

FTA Report No. 0277



Federal Transit Administration Annual Report to Congress on Technical Assistance and Workforce Development for Fiscal Year 2025

PREPARED BY

Federal Transit Administration



U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Transit Administration

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**Federal Transit
Administration Annual
Report to Congress on
Technical Assistance and
Workforce Development for
Fiscal Year 2025**

February 2026

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Federal Transit Administration
Office of Research, Demonstration and Innovation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

AVAILABLE ONLINE

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Metric Conversion Table

SYMBOL	WHEN YOU KNOW	MULTIPLY BY	TO FIND	SYMBOL
LENGTH				
in	inches	25.4	millimeters	mm
ft	feet	0.305	meters	m
yd	yards	0.914	meters	m
mi	miles	1.61	kilometers	km
VOLUME				
fl oz	fluid ounces	29.57	milliliters	mL
gal	gallons	3.785	liters	L
ft ³	cubic feet	0.028	cubic meters	m ³
yd ³	cubic yards	0.765	cubic meters	m ³
NOTE: volumes greater than 1000 L shall be shown in m ³				
MASS				
oz	ounces	28.35	grams	g
lb	pounds	0.454	kilograms	kg
T	short tons (2000 lb)	0.907	megagrams (or "metric ton")	Mg (or "t")
TEMPERATURE (exact degrees)				
°F	Fahrenheit	$\frac{5(F-32)}{9}$ or $\frac{(F-32)}{1.8}$	Celsius	°C

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14. ABSTRACT
This statutorily required annual report provides information on FTA Technical Assistance and Workforce Development Program (49 U.S.C. § 5314). It includes information on technical assistance, standards development, training, human resources, and workforce development projects active in Fiscal Year (FY) 2025. The report includes information on FTA’s process for making upcoming allocations for FY 2026.

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Abstract

This annual report to Congress provides information on the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Technical Assistance and Workforce Development Program (49 U.S.C. § 5314) for Fiscal Year (FY) 2025. The primary goals of this program are to provide technical assistance, standards development, human resources training, and workforce development and training projects to improve public transportation services, effectiveness, and efficiency. The report also includes an annual report on frontline workforce activities and trends. The report concludes with proposed priorities for FY 2026 funding.

Introduction

This report is required by 49 U.S.C. § 5314(a)(3), (b)(2)(E), which directs the Secretary of Transportation to submit a report to Congress for all projects active under this section during the previous fiscal year. This annual report must be submitted to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs, the Committee on Appropriations of the U.S. Senate, the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, and the Committee on Appropriations of the U.S. House of Representatives, no later than the first Monday of February in the following year.

This annual report must include:

- A description of each project that received assistance under this program during the preceding fiscal year.
- An evaluation of the technical assistance and standards activities carried out by each organization that received assistance during the preceding fiscal year.
- A proposal for allocation amounts for the FTA Technical Assistance Program for the subsequent fiscal year.
- Measurable outcomes and impacts of the Human Resources & Training (§ 5314(b)) and National Transit Institute (NTI) (§ 5314(c)) programs.

Section 5314(b)(2)(E) also requires the Secretary to submit a report on the Frontline Workforce Development Program, including a detailed description of activities carried out, an evaluation of the program, and policy recommendations to improve program effectiveness. Though this report is noted to have a deadline of December 31, the U.S. House and Senate authorizing committees approved FTA's request in 2016 to submit one combined report that also meets the requirements of Section 5314(a)(3).

Active projects refer to projects and programs that involved FTA resources during the fiscal year. This is a retrospective report on the results of prior investments, and projects are typically funded from appropriations enacted by Congress in prior fiscal years. There are four types of eligible projects for this FTA program: technical assistance, standards development, human resources and training, and workforce development. This report is organized into three sections:

1. **Section 1**—provides detailed information on technical assistance, standards development, human resources and training, and workforce development and training projects, including key results of each project.
2. **Section 2**—discusses frontline workforce development projects, including key results of each project, and recommendations to improve program effectiveness.
3. **Section 3**—provides information on proposed allocations for FY 2026 funding.

