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# Transit Safety and Oversight Spotlight Newsletter

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## Message from the Associate Administrator

Dear Transit Colleagues:

We are in the second quarter of 2024, and I want to thank you for your hard work and dedication to making transit safer for workers and riders. As FTA progresses with rulemaking activities and publications, we will provide additional resources to support transit agencies in our shared safety mission.

On April 11, 2024, FTA published the first major update to the [Public Transportation Agency Safety Plans \(PTASP\) regulation](#), incorporating Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) requirements. This milestone increases frontline transit worker involvement in the development of Agency Safety Plans (ASP) and participation in joint labor-management Safety Committees at transit agencies. That includes finding ways to cut down transit worker assault, as well as vehicle-pedestrian collisions. Requirements also call for transit agencies to set safety performance targets in their ASPs based on safety performance measures, including for fatalities, injuries, major events and system reliability, which are established in FTA's updated [National Public Transportation Safety Plan \(National Safety Plan\)](#).

These updates to the National Safety Plan were published on April 10, 2024 to incorporate new requirements and include best practices, tools, technical assistance, voluntary standards and other resources. The National Safety Plan lays out a performance-based approach to reduce injuries and fatalities on transit systems under FTA's safety jurisdiction. Notably, FTA added eight performance measures for the safety risk reduction program to improve safety performance by reducing the number and rates of vehicle and pedestrian accidents involving buses, as well as the number and rates of assaults on transit workers.

FTA will continue working with transit labor, transit agency leadership, stakeholders and industry representatives to make transit even safer, exploring potential new regulations and providing additional resources. Last month, FTA published the [Rail Transit Worker Protections Notice of Proposed Rulemaking](#) which will be open for [public comment](#) until May 24, 2024. FTA also published the [Fatigue Resources for Transit Operations webpage](#), which includes information on transit worker fatigue. Acknowledging the potential risk worker fatigue can play in safety related incidents, we hope the resources on the webpage will spread awareness on how to identify and manage transit worker fatigue in the workplace. To learn more, read the article on page [6](#).

I am proud of our work to progress transit safety, including the milestone of updating PTASP and the National Safety Plan. These updates empower transit workers to have a more active role in increasing the safety of their systems and will have a lasting impact on opening lines of communication.

Sincerely,  
Joe



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

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## FTA at Recent Transit Industry Events



From Left to Right: Director Kristi Urish of Trapeze Group, Associate Administrator Joe DeLorenzo and President Steven Hursh of Institutes for Behavior Resources speak on a panel at the 2024 ThinkTransit Conference hosted by Trapeze Group in Tucson, Arizona. Photo provided by ThinkTransit Conference.

In late March, Associate Administrator and Chief Safety Officer Joe DeLorenzo and Safety Assurance and Risk Management Division Chief Valerie Beck participated in the [Trapeze Group's Think Transit 2024 Conference](#) in Tucson, Arizona. With approximately 90 stakeholders in attendance, they discussed ways in which transit worker fatigue can negatively affect transportation work performance, the [Transit Worker Hours of Service and Fatigue Risk Management Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking \(ANPRM\)](#), and FTA's new [Fatigue Resources for Transit Operations](#) webpage.

In early April, Associate Administrator Joe DeLorenzo participated in the [Lifesavers Conference on Roadway Safety](#) in Denver, Colorado. FTA provided an overview of safety data, bus safety programs and the [National Roadway Safety Strategy Call to Action Campaign](#).



Associate Administrator Joe DeLorenzo discussed bus safety to the Lifesavers Conference on Roadway Safety in Denver, CO.



From Left to Right: Acting Deputy Associate Administrator Dr. Melonie Barrington presents FTA's Regulatory Update to the APTA Legislative Federal Procedures and Regulations Subcommittee. Director of the Office of Program Oversight Hope Jensen provided a Fiscal Year 23 Triennial Review update to the Federal Procedures and Regulations Subcommittee.

Simultaneously, FTA's Acting Deputy Associate Administrator for Transit Safety and Oversight Dr. Melonie Barrington and Director of FTA's Office of Program Oversight Hope Jensen spoke at the American Public Transportation Association (APTA) Legislative Conference in Washington, D.C.

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

Lastly, FTA looks forward to meeting with stakeholders to share all the progress being made toward safety during APTA Mobility, APTA Rail, the Community Transportation Association of America (CTAA) Expo and additional upcoming conferences.

## Reminder to Comment: Rail Transit Roadway Worker Protection Proposed Rule

On March 25, 2024, FTA [issued](#) a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) for public comment on proposed minimum safety standards for Rail Transit Roadway Worker Protection (RWP). The RWP NPRM will be open for a 60-day public comment period, closing on May 24, 2024. Submit your comments [here](#). Additionally, FTA published a video providing an overview of the RWP NPRM and instructions on submitting comments. You can watch the video [here](#) and contact [FTASystemSafety@dot.gov](mailto:FTASystemSafety@dot.gov) with questions.



