



## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

# Transit Safety and Oversight Spotlight Newsletter

June 2024  
Vol. 9 No. 6

FTA at Recent Transit Industry Events

2



U.S. Department of Transportation  
Federal Transit Administration

FTA Publishes New Technical Resources on Assaults on Transit Worker Data Reporting

2

## Message from the Associate Administrator

Dear Transit Colleagues:

Earlier this month, I had the pleasure of attending the American Public Transportation Association (APTA) Rail Conference in Cleveland, Ohio alongside my FTA colleagues to discuss safety issues that are vital to the rail transit industry, presenting at the Rail Safety Committee Meeting and the Security and Emergency Management Roundtable. FTA will continue to prioritize efforts to increase safety measures for operators and riders alike.

On June 5, 2024 FTA recognized the International Level Crossing Awareness Day (ILCAD), a worldwide initiative to improve awareness of level crossing safety. This year focuses on how technology, regulations, enforcement and community outreach can help improve safety outcomes for vulnerable populations, including the elderly, youth, pedestrians, cyclists and more. You can find [safety tips](#), [videos](#) and additional information to share with your transit agencies [here](#).

Additionally, the Transit Advisory Committee for Safety (TRACS) met on, June 24-25, 2024 for a full committee meeting continuing their work in the following areas: advancing rider and worker safety, reducing bus collisions and cyber and data security. TRACS provides valuable information, advice and recommendations on transit safety to the U.S. Transportation Secretary and FTA Administrator. More details can be found in the [Federal Register Notice](#).

To close, I want to extend my appreciation for the opportunity to connect with many of you at conferences to hear and learn from you and your agencies. Thank you for all the work you do.

Sincerely,  
Joe



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

Fiscal Year 2024 Transportation Safety Institute (TSI) Safety Training

4

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

4

FTA Spotlights Mental Health Support in the Transit Industry

6

NOW AVAILABLE: FY24 Transit Security Grant Program

6

FTA Employee Spotlight: Travis Davidson

7

Upcoming FTA TSO Office Speaking Engagements

8

## FTA at Recent Transit Industry Events



From left to right: Adam Riddle of HTNB, Michael Lowder of VHB, FTA's Mia Veltri, Senior Program Analyst, Safety Policy and Promotion Division, Office of System Safety, Dan Tinsley of the Chicago Transit Authority and Kevin Jones of ADS System Safety Consulting, LLC present at the 2024 APTA Rail Conference in Cleveland, Ohio.

In May, FTA attended the Virginia Transit Association Annual Conference and Bus Expo. FTA's Senior Program Analyst for Safety Policy Stewart Mader presented on Public Transportation Agency Safety Plans (PTASP), Agency Safety Plan (ASP) Directory and the De-Escalation Training Resource Directory.

This month, FTA attended the annual American Public Transportation Association (APTA) Rail Conference in Cleveland, Ohio.

FTA's Associate Administrator Joe DeLorenzo presented an update about FTA's regulatory activities and highlighted the anticipated publication of the Public Transportation Safety Certification Training Program rulemaking, state of rail safety, safety risk management updates, FTA's Risk-Based Inspection program, assaults on transit workers, the National Roadway Safety Strategy, Roadway Worker Protection and the PTASP final rule. Following this conference, FTA attended the Community Transportation Association of America (CTAA) Conference and Expo in West Palm Beach, Florida, presenting at the State Department of Transportation Roundtable and the FTA Safety Workshop highlighting bus-to-person collisions and fatigue risk management amongst other topics. Visit the FTA [website](#) to see the presentations from these events and other FTA conference presentations.



FTA's Senior Program Analyst for Safety Policy Stewart Mader presented to the Virginia Transit Association Annual Conference and Bus Expo in Harrisburg, Virginia.



FTA's Associate Administrator and Chief Safety Officer Joe DeLorenzo presented at the 2024 APTA Rail Conference in Cleveland, Ohio.

FTA looks forward to meeting with stakeholders to share progress and updates on safety and safety initiatives during the Northeast Passenger Transportation Associations' Biennial Conference, the SMART Transportation Division Conference and other upcoming conferences.