Table 1 Active Projects by Eligible Areas

Program/Project Name	Eligible Activities											FTA Funding
	Technical Assistance (TA)								STD*	HT**		
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
Transit Workforce Center (TWC)								×			×	\$12,500,000
YOUTH VOICE: Sustainable Mobility Career Awareness and Innovation Challenge Project					×							\$50,000
Crime Prevention and Public Safety Awareness						×		×				\$1,639,498
National Center for Applied Transit Technology (N-CATT)								×				\$2,400,000
Bus Exportable Power System (BEPS) Standards Development								×	×			\$1,000,000
Accelerating Innovative Mobility National Network (AIM-NNet)								×				\$3,000,000
Transportation Research Board (TRB) Core Program Support								×				\$375,000
National Aging and Disability Transportation Center (NADTC)	×	×	×									\$2,600,000
National Center for Mobility Management (NCMM)		×	×									\$3,200,000
Coordinating Council on Access and Mobility Technical Assistance Center (CCAM-TAC)		×	×									\$2,500,000
Transit Survey Data Archiving and Analysis								×				\$300,000
Transportation Capacity Building Program and Planning Methods								×				\$150,000
Innovative Uses of Simplified Trips on Project Software (STOPS)								×				\$150,000
Public Safety Awareness Technology Evaluation (PSATE) Project								×				\$100,000
Transit Standards Development Program									×			\$2,974,430
National Transit Institute (NTI)											×	\$26,578,592
Total											\$59,517,520	

Statutory Requirements:

Technical Assistance (TA)

1. Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990
2. Human Services Transportation Coordination
3. Transportation Needs of Elderly Individuals
4. Increase Transit Ridership in Coordination with Metropolitan Planning Organizations

5. Address Efficient Public Transportation Planning, Investments, and Operations
6. Facilitate Best Practices in Bus Driver Safety
7. Meet Buy America and Rolling Stock Purchase Requirements
8. Other technical assistance activity that advances the interests of public transportation

***Standards (Std)**

9. Standards

****Human Resources and Training (HT)**

10. Human Resources
11. Training

Section 1

Active Project Results

This section describes the technical assistance, standards, workforce development, and training projects active in FY 2025 and their results.

Technical Assistance

Technical Assistance (TA) activities assist public transportation agencies with targeted support for resource gaps and development needs, such as furthering the mobility of older adults and people with disabilities, expanding mobility management awareness, enhancing public safety awareness, and supporting workforce development.

Title: *Transit Workforce Center (TWC)*

Recipient: International Transportation Learning Center (ITLC)

Project Description:

TWC supports public transit agencies' workforce development needs for all modes of public transit across urban, tribal, and rural entities. Its mission is to help transit agencies recruit, hire, train, and retain the workforce needed for today and the future. TWC performs two main functions: 1) conduct technical assistance activities within and for transit agencies that promote more effective and efficient training of frontline workers involved in public transportation maintenance and operations; and 2) implement technical assistance activities through collaborative partnerships between transit agency management and labor, including apprenticeship development and implementation.

Results:

Beginning in FY 2020 (Pub. L. No. 116-94), Congress included \$2.5 million in annual appropriations, directing FTA to establish and maintain a cooperative agreement with a national nonprofit organization to assist transit recipients with frontline workforce development and standards-based training. On April 9, 2021, FTA announced a NOFO for \$5 million from FY 2020 (\$2.5 million) and FY 2021 (\$2.5 million) funds. FTA competitively selected ITLC, awarding the \$5 million, to manage TWC, which is the first technical assistance center dedicated to the frontline workforce for the transit industry. ITLC is a national nonprofit dedicated to advancing frontline workforce development across the public transportation industry sectors critical to the Nation's economic growth. Through this agreement, FTA funds staff salaries and provides workforce development assistance to the industry. In FY 2025, TWC resolved more than 760 technical assistance requests. Through conferences, webinars, and training events, TWC engaged more than 13,000 participants nationwide, including hundreds of trainers and mentors through Train-the-Trainer and apprenticeship