# FTA Publishes Updated National Public Transportation Safety Plan and Public Transportation Agency Safety Plans Regulation

On April 10, 2024, FTA published the updated [National Public Transportation Safety Plan \(National Safety Plan\)](#), in conjunction with the publication of the [Public Transportation Agency Safety Plans \(PTASP\)](#) on April 11, 2024, to address new requirements in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, enacted as the Infrastructure Investment Jobs Act.

## Key Updates to the National Safety Plan

The National Safety Plan is FTA’s primary guidance document to improve transit safety performance across all federally supported public transportation systems. It includes best practices, tools, technical assistance, voluntary standards and other resources. The updated plan incorporates Bipartisan Infrastructure Law requirements and includes voluntary minimum safety standards and recommended practices for improving public transportation safety. While the National Safety Plan is not a regulation and does not impose mandatory requirements, it creates a blueprint for transit agencies to adopt stronger safety processes.

The updated National Safety Plan establishes performance measures for Agency Safety Plans (ASP), including measures for safety risk reduction programs, to improve the safety of public transportation systems that receive FTA financial assistance. Transit agencies and Safety Committees will set safety performance targets (SPTs) based on these measures to monitor and assess the safety performance of their public transportation systems.

The National Safety Plan became applicable upon publication in the [Federal Register](#). Safety Committees must set SPTs for the safety risk reduction program based on the safety risk reduction program performance measures in the updated National Safety Plan. Per the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, these targets must be set using a three-year rolling average of data submitted by the transit agency to the National Transit Database (NTD). The PTASP final rule provides that the Safety Committee is not required to set a target for a performance measure until the large urbanized area provider has been required to report three years of data to the NTD corresponding to the measure (§ 673.11(a)(7)(iii)(C)). Additionally, FTA expects agencies to revise their ASPs to address the new performance measures, including documenting required SPTs, as part of their existing annual ASP update process.

## Safety Performance Measures

The updated National Safety Plan identifies seven new safety performance measures (SPM) (for a total of 14 SPMs) for all transit agencies subject to the PTASP regulation. The definitions for “collisions” and other terms below are included in the [NTD Safety and Security Reporting Policy Manual](#), available on FTA’s NTD manuals webpage. These new SPMs reflect the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law’s focus on reducing bus collisions and improving transit worker safety. Per the PTASP regulation, applicable transit agencies must set SPTs for these new SPMs by mode, in addition to the SPMs established by the National Safety Plan prior to this update.

### Resources

- [FTA National Safety Plan Webpage](#)
- [National Safety Plan Federal Register Notice \(FRN\)](#)
- [FTA PTASP Webpage](#)
- [PTASP FRN](#)
- [FTA PTASP FAQs](#)
- [Safety Performance Target](#) resources in the PTASP Technical Assistance Center (TAC) library
- [Using Your Safety Management System \(SMS\) to Mitigate Infectious Disease and Respiratory Hazard Exposure](#) (resource webpage)
- [De-Escalation Training Resource](#)

### New Safety Performance Measures

- **Collisions Rate:** Number of collisions reported to the NTD, divided by Vehicle Revenue Miles (VRM).
- **Pedestrian Collisions Rate:** Number of collisions with a person, divided by VRM.
- **Vehicular Collisions Rate:** Number of collisions with a motor vehicle, divided by VRM.
- **Transit Worker Fatality Rate:** Number of transit worker fatalities, including the categories Transit Employee/Contractor, Transit Vehicle Operator and Other Transit Staff, divided by VRM.
- **Transit Worker Injury Rate:** Number of transit worker injuries, including the categories Transit Employee/Contractor, Transit Vehicle Operator and Other Transit Staff, divided by VRM.
- **Assaults on Transit Workers:** Number of assaults on transit workers.
- **Rate of Assaults on Transit Workers:** Number of assaults on transit workers, divided by VRM.

### Safety Risk Reduction Program

The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law requires that the Safety Committee of transit agencies receiving Urbanized Area Formula Grant (Section 5307) funding and serving an urbanized area with a population of 200,000 or more set targets for the agency's safety risk reduction program based on a three-year rolling average of data the agency has reported to the NTD.

The updated National Safety Plan identifies eight measures for safety risk reduction programs, all based on data reported to the NTD:

- **Major Events:** Number of safety and security major events.
- **Major Event Rate:** Number of safety and security major events, divided by VRM.
- **Collisions:** Number of collisions.
- **Collision Rate:** Number of collisions, divided by VRM.
- **Injuries:** Number of injuries.
- **Injury Rate:** Number of injuries, divided by VRM.
- **Assaults on Transit Workers:** Number of assaults on transit workers.
- **Rate of Assaults on Transit Workers:** Number of assaults on transit workers, divided by VRM.

### Voluntary Minimum Safety Performance Standards

The National Safety Plan also includes an updated list of voluntary minimum safety performance standards and recommended practices for improving public transportation safety. The standards include items such as actions to support pedestrian and bicyclist safety, tunnel ventilation and fire safety, transit worker safety, vehicle safety and more. Additionally, new safety practices were added, in coordination with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, for transit agencies to ensure public and personnel safety and health during an emergency. The National Safety Plan also includes resources that contain information on driver assistive technologies, driver protection infrastructure and strategies to reduce visibility impairments.



