago Transit Authority. I went to college in Chicago and was a daily rider. The city views from the “L” in downtown Chicago

are the best.

**What was your first time using public transit like?** One of my first times on public transit was on a trip to Washington, D.C. There was a major protest happening on the National Mall, and my dad and I got stuck underground on a metro train for about an hour.

**What people or experiences have shaped you?** I am the middle daughter of three girls and have ten female first cousins, so I have been shaped in large part by the many interesting women in my life. I also grew up in the rural Midwest, in a town with only one high school. It was easy to feel like I knew everyone, which had its benefits and drawbacks, but gave me the foundation for lifelong friendships and showed me the importance of being the type of community member who cares and offers a helping hand. It also gave me the drive for independence and the ability to build my own opportunities and see more of the world. More recently, becoming a mother shifted my priorities immensely, and now I am working hard to be more present, patient and adaptable!

**What movie or TV show could you watch on a loop? Why?** I have seen the 1994 version of “Little Women” a million times. It was a childhood favorite, and it holds up!

**What are the saved weather locations in your phone?** Washington, D.C.; Findlay, OH; Milwaukee, WI; New York, NY; and Pittsburgh, PA

**What is your idea of a great day?** Waking up late, spending the day on the beach with my family and some good friends, having a nice dinner and playing cards or watching a movie before bed. My son is five months old, and my daughter is two and a half years old, so realistically, any day where they are both happy, healthy and entertained for a while is a pretty great day.

**What do you do to unwind after a hard day?** Order take-out and vent to my husband about my hard day. I also like to take long walks when I need to clear my head.

**What household chore do you enjoy? Why?** Not a huge fan of any chore, but I listen to podcasts while loading the dishwasher which makes it more tolerable!



U.S. Department of Transportation  
**Federal Transit Administration**

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

### [South West Transit Association Conference & Expo](#)

February 4–7, 2024 | Tulsa, OK

### [FTA State Safety Oversight Reporting Refresher Training Webinar](#)

February 20, 2024 | 2 p.m. ET | Virtual

### **FTA Drug and Alcohol Program National Conference**

April 2–4, 2024 | Atlanta, GA

## Save the Dates: SSO Quarterly Call

February 21, 2024 | 3:00–4:30 pm ET | Virtual

May 15, 2024 | 3:00–4:30 pm ET | Virtual

August 21, 2024 | 3:00–4:30 pm ET | Virtual

November 20, 2024 | 3:00–4:30 pm ET | Virtual

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