programs. The Center also maintains a robust [Resource Center](#) of 353 tools and case studies, leads the American Transit Training and Apprenticeship Innovators Network ([ATTAIN](#)) with more than 200 members, and continues to expand signature national resources such as the [Transit Workforce Data Dashboard](#) and the new [Transit Career Explorer tool](#), both of which help agencies make data-driven decisions and connect prospective workers to frontline transit career pathways. TWC continued to provide comprehensive workforce support to the transit industry through conferences, webinars, targeted technical assistance requests, online [resource center](#), the [National Transit Frontline Workforce Recruitment Campaign Toolkit](#), the [Transit Data Dashboard](#), and presentations at industry events.

FTA Funding: \$12,500,000

Title: *Youth Voice: Sustainable Mobility Career Awareness and Innovation Challenge Project*

Recipients: Introducing Youth to American Infrastructure, Inc. (IYAI+)

Project Description:

IYAI+'s Mobility Career Awareness and Innovation Challenge Program aims to raise awareness about infrastructure careers by highlighting Next Generation Public Transportation Sector careers and community engagement. The project is designed for youth ages 18–25. The goal is to develop a virtual innovation challenge planning guide and toolkit to address public transportation career awareness and interest for local host organizers, such as transit agencies, labor organizations, and local community organizations.

Results:

This one-time project was awarded on September 9, 2024. IYAI+ is a national nonprofit organization with the mission to turn today's youth into tomorrow's American infrastructure leaders, innovators, entrepreneurs, and skilled workforce. In FY 2025, IYAI+ enhanced its Innovation Challenge model and expanded its network by onboarding 12 new Local Host Organizations, representing major transit agencies and community partners across North America. FTA funding supported staffing to conduct program assessments, convene the Program Advisory Committee, and develop the first draft of the Innovation Challenge Guide/Toolkit, including customizable outreach templates and evaluation criteria. The 2025 Career Awareness series delivered six national webinars and a youth forum, reaching over 200 youth and professionals with direct exposure to transit and mobility careers. Youth teams from multiple regions submitted projects for the national Innovation Challenge, culminating in a three-day competition and awards ceremony. This elevated the visibility of

youth-generated mobility concepts through expanded digital and social media engagement.

FTA Funding: \$50,000

Title: *Crime Prevention and Public Safety Awareness*

Recipients: The Council of State Governments (CSG), the Community Transportation Association of America (CTAA), and End Child Prostitution and Trafficking (ECPAT-USA)

Project Description:

This technical assistance program is part of FTA's Human Trafficking Awareness and Public Safety Initiative. The program develops and disseminates technical assistance materials supporting public safety awareness campaigns that address public safety in transit systems, including crime prevention, human trafficking, and operator assault.

Results:

On March 19, 2019, FTA announced a NOFO for \$2 million for the prevention of human trafficking. Three organizations, CSG, CTAA, and ECPAT-USA, were competitively selected to receive funding through cooperative agreements. The projects with CSG and CTAA closed prior to FY 2025. ECPAT-USA remained active in FY 2025 for \$1,639,498. This program continued to support the Administration's priority of creating the safest, most efficient, and modern public transportation system in the world. This program made public transportation safer by empowering transit agencies and other organizations to develop local solutions to address human trafficking on buses, trains, and other forms of public transportation. In FY 2025, the [Transit Against Child Trafficking \(TACT\)](#) campaign was expanded to include Austin, Texas, and Alexandria, Virginia. The campaign was created in collaboration with survivors of child sex trafficking in Albany, New York, and Albuquerque, New Mexico. TACT delivered 100 Y-ACT workshops, reaching 3,233 participating youth from 6th to 12th grade. On average, workshop participants demonstrated an 84.4 percent increase in knowledge. The program also conducted the Child Sexual Abuse Material (CSAM) Workshops, reaching 2000+ parents and caregivers, 600+ children and teens, and 175 educators.

