

FTA

FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION

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Safety Culture & Safety Management Systems: The Role of Employee Safety Reporting

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Overview

- FTA initiatives
- Safety culture & SMS – how are they linked?
- Example: Implementing an effective employee safety reporting program

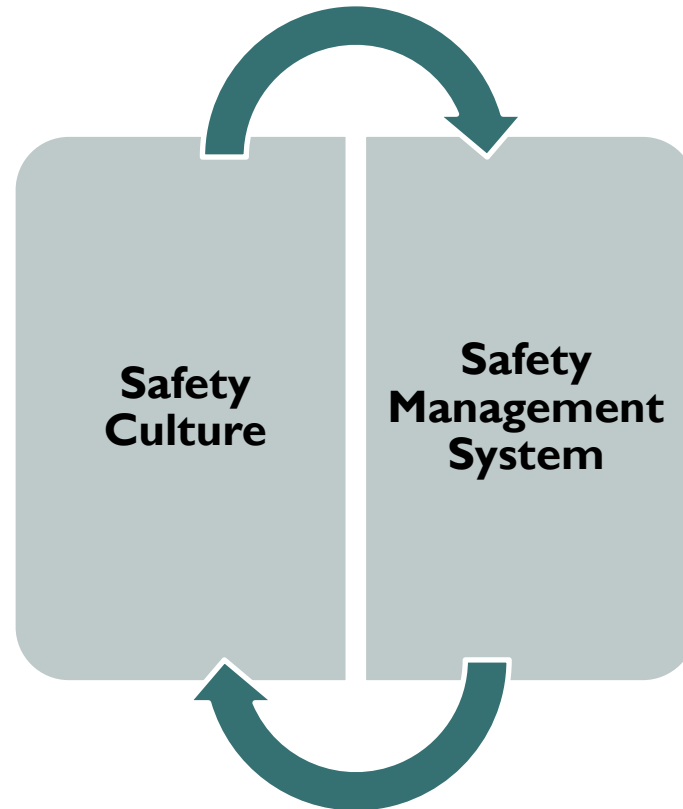
FTA Initiatives

The FTA has adopted the principles and methods of Safety Management Systems (SMSs) as the basis of its Safety Program.

- Safety rulemaking
- Research & pilot programs
 - SMS Implementation Pilot Program
 - Employee Safety Reporting Demonstration Project
- Training & technical assistance

Safety Culture & SMSs

The shared values, actions, and behaviors that demonstrate a commitment to safety over competing goals and demands.




Formal, top-down, organization-wide, data-driven approach to managing safety risk and assuring the effectiveness of safety risk mitigations.

Source: U.S. DOT Safety Council

Source: FTA SMS Framework

An SMS can help an organization build and maintain a strong safety culture.

Safety culture challenges:

- Distrust; suspect different priorities
 - Decisions seem arbitrary or uninformed
 - Tough decisions seem to be avoided
 - Lack of transparency
 - People don't seem to be held accountable
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With an effective SMS:

- Awareness and learning are valued
- Decisions informed by safety risk
- Priorities and expectations are explicit and widely communicated
- Clear and consistent accountability
- Focus on achieving safety outcomes
- Transparent, repeated processes
- Continuous improvement

Example: Building a strong safety culture through an employee safety reporting program.



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