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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:

FTA continues to work on safety priorities mentioned in the [January newsletter](#) and this month, we published resource directories the transit community can use to make transit safer for riders and workers.

Last week, FTA published the De-Escalation Training Resource Directory to support the transit industry in developing, implementing and updating their de-escalation training. The directory is a collection of resources from peer agencies and industry associations to improve transit worker safety through training. The directory is geared towards bus and rail transit providers, State Safety Oversight Agencies and State Departments of Transportation. As the transit community faces challenges like transit worker safety, I want to emphasize the importance of information sharing. While each transit agency faces its own unique transit worker safety obstacle, we can learn from each other on how to improve transit worker safety. On that note, if you would like to share a resource, please email FTASafetyPromotion@dot.gov.

Last month, FTA hosted a webinar in recognition of January's Human Trafficking Prevention Month. I encourage you to watch the webinar [recording](#) as a refresher on how the transit community can play an active role in preventing human trafficking year-round. To learn more about how to prevent human trafficking, visit the U.S. Department of Transportation's human trafficking [webpage](#).

I want to emphasize that we need to develop innovative solutions when it comes to transit safety for both workers and riders. Transit is impacted and a reflection of societal challenges, so it is important we leverage our networks and community when addressing transit safety issues. If you have a new approach, please share it with FTA and your peers.

Sincerely,
Joe



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

FTA at South West Transit Association Conference



FTA's regional administrators discuss funding opportunities and programmatic updates at the South West Transit Association Annual Conference. Safety Policy and Promotion Division Chief Jeremy Furrer presented at the conference.

In early February, Division Chief for Safety Policy and Promotion Jeremy Furrer participated in the [South West Transit Association's Annual Conference and Expo](#) in Tulsa, OK. He discussed the Office of Transit Safety and Oversight's safety rulemaking activities including implementing Public Transportation Agency Safety Plans.

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

2024 FTA Safety Management System in Practice Workshop Series

FTA will begin a new workshop series, *Safety Management System (SMS) in Practice*, with the first workshop on [Advancing Safety Risk Management and Safety Assurance](#) to spotlight two critical components in SMS. The workshop will explore common challenges identified during FTA's Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan Technical Assistance Center inquiries, audits and Agency Safety Plan reviews. It will also feature interactive components such as group discussions and scenario-based exercises, to apply a deeper knowledge of the processes and the required skills to improve safety at their agencies.

FTA will offer two in-person workshops and one virtual workshop. The in-person workshops will be held in Denver, CO from April 17–18, 2024 and Atlanta, GA from May 15–16, 2024. The virtual workshop will be from June 5–6, 2024.

Registration is now open. Please register early as space is limited to 50 participants due to the interactive format. A waitlist will be provided once the session reaches capacity. If there is a high demand, more virtual workshops may be offered at a later date.

The workshops are designed for transit agency safety department personnel, rail and bus transit operations and maintenance managers who oversee agency safety performance and State Safety Oversight Agency managers and staff. All participants should have a basic understanding of the four components of SMS as they are applied to the transit industry before to taking this workshop.



Meet the Transit Advisory Committee for Safety Member: Thomas Lamb

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.

Thomas Lamb

Former Chief of Innovation and Technology, Metropolitan Transportation Authority, New York City Transit

Why did you join TRACS? I joined TRACS simply because I personally felt that this was an opportunity to enhance acceptance and implementation of needs-driven safety improvements. I feel concepts that foster demonstrations used by New York City Transit's Office of Strategic Innovation and Technology could catalyze positive acceptance and changes in acceptance of enhanced safety in transit.

What has been your biggest achievement to date? I have the greatest satisfaction in working successfully with others in New York City Transit, other agencies in the Metropolitan Transportation Authority, representatives of transit agencies, technology providers and organizations including U.S. Department of Transportation and FTA research groups. This collaborative space results in solutions to mitigate needs, resulting in measured, recurring benefits in the areas of enhanced safety, energy efficiency, environmental sustainability, system resiliency and asset management in the public transit sector.



Thomas Lamb

Safe Streets and Roads for All Grant Program Notice of Funding Opportunity

The Notice of Funding Opportunity for the [Safe Streets and Roads for All \(SS4A\) grant program](#) is open now. 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 the implementation of projects and strategies to address roadway safety issues. The SS4A program supports the U.S. Department of Transportation's (USDOT) [National Roadway Safety Strategy](#) and its goal of zero roadway deaths using the [Safe System Approach](#).

Those eligible to apply for the grant include counties, cities, towns, transit agencies and other political subdivision of a State, metropolitan planning organizations and Federally recognized Tribal governments. The SS4A program provides funding for two types of grants: planning and demonstration grants and implementation grants. Applications have multiple deadlines depending on the grant type.

The USDOT announced \$813 million from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law for 385 SS4A grants at the end of 2023. This included 48 Implementation Grants focused on safety projects and strategies and 337 grants for planning and demonstration activities.

Through three grant announcements in 2023, SS4A grants have provided \$1.7 billion in direct funding to over 1,000 local communities. Combined, these will improve roadway safety planning for approximately 70 percent of the nation's population.

