

# FTA

FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION

## Office of Program Oversight: Updates and FY16 Initiatives

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# Overview

- Program Oversight
- OIG Program Oversight Audit
- Annual Program Oversight Lifecycle
- Triennial and State Management Review Programs
  - Looking back at FY15
  - Findings trends
  - Looking ahead to FY16
- Oversight Initiatives
  - Contractor summits
  - Oversight workshops
  - Online training
  - Enhanced technical assistance

# What is Program Oversight?

- Program Oversight reviews confirm and promote compliance with Federal grant requirements.
- Fiduciary responsibility to prevent and identify improper payments and to ensure every dollar counts toward improving public transit.
- Comprehensive Reviews (Triennial & State Management)
  - Occur every three years
  - Forward Looking instead of reactive
  - Assess Management Practices and Program Implementation
- Specialized Reviews (Financial, Procurement, & Civil Rights)
  - Occur at FTA's discretion
  - Focus on specific areas of Federal compliance

# OIG Program Oversight Audit

- August 2012: OIG report “Improvements Needed in FTA’s Grant Oversight Program”
- Six recommendations for FTA have two major themes:
  - Consistency
  - Quality Assurance
- Additional staff required to develop and implement:
  - QA Enhancements
  - Update of internal Findings Management process
  - Revision of internal Performance Measures