FTA Funding: \$1,639,498

Title: *National Center for Applied Transit Technology (N-CATT)*

Recipient: Community Transportation Association of America (CTAA)

Project Description:

N-CATT provides practical, replicable resources that help small transit operators solve local challenges by applying technology solutions. N-CATT accomplishes its mission by collecting, understanding, communicating, planning, encouraging, and spurring implementation of cost-effective, value-adding technologies.

Results:

The Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2019 (Pub. L. No. 116-6) directed FTA under its Technical Assistance and Workforce Development Program (49 U.S.C. § 5314) to enter into a cooperative agreement to assist small urban, rural, and tribal public transit recipients and planning organizations with applied innovation and capacity-building. In FY 2025, N-CATT developed ten resources for rural transit providers on [fare payment technology](#), [customer-facing apps](#), [automated vehicles](#), and other topics. N-CATT also provided direct, [one-on-one technical assistance](#) to more than 20 rural, tribal, and small-urban transit operators. N-CATT surveyed more than 400 people from rural, small urban, and tribal transit providers to assess the current level of data literacy at transit agencies and identify the necessary training to optimize data usage to improve transit service.

FTA Funding: \$2,400,000

Title: *Bus Exportable Power System (BEPS) Standards Development*

Recipient: Inventev, LLC

Project Description:

BEPS enables public transportation agencies, communities, and States to access resilient and flexible power from hybrid buses during major power disruptions. The goal is to develop a national interoperable BEPS standard by working with FTA, industry stakeholders, and technical partners for the use of different manufacturers.

Results:

The Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (Pub. L. No. 116-260) directed FTA to fund no less than \$1,000,000 to develop interoperable national standards for BEPS that allow the use of hybrid and fuel cell buses as mobile power generators to power facilities such as hospitals following natural disasters.

On April 12, 2022, FTA announced a NOFO for \$1 million. On August 4, 2022, FTA announced the selection of Inventev, a private company developing commercial-grade subsystems to convert hybrid and fuel cell stored energy into usable export power, to carry out the BEPS program. In FY 2025, the program completed a vehicle integration test to show how BEPS hardware and vehicle software work together. The test showed the success of the hardware design and highlighted the need for complex hardware and software integration in a real-world vehicle environment.

FTA Funding: \$1,000,000

Title: *Accelerating Innovative Mobility National Network (AIM-Net)*

Recipient: Shared-Use Mobility Center (SUMC)

Project Description:

This national technical assistance program assists public transportation agencies, communities, and regions. AIM-Net facilitates the adoption of proven solutions by creating a knowledge-sharing and peer support system across the industry. Key activities planned for AIM-Net include workshops, peer exchanges, training, and the creation of online knowledge-sharing tools.

Results:

FTA funded AIM-Net in FY 2020 for \$2 million to provide technical assistance to 25 Accelerating Innovative Mobility (AIM) recipients. FTA funded \$1 million in FY 2024 to continue the work. In FY 2025, AIM-Net partnered with the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) to host the “Transit Innovation Workshop Series,” showcasing data standards, vehicle tracking, payment, reservation technologies, and innovative procurement strategies. The workshop reached 196 individuals, was attended by representatives from 40 State DOTs, and averaged 68 attendees per workshop.

FTA Funding: \$3,000,000

Title: *Transportation Research Board (TRB) Core Program Support*

Recipient: Transportation Research Board (TRB) of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (NAS)

Project Description:

This program supports FTA staff participation in TRB’s activities, including TRB Annual Meeting attendance, access to transportation research reports and

publications, and committees and other meetings. It ensures FTA staff access to the TRB Annual Meeting and the TRB research databases and dissemination tools. In addition, this activity facilitates the exchange of transit research and results at the national level.

Results:

FTA funds the TRB Core Support Program annually to promote innovation and progress in transportation through research. Key outcomes in FY 2025 included the attendance of nearly 100 FTA staff from headquarters and regional offices at the 104th TRB Annual Meeting and providing FTA staff with access to all online TRB resources, including the Transportation Research International Documentation (TRID) database. The TRB TRID database contains over 1.4 million U.S. and international transportation research records. It helps FTA staff avoid duplicating work, identify knowledge gaps, set research priorities, and make evidence-based policy and program decisions.