For more information about the grant and application process, please visit the SS4A Grants [webpage](#). The webpage includes a [webinar series](#), [resources](#) and [FAQs](#).

FTA Publishes Transit Customer Assault Prevention Resources Webpage

To improve transit safety for riders and ensure the continued safety of our nation's public transit systems, FTA published a new Transit Customer Assault Prevention Resources [webpage](#) for transit agencies to provide more resources to help prevent and address crime in their systems.

Featured resources include an FTA-commissioned [research report](#) that explores factors contributing to customer assault events, trends in assault data and mitigations. The report provides a deeper understanding of transit customer assault through interviews with transit agency representatives and was made possible in partnership with the [U.S. Department of Transportation Volpe Center \(Volpe\)](#).

In addition, the webpage provides a summary of data from the [National Transit Database](#) regarding assaults on transit customers. This data can support transit agencies in identifying and mitigating safety risks associated with customer assault on transit vehicles and in stations.



NEW!

Federal Transit Administration

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Transit Safety & Oversight >

Public Transportation Agency Safety Plans >

Safety Rulemaking

Safety Guidance >

State Safety Oversight Program >

Safety Management Inspections >

Drug & Alcohol Program

Program Oversight

TRACS

Safety Training >

Stakeholder Outreach >

FAQ >

De-Escalation Training Resource Directory

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) has gathered these resources to support the transit industry in developing, implementing, and updating their training programs. The following resources illustrate ways agencies throughout the transit industry are implementing de-escalation training. They are made publicly available by transit agencies and the transit industry.

If you would like to add your de-escalation training resources to this directory or recommend another agency's resources, please fill out the [De-Escalation Training Resource Directory Form](#).

De-escalation training is one component of a multi-faceted Safety Management System (SMS) that can also include other measures such as mirrors, signage, security cameras, and working with law enforcement. De-escalation is addressed in an agency's SMS, see [Using Your SMS to Protect Transit Workers from Assaults](#).

De-Escalation Training Resource Library

Click below to see list of resources

- State Safety Oversight Agency
- Bus Transit Providers
- Rail Transit Providers
- State Departments of Transportation
- Federal Transit Administration
- Other

Human Trafficking Prevention Resources Available

Information for this article was provided by Kristen Joyner of the Georgia Transit Association.

Human trafficking exploits someone for labor or commercial sexual act through the use of force, fraud, or coercion. Traffickers utilize various modes of transportation, but often use public transit as it allows for anonymity.

As part of an FTA-funded crime prevention grant, the Texas Transportation Institute, South West Transit Association and the Community Transportation Association of America partnered in the development of the [Safety4Transit webpage](#) with resources to prevent crime and human trafficking at smaller transit agencies.

Resources on the webpage include:

- [Animated videos](#) — defines human trafficking and outlines how to report it to officials. The videos are available in English, Spanish and Chinese.
- [Printable materials](#) and [social media posts](#) — includes materials that can be used in public areas, on transit vehicles and in social media regarding how to prevent human trafficking. These materials can be printed as posters, flyers or wallet/pocket cards.
- [Training](#) — offers a self-led training that can be completed individually or part of a greater training.

In addition, FTA hosted a webinar on January 24, 2024 that included a discussion of how transit agencies utilized resources from the Safety4Transit webpage to address human trafficking. The webinar [presentation](#) and [recording](#) are available to the public.



CHECK OUT TSO'S MOST RECENT WEBINARS

Federal Transit Administration

Home / Resolutions and Programs / Safety

Transit Safety & Oversight > TSO Webinars

Public Transportation Agency Safety Plans > Past Webinars

Safety Rulemaking > Human Trafficking Prevention Month Webinar

Safety Guidance > Wednesday, January 24, 2024

State Safety Oversight Program > Presentation | Recording

Safety Management Inspections > Developing Community-Based Public Safety Programs for Transit Webinar

Drug & Alcohol Program > Thursday, December 14, 2023

Program Oversight > Presentation | Recording

TRACS > PTA Virtual Listening Session on the Transit Worker Hours of Service and Fatigue

Safety Training > Tuesday, December 5, 2023

Stakeholder Outreach > Presentation | Recording

Conference Presentations > State Safety Oversight Notice of Proposed Rulemaking Overview Webinar

TSO Webinars > Thursday, November 30, 2023

Safety Stakeholder Letters > Presentation | Recording

TSO Spotlight Newsletter > Public Transportation Safety Certification Training Program Notice of Proposed Rulemaking

FAQ > Wednesday, November 8, 2023

Presentation | Recording

Cybersecurity Awareness for Transit Agencies Webinar

Tuesday, October 24, 2023

Presentation | Recording

PTA Safety Advisory 23-1: Bus-to-Person Collisions

Thursday, October 5, 2023

Presentation | Recording

Spotlight on Safety: Transit Rail Grade Crossings

Thursday, September 21, 2023

Presentation | Recording

SCAN ME

FTA Publishes De-Escalation Training Resource Directory

The [Bipartisan Infrastructure Law](#) amended the Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan (PTASP) requirements at [49 U.S.C. § 5329\(d\)](#), by adding requirements related to de-escalation training. Agencies that:

[Visit the new De-Escalation Training Resource Directory.](#)

- are required to have an Agency Safety Plan (ASP) in place under the PTASP regulation (49 CFR Part 673),
- receive 49 U.S.C. Section 5307 funding, and
- serve one or more large urbanized areas (an urbanized area with a population of 200,000 or more)

must ensure that their agency's comprehensive safety training program includes de-escalation training for maintenance personnel, operations personnel and personnel directly responsible for safety.