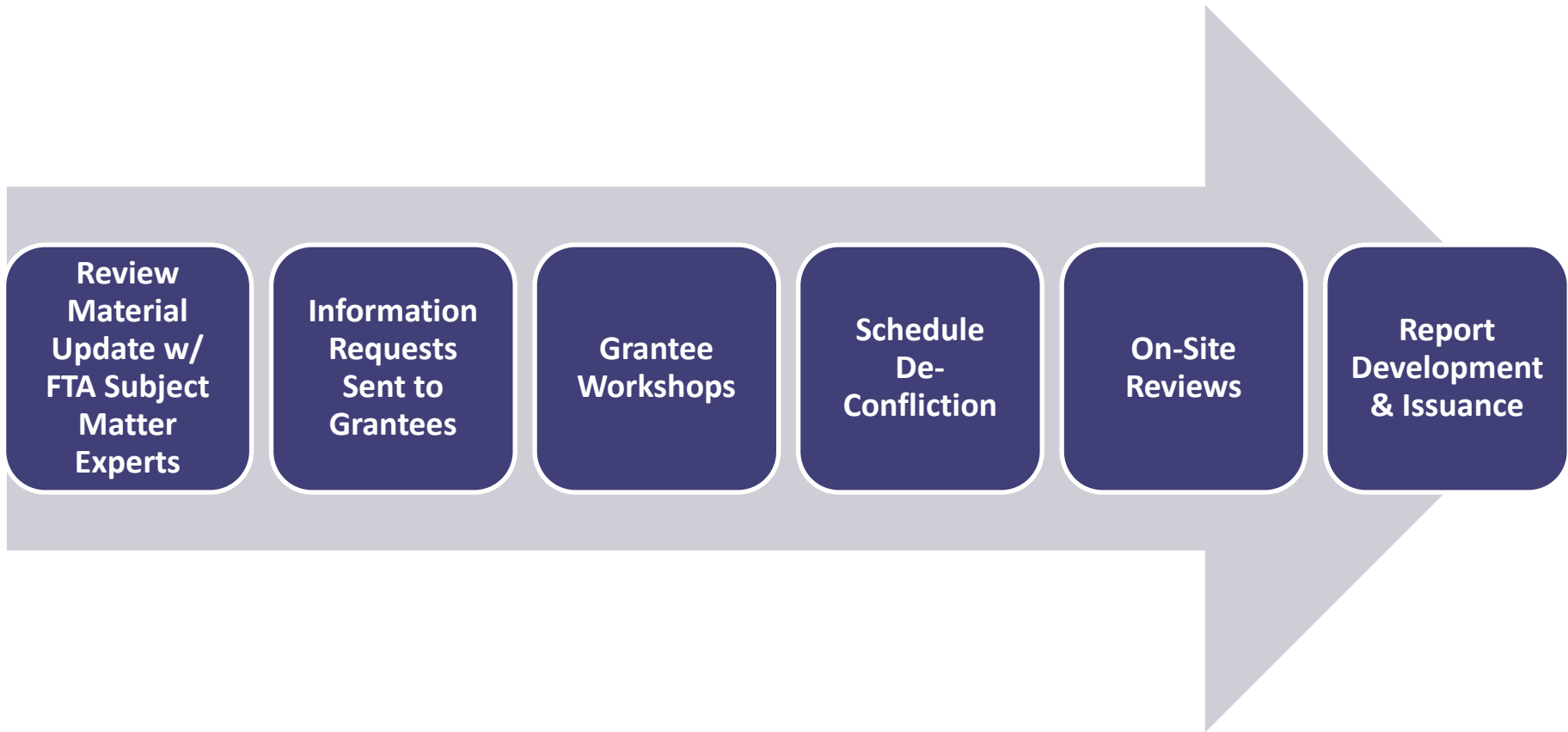
# Our Goals for FY16

- Better alignment and streamlining of review program schedules through the Program Oversight Lifecycle
- Address GAO/OIG recommendations from previous audits
- Improved review consistency in
  - Process
  - Findings
  - Corrective Actions
- More proactive approach focused on
  - Improving grantee compliance
  - Capacity building for grantees

