



FTA's Office of Research, Demonstration (TRI) furthers FTA's mission to improve communities through public transportation by accelerating innovation that enhances everyone's safety, improves equitable mobility, refines transit operations, and fosters clean energy. TRI manages transit training, bus testing, technical assistance, and workforce development for FTA. Key initiatives include:

Safety: Ensuring safety is FTA's top research priority. TRI's research addresses bus operator safety, track worker safety, rail crossing safety, safety standards, and reducing injuries/fatalities related to suicides. Other safety-related work includes de-escalation training and battery electric bus maintenance training to help transit technicians transition to battery electric buses from diesel buses. Future training will include maintenance for hydrogen fuel cell buses.

Innovative Mobility: FTA has a long history of furthering accessible mobility across all aspects of a complete trip. Research projects focus on transit automation, integrated multi-modal payment, data integration to provide rider information, and enhanced mobility through micromobility and microtransit. This research is connecting communities and addressing equity. To support equity, FTA funds projects to assess the results of innovative ways to increase access to transportation.

Transit Workforce Development: This area includes 1) technical assistance and 2) training. FTA funds the National Transit Institute, which provides public transit training. FTA also funds the Transit Workforce Center (TWC) to lead activities to help transit agencies recruit, retain, and train the workforce of today and tomorrow. The TWC develops recruitment materials, assists with workforce development for low- or no-emissions bus programs, and collects statistical information on the transit workforce. TWC staff also provide targeted technical assistance to transit agencies on a host of topics.

Transit Infrastructure, Labs and Bus Testing: FTA funds the Bus Testing Center at the University of Pennsylvania's Larson Transportation Institute. Additionally, FTA funds low or no-emissions component testing and related research at Low or No-Component Testing Centers at The Ohio State University and Auburn University. FTA also supports broad-based advanced technology and component research at the Transit Vehicle Innovative Deployment Centers at CALSTART and the Center for Technology and the Environment. This research builds resiliency and addresses climate and sustainability. FTA's transit infrastructure research leverages advanced technologies to improve asset management.



For more information, visit

www.transit.dot.gov/research-innovation