FTA Funding: \$350,000

Title: *National Aging and Disability Transportation Center (NADTC)*

Recipient: Easterseals

Project Description:

NADTC, a partnership between Easterseals and USAging (formerly the National Association of Area Agencies on Aging), promotes the mobility of people with disabilities and older adults and ensures that public transportation supports independent living in communities. It provides training, technical assistance, best practice resources, partnerships with other national centers and industry organizations, and seed funding for targeted local projects.

Results:

The FY 2023 House Appropriations Report Language (House Report 117-402) directed FTA to fund an agreement to support mobility for people with disabilities and older adults. This is consistent with report language from prior years. Easterseals was competitively selected in September 2020 as the recipient of the NOFO. NADTC concluded in FY 2025 that it provided technical assistance and created a profile landing page that featured 10 best practices for recipients of FTA's Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities Program (49 U.S.C. § 5310), FTA's Innovative Coordinated Access and Mobility funding (ICAM), and other FTA grants. NADTC completed the Community Engagement Toolkit and assisted communities in developing a transportation plan to address accessibility and innovation. NADTC also developed and

hosted 10 webinars on providing transportation to older adults and people with disabilities, engaging with community partners to improve transportation systems, and other topics.

FTA Funding: \$2,600,000

Title: *National Center for Mobility Management (NCMM)*

Recipient: Community Transportation Association of America (CTAA)

Project Description:

NCMM is a partnership among CTAA, the American Public Transportation Association (APTA), and Easterseals. It supports mobility management professionals in developing and implementing strategies that improve transportation access for older adults, people with disabilities, and low-income individuals and families.

Results:

FTA competitively selected CTAA in September 2018 as the recipient of the technical assistance center. This program concluded in FY 2025. NCMM supported the [Coordinating Council on Access and Mobility \(CCAM\)](#) and coordinated efforts of Federal agencies that funded transportation services for targeted populations. At the conclusion of NCMM, FTA competed the technical assistance center. The Coordinating Council on Access and Mobility Technical Assistance Center (CCAM-TAC) was awarded to continue promoting and facilitating human services transportation, public transit, and non-emergency medical transportation (NEMT) to advance people's access to everyday destinations.

FTA Funding: \$3,200,000

Title: *Coordinating Council on Access and Mobility Technical Assistance Center (CCAM-TAC)*

Recipient: Community Transportation Association of America (CTAA)

Project Description:

CCAM-TAC promotes and facilitates human services transportation, public transportation, and non-emergency medical transportation (NEMT) coordination that advances people's access to everyday destinations. The goal of the CCAM-TAC is to support Coordinating Council on Access (CCAM) members, Federal agencies, their grantees, partners, and stakeholders in improving transportation access for people with disabilities, and older adults.

Results:

FTA competitively selected CTAA in November 2024 as the recipient of the technical assistance center. In FY 2025, CCAM-TAC established a [Federal Agency Partner Advisory Group](#) and a Content Partner Roundtable consisting of multisector CCAM stakeholders; maintained the training and technical assistance resources from NCMM—sunsetting in FY 2025—transitioning them to the new CCAM-TAC [website](#); and updated the [Community Transportation Map](#), [case studies](#), and [State-by-State profiles](#).

FTA Funding: \$2,500,000

Title: *Transit Survey Data Archiving and Analysis*

Recipient: U.S. Department of Energy, National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL)

Project Description:

The project obtains transit rider survey data from agencies and converts it to a standardized format for archival purposes. The project collects valuable transportation datasets and makes them available for research. These efforts help researchers and others gain a better understanding of the people who are riding public transit. The data will be archived on NREL's Transportation Secure Data Center ([TSDC](#)).