Continued from Page 4

## Key updates to the PTASP Regulation

The final rule addresses the following topics (among other updates):

- Role of the Accountable Executive
- Safety Committees (including composition, responsibilities, and procedures)
- Safety risk reduction programs
- SPTs (see also the updated National Safety Plan for safety performance measures),
- Methods for addressing exposure to infectious diseases through the Safety Management System (SMS) process
- Expanding Continuous Improvement requirements to small public transportation providers
- Competencies and training

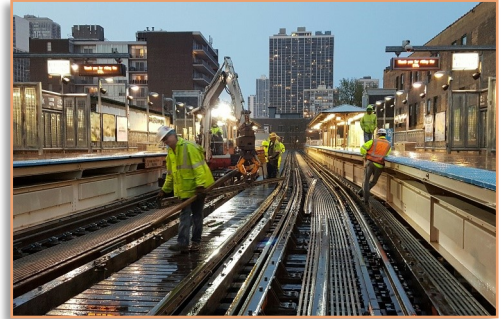
The final rule also includes updated definitions for key terms (such as *injury*, *safety event* and *safety risk*).

For a detailed review of updates to the PTASP regulation, see the resource [Changes to Part 673](#) in the PTASP Technical Assistance Center (TAC) library.

Visit the [PTASP TAC Resources Library](#) for guides, fact sheets and webinars on the PTASP regulation and Safety Management Systems resources and information. Email the PTASP TAC at [PTASP-TAC@dot.gov](mailto:PTASP-TAC@dot.gov) for technical assistance.

## 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 recertification 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 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 recertification 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 Publishes Fatigue Resources for Transit Operations Webpage



Last month, FTA launched a new resource webpage, [Fatigue Resources for Transit Operations](#), dedicated to providing resources to support the transit community's understanding of fatigue and fatigue-related issues in the workplace.

Featured resources include articles, videos, reports, webpages, guides and more, in the following categories related to fatigue: Understanding Sleep; Causes; Symptoms and Warning Signs; Effects; Transit Workers; Transit Agencies and Fatigue Risk Management Systems.

The webpage is designed for the transit community, including bus and rail transit workers (e.g., drivers, maintenance staff, etc.), agency management and other transit professionals who wish to better understand the effects of fatigue.

## FTA Employee Spotlight: Daniel Gardella

**Program Manager, Office of Safety Oversight and Compliance, Office of Transit Safety and Oversight, FTA**



**Daniel Gardella**

Program Manager, Office of Safety Oversight and Compliance, Office of Transit Safety and Oversight, FTA

**How would you explain your job to someone you have never met?** The short answer is regulatory compliance. The long answer is something like this: Transit agencies that operate rail transit service must have an internal safety program that ensures the safety of the agency, including their rail operations, and an oversight agency at the state level – a State Safety Oversight Agency (SSOA) – that oversees the safety of the rail transit system. My job is to make sure that the SSOAs are effectively implementing their oversight of their transit agencies according to the applicable federal rules and regulations.

**What were you doing prior to this role?** I was a safety officer at the Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority (SEPTA). In that role, I helped manage the Safety Division's internal audit program, coordinated oversight activities with the SSOA and investigated accidents.

**What is your favorite moment of your professional career so far?** My favorite moment of my professional career so far is being admitted to the New York bar, allowing me to practice law in the state of New York. It took a tremendous amount of work and effort to study for and pass the exam.

**What is your favorite transit system in the US?** My favorite transit system is the Metropolitan Transportation Authority in New York City. The size and scope of that system is staggering and for less than three bucks, you can go almost anywhere in the city.

**What was your first time using public transit like?** I was born in New York and grew up in northern New Jersey and have used public transit my whole life! I do not recall my first time using public transit because I do not remember. I can recall that my family also used public transit frequently.

**What people or experiences have shaped you?** My wife and our son are two people who have shaped me. When I became a husband and father, it pushed me to become the best version of myself I can be.

**What movie or TV show could you watch on a loop? Why?** I could watch "The Sopranos" on loop. The show still holds up after 25 years and there were so many little pieces of New Jersey trivia woven into the writing that hit home.

**What are the saved weather locations on your phone?** Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and Cape May, New Jersey.





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

Federal Transit Administration  
Office of Transit Safety and Oversight  
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE  
Washington, DC 20590

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

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## Upcoming FTA TSO Office Speaking Engagements

### [APTA Mobility Conference](#)

April 28–May 1, 2024 | Portland, OR

### [Teamsters Passenger Transport Division Conference](#)

May 8, 2024 | Chicago, IL

### [Safety Management System \(SMS\) in Practice: Advancing Safety Risk Management and Safety Assurance Workshop](#)

May 15–16, 2024 | Atlanta, GA

### [APTA Rail Conference](#)

June 2–5, 2024 | Cleveland, OH

### [Community Transportation Association of America Expo](#)

June 9–12, 2024 | West Palm Beach, FL

## 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

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