

# SMS Roundtable: Safety Event Investigation Causal and Contributing Factors

Molly Hughes, WSDOT Public Transportation Safety Administrator FTA/SSO Workshop, 2025 Alexandria, VA

5/8/2025

#### **Question 1:**



- How is your SSOA involved with RTA event investigations? Why has your agency chosen this approach?
- 1. Delegation
- 2. Review
- 3. Ownership
- 4. Escalation

## **Question 2:**



- How does your agency's program standard address identifying causal and contributing factors in safety event investigations? Why did your agency choose this approach?
- Robust Root Cause Analysis
- Direct line from Factor to Mitigation
- Allow the process to work (and seek understanding when disagreements occur)

## **Question 4:**



#### **Training and Processes or Procedures**

- What is your agency's process for reviewing causal and contributing factors in an RTA's safety event investigation report? What if the causal and/or contributing factor(s) are unclear or unacceptable?
  - Documentation of root-cause analysis
  - Report review checklist
  - Require revisions to incomplete or insufficient CAPs



Molly Hughes
Molly.Hughes@wsdot.wa.gov
360-742-8458