Results:

FTA entered into the one-time Inter-Agency Agreement (IAA) with NREL in FY 2020, which hosts TSDC and provides free access to detailed transportation data from hundreds of travel and transit surveys and studies. In FY 2025, NREL obtained and archived 30 additional transit on-board rider surveys for TSDC. The archives of these surveys provide public dissemination of transit rider surveys and access to longitudinal data. Prior to this effort, transit rider surveys collected by transit agencies were often not made public, and the data were inaccessible to researchers. Since this effort began, this data has been cited by hundreds of research papers and is publicly available on the TSDC resource for transportation planners and researchers. The research topics facilitated by the TSDC include transit accessibility, land use density and transit utilization, transportation planning, modeling, forecasting, transit policy (fares, subsidies), transit use by older adults and children, and market research.

FTA Funding: \$300,000

Title: *Transportation Capacity Building Program and Planning Methods*

Recipient: John A. Volpe National Transportation Systems Center (Volpe Center)

Project Description:

FTA entered the one-time IAA with Volpe in FY 2020. This project provides technical assistance with peer learning activities, effective practices and applied research, information development and dissemination, and program planning. The project supports peer-based events and technical assistance to build the capacity of transportation professionals by sharing experiences and lessons learned around specific planning-related topics. The project's goals are to research and document best practices, synthesize information, and conduct other targeted research on planning-related topics.

Results:

In FY 2025, the project organized peer exchanges on implementing a bus rapid transit (BRT) program along a main corridor. The project captured lessons learned from agencies that successfully implemented BRT systems, and FTA made these available on the Planning Capacity Building website.

FTA Funding: \$150,000

Title: *Innovative Uses of Simplified Trips on Project Software (STOPS)*

Recipient: Cambridge Systematics

Project Description:

STOPS is a stand-alone methodology for producing transit ridership forecasts for projects under consideration for funding in FTA's Capital Investment Grant (CIG) program. Approximately 90 percent of CIG projects requiring a travel forecast are currently using the STOPS model. The objective is to identify innovative applications beyond the CIG project evaluation.

Results:

FTA awarded the one-time project to Cambridge Systematics in FY 2024. In FY 2025, the project identified and developed four case studies for non-traditional applications of the STOPS program. The case studies involved using the STOPS model as the transit component in the Orlando Regional Travel Model and estimating potential transit ridership to Norfolk Naval Air Station, where no transit currently exists. The other two innovative uses of STOPS involve using the General Transit Feed Specification (GTFS) based path building to identify

bus and rail service attributes for an intercity rail passenger model (Washington, D.C. to Richmond, VA) and airport access models for Boston Logan and Newark International.

FTA Funding: \$150,000

Title: *Public Safety Awareness Technology Evaluation (PSATE) Project*

Recipient: Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA)

Project Description:

The purpose of this effort is to identify, test, evaluate, and document technologies to address pedestrian fatalities within and around rail systems. The goals of the project are to 1) provide technical direction and support of the contract award, administration, and execution of the evaluation project; 2) review and approve any documents, materials, and technologies resulting from the agreement effort; 3) provide guidance and technical assistance to PHMSA and the project contractor on transit riders' safety perspective and specifically on pedestrian safety for this project; and 4) post information resulting from this partnership on the FTA website.

Results:

PHMSA served as the Department lead for PSATE. FTA and other modal administrations provided technical leads for the effort. FTA's participation in PSATE concluded in FY 2025. FTA's participation contributed to three interim internal reports and recommended potential technologies for testing exposures of trespassers, vulnerable road users, pedestrians, bicyclists, etc., on or near railroad tracks.

FTA Funding: \$100,000

Standards Development

FTA funds the development of voluntary and consensus-based standards and best practices for the public transportation industry in the areas of safety, fare collection, intelligent transportation systems, accessibility, procurement, security, and asset management to maintain a state of good repair, operations, vehicle propulsion, communications, and vehicle electronics.