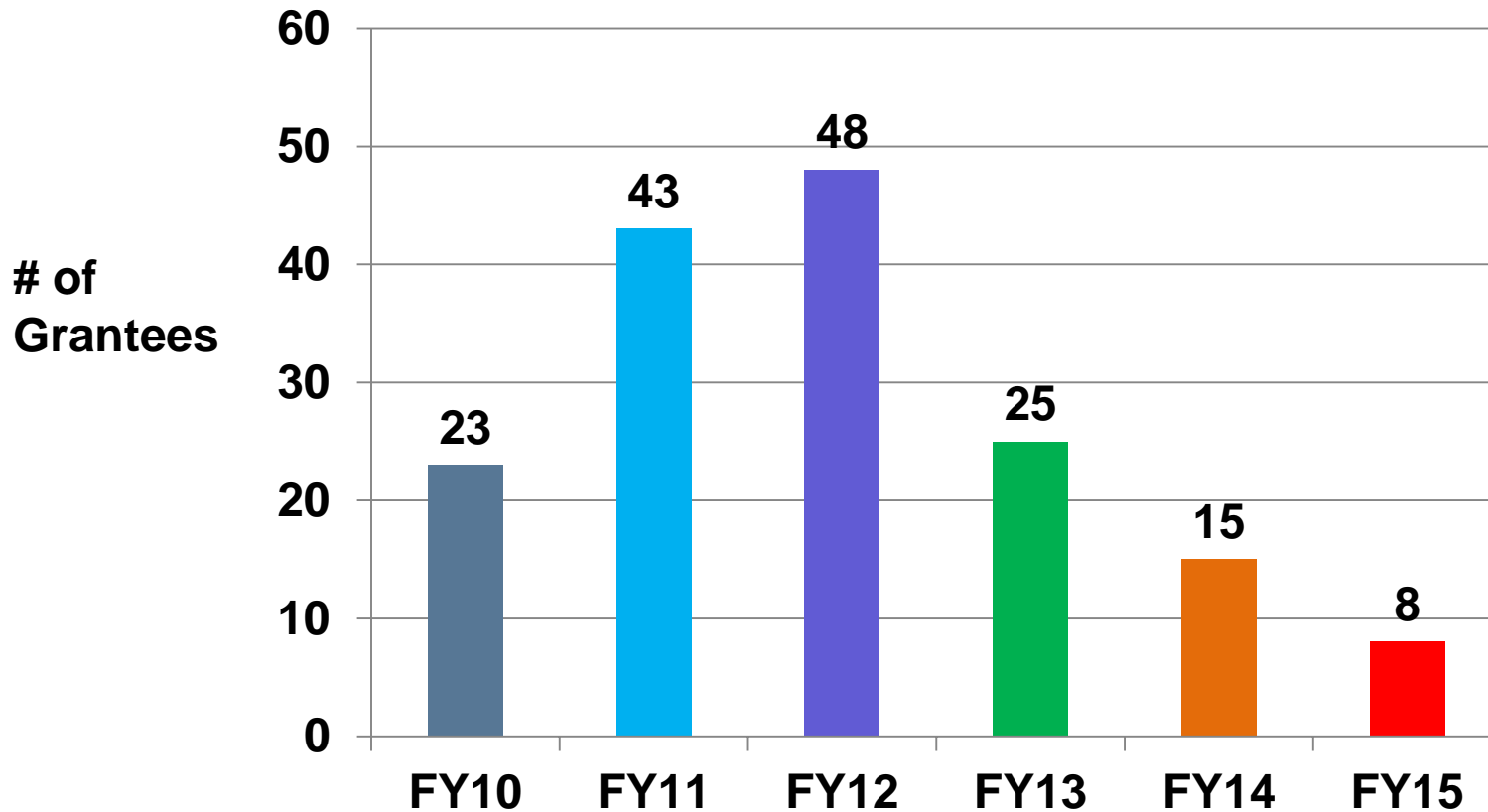
# Oversight Lifecycle

- Framework and schedule for Program Oversight reviews
- Guide FTA workflow and provide holistic view of dependent processes
- Ensure efficient use of contractor and regional staff time and help balance work throughout the year