To support transit agencies as they manage the ongoing risk related to assaults on transit workers using Safety Management System (SMS) principles and methods, FTA launched a [De-Escalation Training Resource Directory](#). This directory includes publicly available resources from bus transit providers, rail transit providers, State Safety Oversight Agencies, State Departments of Transportation, FTA and various transit trade groups.

De-escalation training is one component of a multi-faceted SMS approach to transit worker safety. For more information on measures transit agencies can take as part of their approach to transit worker safety, see FTA's webpage for [Using Your SMS to Protect Transit Workers from Assaults](#).

Please email FTASafetyPromotion@dot.gov if you find any broken or outdated links in the De-Escalation Training Resource Directory.

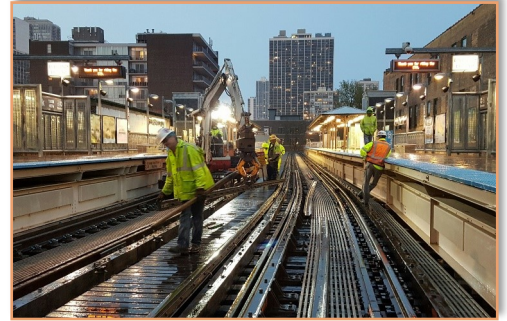
If you would like to add de-escalation training resources to this directory, please complete the [De-Escalation Training Resource Directory Form](#).

FTA recently updated the [Agency Safety Plan \(ASP\) Directory](#) with seven new ASPs and six updated ASPs. This directory contains publicly available transit agency ASPs as a resource. FTA has not assessed whether any of the plans meet applicable statutory or regulatory requirements. This directory is provided for technical assistance only.



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 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 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 or 848-932-1700 with any questions.



FTA Employee Spotlight: Lorna Wilson



Lorna Wilson

Management and Program Analyst,
Office of Safety Review, Office of
Transit Safety and Oversight, FTA

How would you explain your job to someone you have never met? As a member of the federal workforce, one of my primary duties is serving as a Contracting Office Representative (COR). I am responsible for providing exceptional customer service to FTA management, program managers, internal offices and contractors while ensuring fair and equitable contracting practices within the federal government. I work hard to ensure that the products and services the government purchase are delivered on-time, on budget and of the highest quality. These services allow FTA to lead the way in providing safe and reliable transit services across the country. Our citizens who rely on public transportation can be at ease knowing they will safely arrive at their destinations.

What were you doing prior to this role? My prior roles were also as a COR at the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development where I managed the Office of Chief Financial Officer contract portfolio, including information technology and financial support services contracts. I previously served as a program manager for two modal administrations at the U.S. Department of Transportation including FTA and the Federal Highway Administration for approximately 16 years.

What is your favorite moment of your professional career so far? My favorite moment of my professional career so far is coming back to FTA for the third time!

What is your favorite transit system in the US? Growing up in Boston, my favorite transit system is of course the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA or the T). I am a proud product of the Metropolitan Council for Educational Opportunity (METCO) program that was birthed during the Civil Rights Movement. The METCO program enrolled Boston students of color into predominately white school districts, creating the opportunity for students to experience the advantages of learning and working in a racially and ethnically diverse setting that is also known as the “historical bussing era.” It was during high school that the program partnered with MBTA to supply bus passes to students. I took several forms of public transportation from my home in the inner city of Boston to Brookline, MA, including two buses, a train, another bus and then a trolley. I rode that route daily for four years.

What was your first time using public transit like? Exciting! I remember visiting the Boston Commons in the summer with my parents when I was a little girl.

What people or experiences have shaped you? There are so many experiences that have truly shaped me, my measure of faith, resilience and work ethic. Two major experiences come to mind. Single motherhood has been so very humbling and gratifying as I have seen the fruits of my labor. I have been blessed to watch my daughter grow into a young lady with her own constitution, dreams and aspirations. I also had a life-altering experience when I was diagnosed with cancer. This experience made me realize that life is very short and precious and taught me to live and value each day to the fullest without regrets, embrace the struggles, scratch the mistakes and move on!

What household chore do you enjoy? Why? Using the vacuum — everything looks so together after a good pass on wood floors or carpet.



U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Transit Administration

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

Upcoming FTA TSO Office Speaking Engagements

[FTA Drug and Alcohol Program National Conference](#)

April 2–4, 2024 | Atlanta, GA

[Lifesavers Conference on Roadway Strategy](#)

April 8, 2024 | Denver, CO

Save the Dates: SSO Quarterly Call

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

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.