Title: *Transit Standards Development Program—American Public Transportation Association (APTA)*

Recipient: APTA

Project Description:

The program develops standards along with related best practices, guidance, and tools to address current and emerging industry needs in all areas of transit (e.g., safety, operations, maintenance, Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), data, emerging areas, cybersecurity, etc.). By performing a broad assessment of industry needs and stakeholder inputs, the program analyzes and prioritizes those needs with recommendations for short-term and long-term solutions by developing new standards and guidance documents.

Results:

APTA and FTA have a long working relationship with the Standards Program. The current agreement was awarded in FY 2023. In FY 2025, the program completed industry literature reviews, disseminated surveys, and developed an internal needs assessment report. This internal report identified six top standards areas based on the needs of the transit industry. FTA is considering the content of the report for standards development.

FTA Funding: \$2,974,430

Training

FTA funds a national public transportation training program that develops and conducts training and educational programs for transportation employees at the local, State, and national levels to address human resource needs as they apply to public transportation.

Title: *National Transit Institute (NTI)*

Recipient: Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey

Project Description:

FTA's Technical Assistance and Workforce Development Program (§ 5314) funds NTI (§ 5314(c)), which is housed at Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey. NTI strategically develops and delivers courses nationwide in partnership with regional transit agencies, State DOTs, municipal governments, metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs), and State and national transit-related associations.

Results:

NTI is annually funded under 49 U.S.C. § 5338(a)(2)(H). Between October 2024 and March 2025, NTI delivered 130 training courses across 36 topic areas, two Transit Academy workshops, and 11 webinars, reaching 3,463 transit and transportation professionals. NTI continued to strengthen its training portfolio through both virtual and in-person formats. NTI further enhanced its offerings by returning four courses that NTI had not offered since pre-pandemic. The courses, Disadvantaged Business Enterprise, State and Metro Transportation Planning, Transit Noise and Vibration Impact Assessment, and Intro to Transportation Conformity, were revised and relaunched.

FTA Funding: \$16,578,592

Frontline Workforce Development Program Activities

Federal public transportation law (49 U.S.C. § 5314(b)(2)(E)) requires the Secretary of Transportation to submit a report on the Frontline Workforce Development Program. In 2016, the United States House of Representatives and Senate authorizing Committees approved FTA's request to submit one combined report. This section of the report meets that requirement and provides a detailed description of frontline workforce activities carried out in FY 2025.

FTA strengthened its commitment to building a skilled, job-ready transit workforce to meet the needs of a competitive American economy. Consistent with the Administration's focus on growing the economy, FTA funded efforts to assist with frontline worker training, boost recruitment, and invest in technical assistance. Two key projects advancing this focus are the [Transit Workforce Center \(TWC\)](#), which provides national technical assistance to transit agencies, and the [Youth Voice: Sustainable Mobility Career Awareness and Innovation Challenge](#) project, which engages young adults in virtual, experiential learning to explore transportation careers and community-based solutions.

Transit Workforce Center (TWC)

The TWC, FTA's national technical assistance center for frontline workforce development, delivered high-impact support to the transit industry. Relevant results from October 2024 to May 2025 include:

- Resolved 64 technical assistance requests (including 51 from transit agencies) between January and March 2025.
- Technical assistance was provided through the help desk, webinars, in-person forums, and a new 'Mentorship Office Hours' initiative.
- Maintained a two-hour average response time and expanded its [Resource Center](#) to over 345 tools and case studies, including a new piece on [veterans in transit](#) and [strategies for youth recruitment](#).
- Hosted 20 mentorship office hour sessions with transit agencies and supported new apprenticeship development efforts with agencies.
- The TWC's American Transit Training and Apprenticeship Innovators Network ([ATTAIN](#)) grew to 210 members and continued expansion of a national map, tracking apprenticeship programs.
- Six Train-the-Trainer Level 1 courses were delivered at agencies. The TWC also engaged over 40 mentor program coordinators in recurring convenings to discuss program structure and replication strategies.