- Allow FTA to better coordinate reviews to avoid overlap, conflicts, and overburdening grantees
- Provide grantees with better consistency in timing/scheduling

# Annual Program Oversight Lifecycle



# Grantees Receiving Multiple Reviews\*



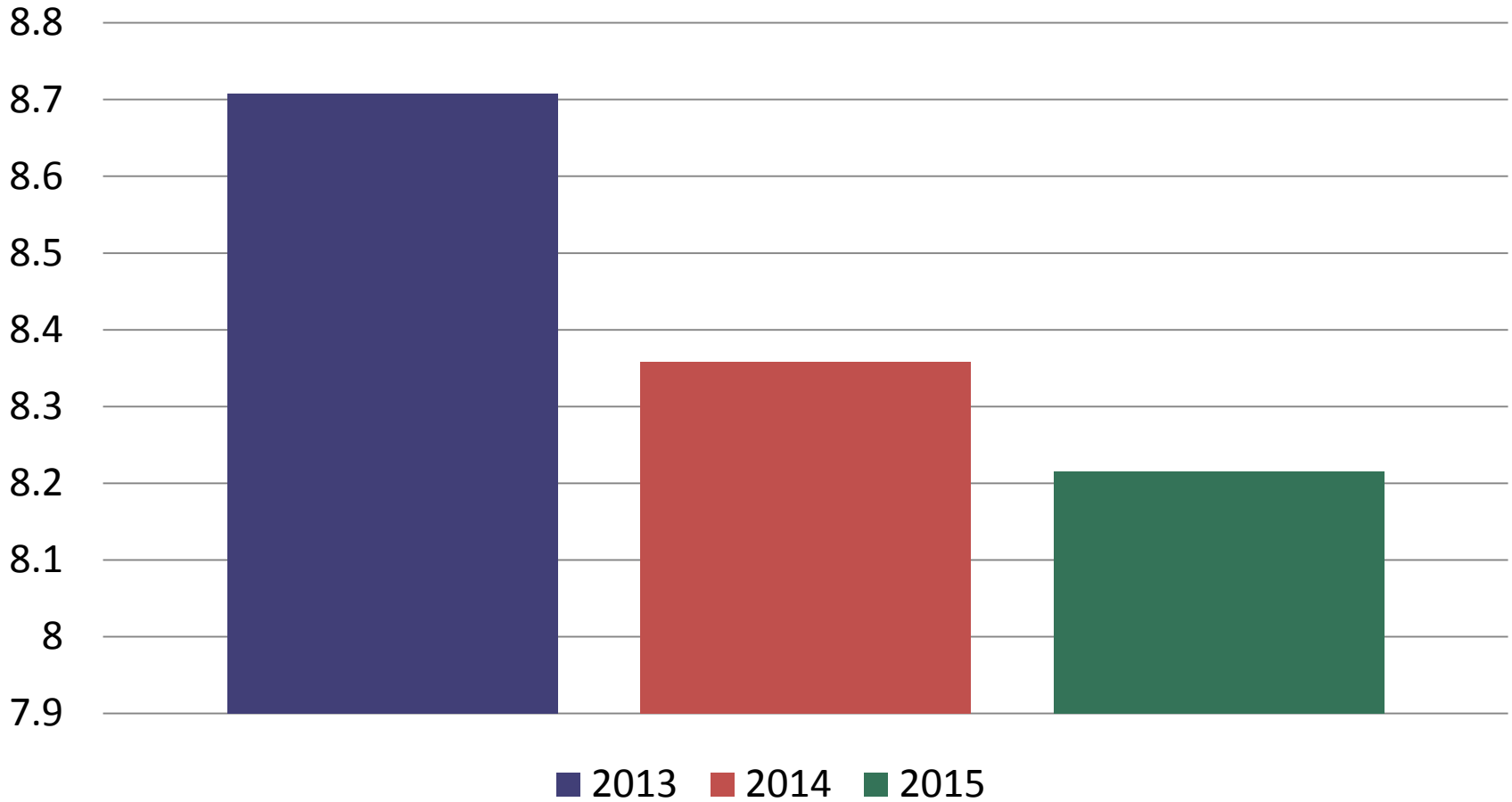
\*Excludes Drug & Alcohol Compliance Audits, which will be incorporated into the process in FY16.



