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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:

May is National Mental Health Awareness Month, and FTA understands that mental well-being is a critical part of one's overall health. To support the transit community in prioritizing mental health, FTA has a dedicated webpage with mental health resources for transit workers that span several topics. Additionally, I want to highlight one resource on our webpage, the [988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline](#), that provides free and confidential round-the-clock support to those in need. Creating a safe working environment is another way we can directly support the mental health of our transit workers.

On May 24, 2024 the Rail Transit Roadway Worker Protection (RWP) Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) public comment period will close. The NPRM published on March 25, 2024 proposed establishing minimum safety standards to prevent safety events for transit workers who may access the railway in the performance of work. FTA will review comments to determine the final rulemaking language. You can view an overview video of the RWP NPRM [here](#) or contact FTASystemSafety@dot.gov with questions.

Additionally, last month, FTA published updates to the Public Transportation Agency Safety Plans (PTASP) regulation (49 CFR part 673) and the National Public Transportation Safety Plan (National Safety Plan), which incorporate Bipartisan Infrastructure Law requirements. Please contact FTASystemSafety@dot.gov with any questions regarding the PTASP or National Safety Plan Updates.

This year FTA launched the Safety Management System Workshops, spotlighting safety risk management and safety assurance. As the workshops in Denver and Atlanta have concluded, I want to thank all the participants for their engagement in group discussions and scenario-based exercises leading us to a deeper knowledge of system safety for our transit systems. FTA will host the final two workshops virtually on June 5—6 and 17—18, 2024.

Lastly, FTA has launched the [PTASP Technical Assistance Center \(TAC\) survey](#) for those subject to the PTASP regulation or received [PTASP TAC](#) support in 2023. The brief survey asks for feedback on what has worked well and what resources would be helpful to meet regulation requirements. You can access the survey [here](#). Thank you for all you do to further our shared safety mission for transit workers and riders. I look forward to connecting with you in person as we enter a busy conference season. Please don't hesitate to reach out with any major safety concerns.

Sincerely,

Joe



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

FTA at Recent Transit Industry Events



FTA's Associate Administrator Joe DeLorenzo spoke at the Teamsters Passenger Transport Division Conference in Chicago, Illinois highlighting safety updates and new FTA resources available for stakeholders.

In April, FTA attended the American Public Transportation Association (APTA) Mobility Conference. FTA's Associate Administrator Joe DeLorenzo presented to the Bus Safety Committee on rulemaking updates, bus-to-person collisions, assaults on transit workers and FTA's new fatigue resources for transit workers. FTA's Matt DeDonato and Stewart Mader also presented during the conference.

In early May, Joe also participated in the Teamsters Passenger Transport Division Conference in Chicago, IL to discuss FTA's regulatory agenda, assaults on transit workers and customers, fatigue risk management, bus-to-person collisions, FTA's Drug &

Alcohol program and safety training.

Visit the FTA [website](#) to view the presentations from these events and other FTA conference presentations.

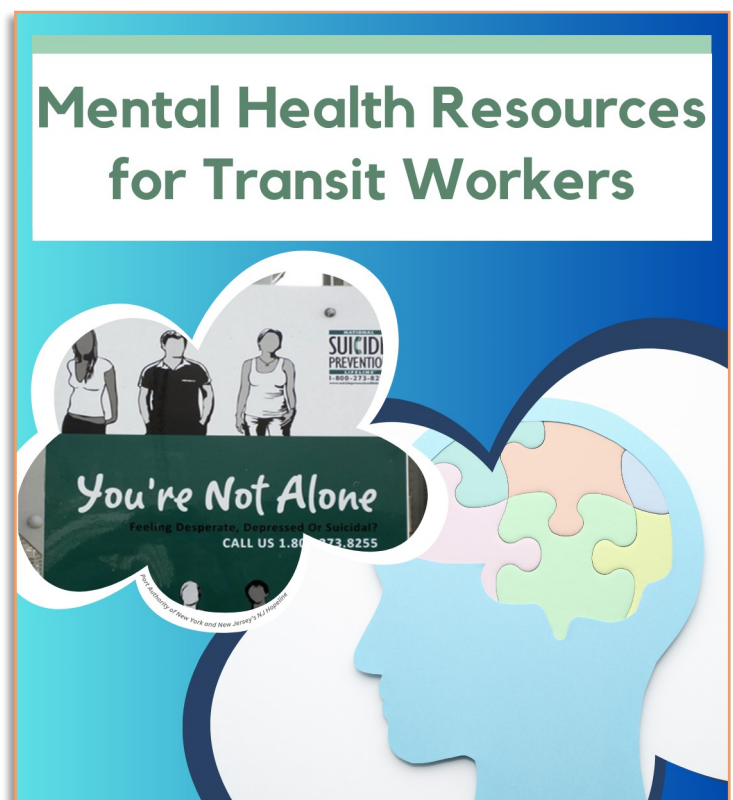
FTA looks forward to meeting with stakeholders to share progress and updates on safety and safety initiatives during APTA Rail, the Community Transportation Association of America (CTAA) Expo, the Northeast Passenger Transportation Association (NEPTA) Biennial Conference and other upcoming conferences.



FTA's Senior Program Analyst for Safety Policy Stewart Mader presents at APTA Mobility Conference in Portland, Oregon.