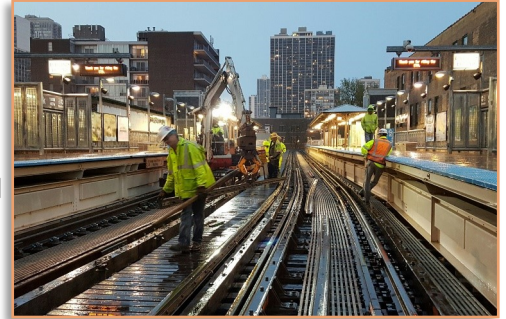
## FTA Publishes New Technical Resources on Assaults on Transit Worker Data Reporting

In May, FTA published new resources for transit agencies to clarify the new Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) requirements for expanded reporting of assaults on transit workers to help transit agencies understand the difference between major and non-major events, distinguish between physical and non-physical assaults and to understand the details of how to report transit worker assault data to the National Transit Database. Find the newly published resources [here](#).



## 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.

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

This year, FTA hosted four [SMS in Practice: Advancing Safety Risk Management and Safety Assurance workshops](#). The series spotlighted common challenges identified during FTA Technical Assistance Center inquiries, audits and Agency Safety Plan (ASP) reviews. The workshop series concluded this month and asked participants to engage in group discussions and scenario-based exercises to obtain a deeper understanding of the processes and apply new skills and lessons learned to improve safety at their agencies. FTA provided these workshops for transit agency safety department personnel, State Safety Oversight Agency managers and staff and rail and bus transit operations and maintenance managers who oversee agency safety performance.

FTA plans to offer additional technical assistance, including more workshops. Please visit the [TSO website](#) for additional resources and questions regarding SMS.





## FTA Spotlights Mental Health Support in the Transit Industry

### Suicide and Mental Health Crisis Intervention on Transit Webinar



In May, as part of Mental Health Awareness Month, FTA hosted a [webinar](#) on suicide prevention and mental health crisis intervention in the transit industry. Guest speakers from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, San Francisco Suicide Prevention, Bay Area Rapid Transit and Utah Transit Authority shared available resources, experiences and lessons learned from successful interventions.

During the webinar speakers provided an overview of the suicide and crisis lifeline 988 system, de-escalation tactics for individuals experiencing mental health crises and shared personal experiences using the resources discussed to assist transit passengers through their mental health crises.

Mental health is a significant issue that impacts the transit industry and frontline workers. In recognition of this, we have updated FTA's [mental health website](#) with new toolkits, handouts, articles and more. FTA encourages you to share these online resources widely with the transit agencies in your network.

## 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.

## FTA Participates in FMCSA Our Roads Our Safety Event

On May 8, 2024 the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) hosted an interactive education on road safety and career exploration at the USDOT Headquarters in Washington, D.C. FTA participated in the event, engaging with the community and sharing additional transit safety information to stakeholders of all ages. Both FTA and FMCSA are committed to sharing safety tips, resources and materials to improve transportation safety at large and reach the goal of zero transportation-related deaths. Visit the [Our Roads, Our Safety Week website](#) for additional resources and to learn more about how your transit agency can participate.



FTA's Senior Program Analyst for Safety Policy Stewart Mader and Program Manager for Stakeholder Engagement Donna Aggazio provide transit safety information at the Our Roads Our Safety Event.

## FTA Employee Spotlight: Dr. Travis Davidson

*Division Chief, Office for Performance and Quality Assurance, Office of Program Oversight, TSO, FTA*



**Dr. Travis Davidson**

Division Chief, Office for Performance and Quality Assurance, Office of Program Oversight, TSO, FTA

**How would you explain your job to someone you have never met?** I provide oversight to transit agencies that receive federal grants from FTA to make sure that the grant recipients are adhering to the FTA statutory requirements and policies.

**What were you doing prior to this role?** I was the Operations Manager for the Architect of the Capitol, House Office Buildings (HOB). My responsibilities included managing the human resources planning and staffing branch, HOB budget management branch, data analytics branch, supply chain management branch and the management of HOB's computerized maintenance management system.

**What is your favorite moment of your professional career so far?** Being here at FTA; after working over 29 years in the engineering and transportation industry.

**What is your favorite form of public transportation? Why?** Trains because they get you from point A to B with minor interruptions, if any. All I need to do is sit back and enjoy the ride versus being stuck in traffic.

**What is your favorite transit system in the US?** Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA).

**What was your first time using public transit like?** Fun and amazing; I just had to sit back and enjoy the ride and views.

**What people or experiences have shaped you?** My high school guidance counselor, my family, my friends, my faith, college, jobs and life experiences.

**What movie or TV show could you watch on a loop? Why?** The Resident. The satisfaction and joy you feel from seeing someone's life being saved.





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

### [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.*