# FY15 Triennial & State Management Review Programs

	Triennial Review		State Management Review
<b>Reviews</b>	209		18
<b>Workshops</b>	18		8
<b>Enhanced Review Modules (91)</b>	ADA	15	
	DBE	22	
	Financial Capacity	4	
	Financial Management	9	
	Maintenance	4	
	Procurement	15	
	Technical Capacity	18	
	Title VI	4	

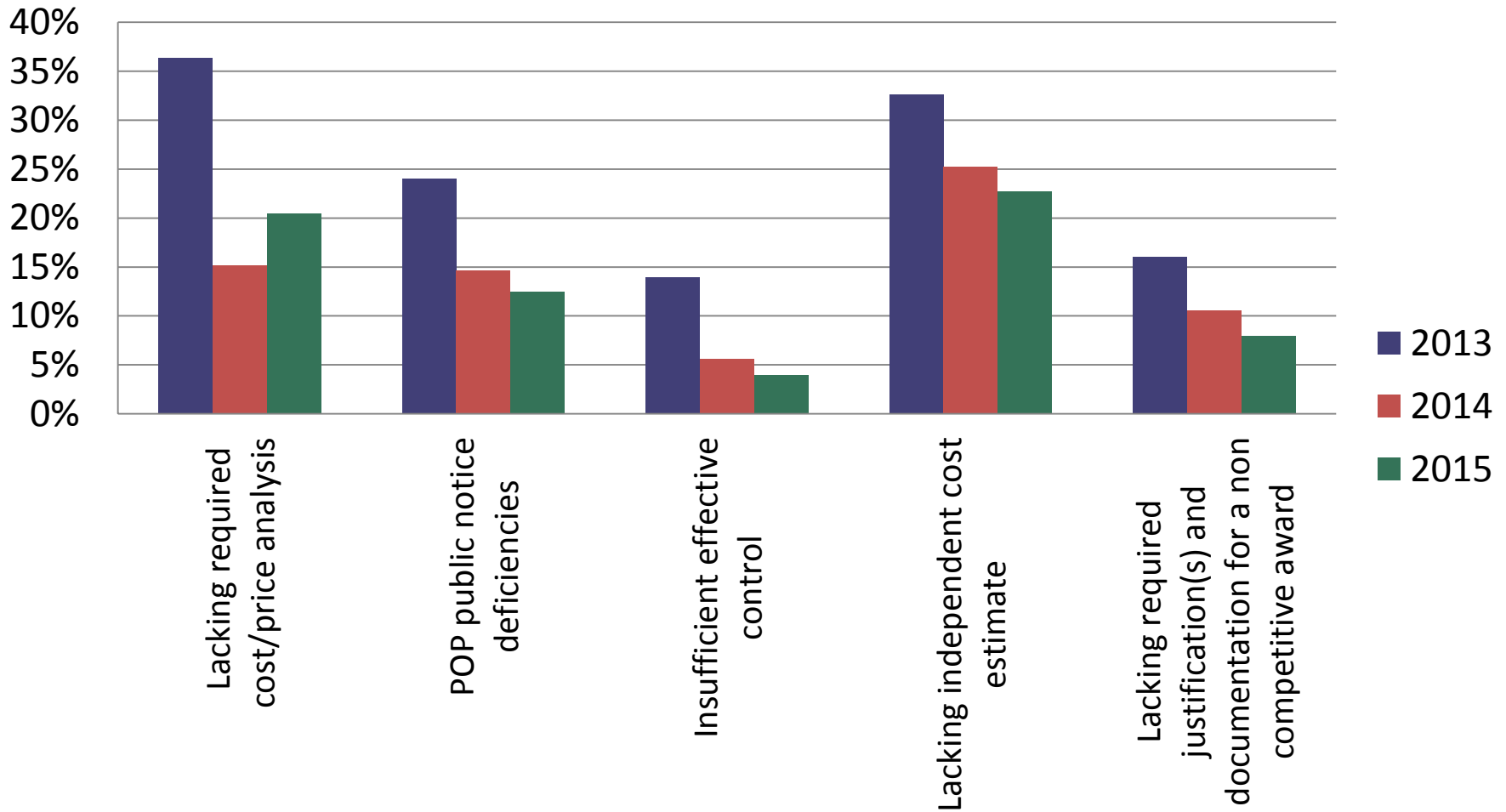
# Average Findings per Review



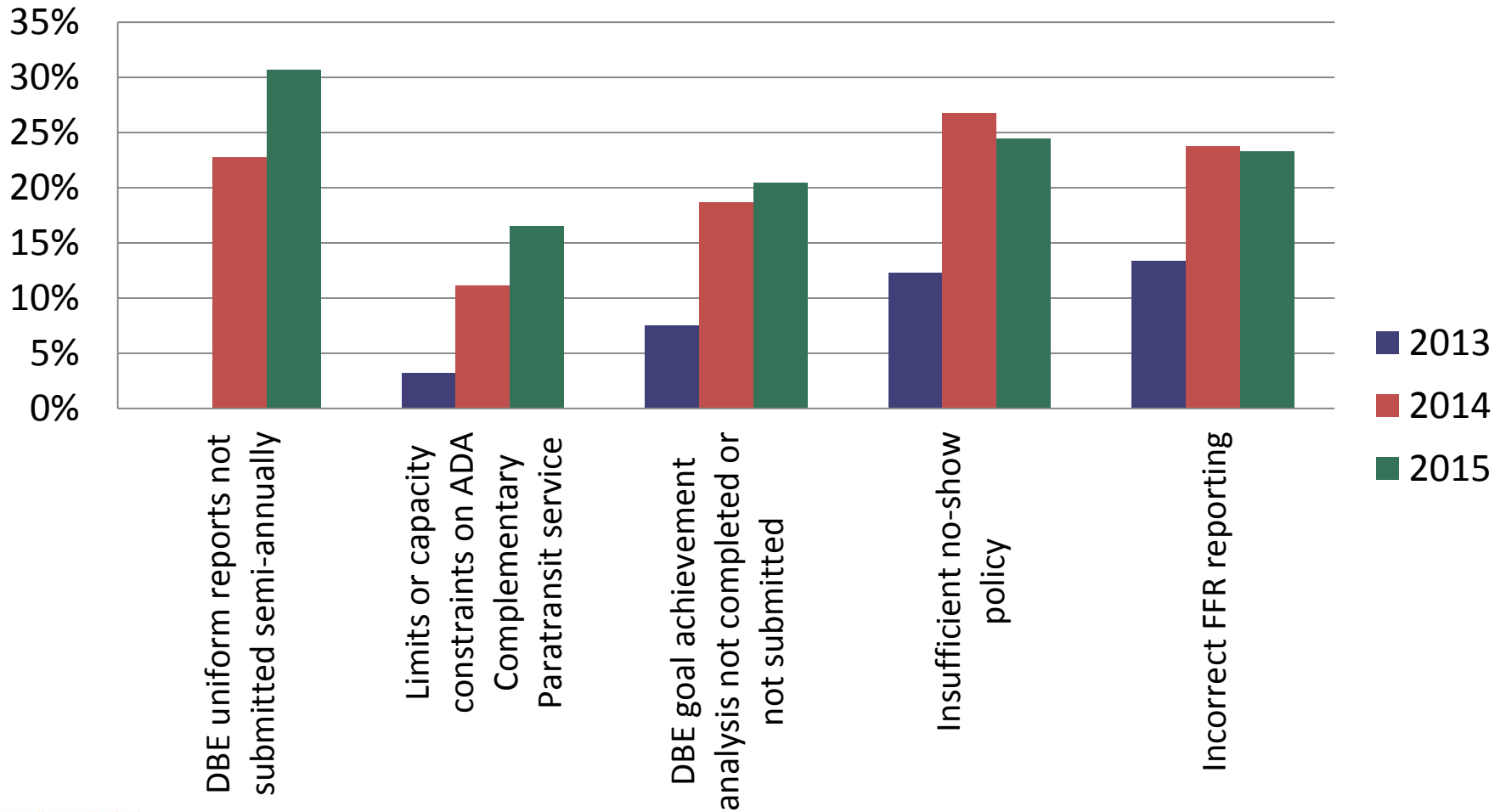
## Most Prevalent Triennial Review Findings FY13-FY15

2013	2014	2015
Lacking required cost/price analysis	Insufficient no-show policy	DBE uniform reports not submitted semi-annually
<b>Lacking independent cost estimate</b>	<b>Lacking independent cost estimate</b>	<b>No verification that excluded parties are not participating</b>
<b>No verification that excluded parties are not participating</b>	Incorrect FFR reporting	<b>No FTA clauses</b>
POP public notice deficiencies	<b>Procurement policies and procedures not evident</b>	Insufficient no-show policy
<b>No FTA clauses</b>	DBE uniform reports not submitted semi-annually	Incorrect FFR reporting
Facility/equipment maintenance plan lacking or inadequate	<b>No FTA clauses</b>	<b>Lacking independent cost estimate</b>