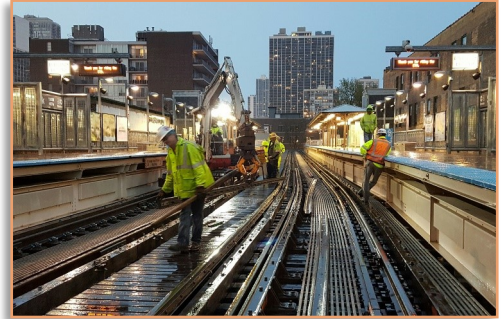
Recognizing Mental Health Awareness Month in the Transit Industry

A culture built on safety can positively impact mental health. FTA has compiled [mental health resources for transit workers](#) to support transit workers who may be struggling with their mental health. In addition, transit agencies should review [Safety Advisory 22-4: Suicide Prevention Signage on Public Transit](#). FTA issued the safety advisory to recommend that transit agencies apply best practices to their suicide prevention signage and messaging campaigns to reduce suicide attempts and advise transit agencies to assess and monitor the effectiveness of signage approaches. Mental health affects everyone, and FTA acknowledges its impact on the transit community. On May 29, 2024 FTA will host a Suicide and Mental Health Crisis Intervention on Transit from 2:00-3:00 PM ET. Please register [here](#) to participate.



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 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 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.



NOW AVAILABLE: Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 Transit Security Grant Program

On April 16, 2024 the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) announced the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for the FY24 Transit Security Grant Program with \$83.7 million available to transit agencies. The grant program provides funding to eligible public transportation systems to provide protection from terrorism and increase infrastructure resilience. The FY24 grant specifically focuses on enhancing cybersecurity and the protection of soft targets and crowded places. Visit the [FEMA website](#) to learn more about the funding opportunity and how your transit agency may apply before the June 24 deadline.

Safety Management System (SMS) in Practice: Advancing Safety Risk Management and Safety Assurance 2024

In April, FTA kicked-off the first of three SMS in Practice: Advancing Safety Risk Management and Safety Assurance workshops. This series spotlights common challenges identified during Public Transportation Agency Safety Plans (PTASP) technical assistance center inquiries, audits and Agency Safety Plan (ASP) reviews. Denver and Atlanta participants engaged in group discussions and scenario-based exercises to better understand the processes and apply new skills and lessons learned to improve safety at their agencies. The workshops assisted individuals in modeling SMS within transit agencies to perform the activities of the Safety Committee, support Safety Committees in the SMS process and reinforce a strong safety culture based on SMS principles.

FTA developed the workshops for transit agency safety personnel, rail and bus transit operations and maintenance managers that oversee agency safety performance, and State Safety Oversight Agency managers and staff.

Next month, FTA will host the final two workshops virtually on June 5—6 and 17—18, 2024. While registration for the virtual workshops is currently at capacity, please visit the [TSO website](#) for additional resources and questions regarding SMS.



From top to bottom: FTA's Phil Monty, Anna Curtis and Rhoderick Ramsey from the Office of System Safety, present to participants in-person at the Denver, Colorado SMS in Practice: Advancing Safety Risk Management and Assurance Workshop on April 17—18, 2024.



Several participants from the May 15—16, 2024, SMS in Practice: Advancing Safety Risk Management and Assurance Workshop in Atlanta, Georgia stands for a group photo following the workshop held at Hotel Indigo.



FTA Employee Spotlight: Chris LaMacchia

General Engineer, Office of Program Management and Oversight, Region 1, FTA



Chris LaMacchia

General Engineer, Office of Program Management and Oversight, Region 1, FTA

How would you explain your job to someone you have never met? We certify transit projects are completed on budget and on schedule while adhering to the Federal requirements that may be tied to funding.

What were you doing prior to this role? Working at a golf course and golfing almost every day. I came in under the Pathways Program shortly after receiving my BA in Civil Engineering Technology.

What is your favorite moment of your professional career so far? Too many to be called a favorite.

What is your favorite form of public transportation? Why? My own two feet. I enjoy the chance to slow down and take in the scenery around.

What is your favorite transit system in the US?

Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA). It gets me to sporting events and into Boston from the suburbs — bypassing all the traffic.

What was your first time using public transit like?

Fun from what I can remember. I have a specific memory of using public transit to go to the Museum of Science with the Cub Scouts.

What people or experiences have shaped you?

My current and former colleagues and project teams. Working through project issues and learning from very experienced people about the “why” behind decisions and how they managed stressful and complicated situations helped my professional and personal development.

What movie or TV show could you watch on a loop? Why?

Supernatural. There are 15 seasons and by the time I finish them, I forget the details about the first few seasons so I can restart without burnout.

What are the saved weather locations on your phone? Boston, Massachusetts; Hillsboro, New Hampshire

WEBINAR RECAP: Oversight Tracking (OTrak) System Fiscal Year 2024 Kick-Off

On April 16, 2024, FTA’s Office of Program Oversight launched the [Oversight Tracking System](#) Fiscal Year 2024 Kick-Off Webinar for recipients as an introduction to the official system of record for program oversight data for FTA staff, contractors and recipients. The OTrak system is a workflow management system that incorporates the management of all oversight activities in one system, improving the compatibility with data from the [National Transit Database \(NTD\)](#) and [Transit Award Management System \(TrAMS\)](#). Following an overview of the system, the webinar included training plan information, necessary points of contact, tracking due dates and an outline of roles and responsibilities for FTA and recipients when addressing findings and responding to corrective actions. If you missed the webinar, view it on the OTrak. For questions about OTrak, please contact [Kelly McFetridge](#), in FTA’s Office of Program Oversight.



U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Transit Administration

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

Upcoming FTA TSO Office Speaking Engagements

[FTA Suicide and Mental Crisis Intervention on Transit Webinar](#)

May 29, 2024 | Virtual

[APTA Rail Conference](#)

June 2–5, 2024 | Cleveland, OH

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

June 9–12, 2024 | West Palm Beach, FL

[SMART Transportation Division Conference](#)

July 10–11, 2024 | Cleveland, OH

[CTAA Small Urban Network \(SUN\) Conference](#)

August 14–16, 2024 | Alexandria, VA

Save the Dates: SSO Quarterly Call

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.