

Safety Culture in Transit and Rail

Joe DeLorenzo

Associate Administrator and Chief Safety Officer
Office of Transit Safety Oversight

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What is a Safety Culture?



Shared Beliefs and Attitudes: How the transportation system works and what individual roles should be.



Shared Values: What is important to all public transportation system members who are responsible for safe transit systems.



Behavioral Norms: The way we do our jobs, whether observed or not.

Source: Transit Cooperative Research Program (TCRP) Report 174, 2015

Common Indicators of a Positive Safety Culture



Decisions demonstrate that safety is prioritized over competing demands (e.g., operations, on-time performance).



Leadership is committed to – and employees feel personally responsible for – safety.



Open and effective communication exists across the organization.



Reporting systems are clearly defined, and not used to punish employees.

Common Indicators of a Positive Safety Culture (cont.)



The organization practices continuous learning, supported by training and resources.



Employees and management work to foster mutual trust.



The organization responds to safety concerns consistently and fairly and the work environment is safety-conscious.

Driving Safety Culture Through Data

In a strong safety culture, *safety is the top priority* above all else.

Data can help tell the story about safety, emphasizing trends and how everyone can work together to advance positive safety outcomes.

Data from major safety and security events reported to the National Transit Database can help measure the effectiveness of mitigations.



Driving Safety Culture Through Safety Promotion (SMS)

Part 673 requires two Safety Promotion elements. The first element is:



Competencies and Training

Comprehensive safety training program for all operations transit workers and transit workers directly responsible for safety. Large urbanized area providers must include maintenance transit workers in the training program.



Driving Safety Culture Through Safety Promotion (SMS)

The second Part 673 Safety Promotion element is:

Safety Communication

Communicate safety and safety performance throughout the agency. Remember to:

- ✓ Include information on hazards and safety risks relevant to transit workers' roles and responsibilities.
- ✓ Inform transit workers of agency's safety actions taken in response to reports submitted through a transit worker safety reporting program.
- ✓ Communicate the results of cooperation with frontline transit worker representatives or Safety Committee activities.

Thank you!

Joe DeLorenzo

joseph.delorenzo@dot.gov



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