Lacking required justification(s) and documentation for a non competitive award	DBE goal achievement analysis not completed or not submitted	DBE goal achievement analysis not completed or not submitted
ADA Complementary Paratransit service deficiencies	<b>No verification that excluded parties are not participating</b>	Lacking required cost/price analysis
<b>Procurement policies and procedures not evident</b>	Progress reports lack required information	Facility/equipment maintenance plan lacking or inadequate
Inactive grants/untimely closeouts	ADA Complementary Paratransit service deficiencies	<b>Procurement policies and procedures not evident</b>

# Top 5 Most Improved Findings



# Top 5 Least Improved Findings



# Looking Ahead to the FY16 Review Cycle

	Triennial Review		State Management Review
<b>Reviews</b>	205		17
<b>Workshops</b>	18		8
<b>Workshop locations</b>	Boston, MA New York, NY* Philadelphia, PA Arlington, VA Baltimore, MD** Tallahassee, FL Atlanta, GA	San Juan, PR Baton Rouge, LA Ft. Worth, TX Chicago, IL* Kansas City, MO Denver, CO San Francisco, CA Los Angeles, CA Seattle, WA	Boston, MA Baltimore, MD** Atlanta, GA Chicago, IL Ft Worth, TX Denver, CO Sacramento, CA Seattle, WA