- Updated its [National Frontline Workforce Recruitment Toolkit](#) with new videos, print materials, and data. This toolkit—viewed over 12,000 times—was bolstered by the [Transit Career Stories](#) campaign, sharing real-world career journeys and expanding awareness among veterans and young adults.
- Developed three core mechanical, electrical, and computer courses as part of the new Foundational Skills Program—equipping frontline staff for emerging transit technologies.
- Updated the [Transit Workforce Data Dashboard](#), including cost-of-living-adjusted wage data and employment projections through 2033. The new Power BI platform improves usability and comparative wage analysis across agencies.

Youth Voice: Sustainable Mobility Career Awareness and Innovation Challenge Project

In FY 2025, IYAI+ advanced technical assistance, guided by participant surveys, listening sessions, and a national scan of virtual practices. Relevant results from October 2024 to May 2025 include:

- Piloted a flexible participation model adopted by more than ten local host organizations, enabling phased engagement and allowing hosts to scale their involvement based on organizational readiness and community needs.
- Delivered 15 Career Awareness webinars featuring industry professionals and youth-focused career development sessions. The webinars directly addressed participant requests from the 2023–2024 assessment for more targeted resume-building, interview preparation, and early mentorship.
- Integrated a social media storytelling component into the [Innovation Challenge](#) evaluation criteria—building on lessons learned from previous years—leading to a 30 percent increase in program visibility, team creativity, and outreach.
- Established a centralized Discord collaboration platform to facilitate peer interaction, file sharing, and real-time support across geographically dispersed youth teams—directly responding to prior participant feedback about the need for better virtual engagement tools.
- Conducted five critical conversation focus groups, where youth participants shared insights and generated recommendations on key transit workforce challenges, including operator shortages and gaps in hands-on training and mentorship.



Section 3

FY 2026 Expected Activities and Program Planning Process for Technical Assistance and Workforce Development Allocations

Each year, FTA's funding priorities include competitively selected technical assistance centers, safety technical assistance, planning activities, and mobility-related technology transfer initiatives. When finalizing annual allocations, FTA considers priorities and funding requests identified during the Presidential and Congressional Budget processes. FTA ensures Congressional requirements from yearly Appropriations legislation are addressed. FTA also asks each of its program offices to note key technical assistance projects and activities to implement priorities of the Administration. For FY 2026, FTA will prioritize the Administration's priorities to assist families, improve safety, and grow the American economy.



Acronyms and Abbreviations

AASHTO	American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials
ADA	Americans with Disabilities Act
AIM-NNET	Accelerating Innovative Mobility National Network
APTA	American Public Transportation Association
ATTAIN	American Transit Training and Apprenticeship Innovators Network
BEPS	Bus Exportable Power System
BRT	Bus Rapid Transit
CCAM-TAC	Coordinating Council on Access and Mobility Technical Assistance Center
CIG	Capital Investment Grant
CSG	The Council of State Governments
CTAA	Community Transportation Association of America
CUTR	Center for Urban Transportation Research
ECPAT-USA	End Child Prostitution and Trafficking
FY	Fiscal Year
HT	Human Resources and Training
ITLC	International Transportation Learning Center
IYAI+	Introducing Youth to American Infrastructure, Inc.
MPO	Metropolitan Planning Organization
NADTC	National Aging and Disability Transportation Center
NAS	National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine
N-CATT	National Center for Applied Transit Technology
NCMM	National Center for Mobility Management
NREL	National Renewable Energy Laboratory
NTI	National Transit Institute
OMB	The Office of Management and Budget
PHMSA	Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration
PSATE	Public Safety Awareness Technology Evaluation
R2P	Research to Practice Initiative

Std	Standards
STOPS	Simplified Trips on Project Software
SUMC	Shared-Use Mobility Center
TA	Technical Assistance
TACL	Transportation Technical Assistance Library
TACT	Transit Against Child Trafficking
TRAC	Transit Research Analysis Committee
TRB	Transportation Research Board
TRID	Transportation Research International Documentation
TSDC	Transportation Secure Data Center
TWC	Transit Workforce Center



U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Transit Administration

U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Transit Administration
East Building
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590
<https://www.transit.dot.gov/about/research-innovation>