\* Two workshops in these cities

\*\* Combined TR/SMR workshop

# FY16 Program Highlights

- Pilot Triennial Review Workshop Webinar
- Pilot Combined TR/SMR Workshop in Baltimore, MD
- Major update to Procurement System Review program guide and materials

# Contractor Summit

- Purpose: Bring review contractors together to foster greater consistency in the review process
- Process:
  - Pilot summit will focus on Triennial Review and SMR contractors
  - Presentations to reinforce FTA priorities, program updates and changes, trends, and experiences
  - Interactive scenarios/exercises involving actual review findings
  - Discussion/brainstorming about improving consistency
- Intended outcomes:
  - Understand inconsistencies in findings and corrective actions
  - Identify where and why those differences originate
  - Determine need for updates, education, and better communication



# Oversight Workshop Program

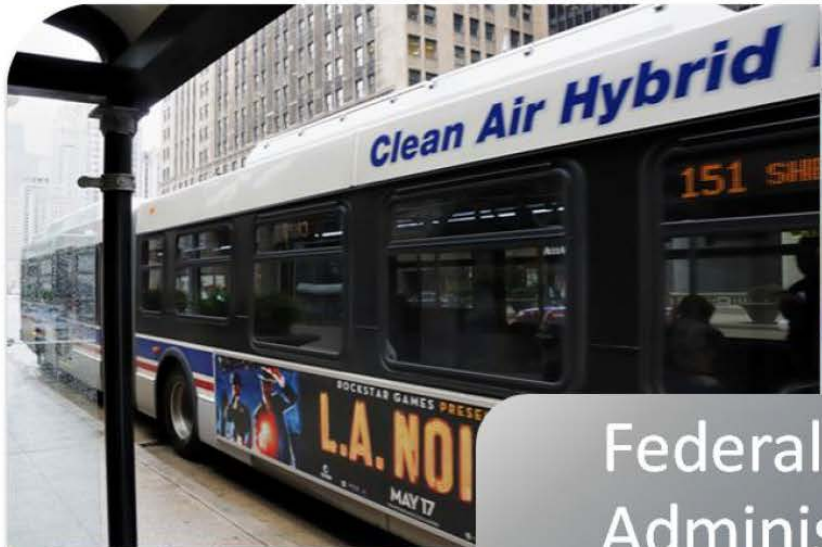
- Purpose: Improve consistency across review programs and communicate FTA's oversight responsibilities, processes, and expectations in a unified forum
- Process:
  - Merge program workshops into a single Oversight Workshop
  - Identify and consolidate common content for plenary sessions
  - Separate tracks/breakouts for topic areas
  - More interactive exercises and real world examples
  - Significant participation by grantees
- Intended outcomes:
  - Increased grantee attendance and participation
  - Clearer, more consistent information about programs and processes
  - More proactive approach with grantees
  - Greater convenience and flexibility

# Online Training Program

- Purpose: Provide additional opportunities for grantees to learn about and understand FTA's oversight review process
- Process:
  - Develop webinars
  - Develop online training modules covering key topics
  - Webinar topics and online modules to be developed in consultation with grantees, regions, program offices, and review contractors
- Intended outcomes:
  - Reinforce information provided at Oversight Workshops
  - Refresher for workshop participants in advance of review
  - Capacity building for grantee staff

# Enhanced Technical Assistance

- Purpose: Provide more targeted and effective technical assistance to grantees in order to reduce overall findings, resolve open ones, and prevent repeat findings.
- Process:
  - Identify and understand current and anticipated assistance
  - Identify gaps in assistance to determine areas of need
  - Initiate proactive assistance for grantees
  - Focus on capacity building in addition to resolution of specific issues
  - Create a feedback mechanism and evaluation process
- Intended outcomes:
  - Higher compliance rates (fewer findings)
  - Better relationships between FTA and transit industry



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