



# Transit Safety and Oversight Spotlight

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Office of Transit Safety and Oversight

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## Message from the Associate Administrator

Dear Transit Colleagues,

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) seeks to improve every facet of transit safety through innovation. To support innovative development of technologies and grow small businesses, FTA participates in the Small Business Innovation Research Program (SBIR). Across the US Department of Transportation, all modes, including FTA, set-aside a portion of their research budget for SBIR grants. Phase I grants are typically \$150,000, and are given to develop a solution through a specific solicitation by FTA. Phase II grants are follow-on awards, up to \$750,000, given when a SBIR grantee achieves success in Phase I - including showing how they will effectively develop and market their solution.

FTA is currently funding three SBIR projects: a pedestrian and cyclist detection device for transit buses, an automated passenger counting and re-identification system for transit buses with potential to be used in large public facilities such as subway and train stations, and automated multi-pedestrian warning sensors to alert transit bus drivers about pedestrian volume at intersections.

This spring, we will highlight some of FTA's innovative safety research projects in our newsletter. Please keep an eye out for these stories in the coming months, and as always, we welcome your feedback at [FTASafetyStakeholder@dot.gov](mailto:FTASafetyStakeholder@dot.gov).

I also want to remind readers of the upcoming deadlines for State Safety Oversight (SSO) program certification. With the deadline nearly one year away, it is very important that states have submitted their applications to FTA by April 15, 2018 or no later than September 30, 2018 after which states should not assume a certification decision can be made by the April 15, 2019 deadline. The [certification status table](#) has updates on each state's progress. We are working diligently to ensure that all SSO Agencies are advancing through the application process to be certified by the April 15, 2019 deadline.

Thank you for working with us to keep public transit safe.

Sincerely,

Thomas Littleton, PhD



Thomas Littleton, PhD,  
Associate Administrator, Office of  
Transit Safety and Oversight

## Upcoming Safety Training

The FTA sponsors several safety training courses, including those listed below. The [complete schedule](#) of training courses offered in FY2018 is available on FTA's safety website. Please contact the FTA-sponsored [Transportation Safety Institute \(TSI\)](#) at (405) 954-3682 for safety training registration and course information. Individuals may contact [Dakisha Spratling](#) to request an [Individual Training Plan \(ITP\)](#). Participants in the Interim Provisions, a rule requiring training for rail safety personnel, have three years to complete the requirements in their ITP.

Courses Required by the Interim Provisions (RAIL)*		
Effectively Managing Transit Emergencies	Arlington Heights, IL (reg. closed) Tampa, FL Seattle, WA Houston, TX	May 1-4 May 15-18 July 10-13 July 31-Aug. 3
Transit Rail System Safety	Boston, MA Minneapolis, MN	Apr. 23-27 June 25-29
Transit System Security	Orange, CA Las Vegas, NV Ft. Worth, TX Cleveland, OH	Apr. 23-27 May 21-25 June 25-29 July 9-13
Transit Rail Incident Investigation	Landover, MD Chicago, IL Boston, MA	Apr. 9-13 May 21-25 June 4-8
SMS Awareness (eLearning)	Go to <a href="http://tsi.dot.gov">tsi.dot.gov</a>	Available 24/7
SMS Safety Assurance	Virtual-Live Training	Apr. 10 May 17 June 19 July 19
SMS Principles for Transit	Brooklyn, NY Atlanta, GA Oklahoma City, OK El Paso, TX Washington, DC Houston, TX	Apr. 4-6 Apr. 18-20 Apr. 25-27 May 21-23 June 6-8 June 20-22

\*Applies to FTA, SSOA, and rail transit agency personnel/contractors who conduct safety audits and examinations of public transportation systems not subject to Federal Railroad Administration regulation, as well as rail transit system employees who are directly responsible for safety oversight.

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<b>Additional Courses Available in FY2018</b>		
<b>Bus &amp; Rail Courses (In-Person)</b>		
Transit Supervisor Certification Course	Sacramento, CA Oklahoma City, OK	Apr. 23-27 June 4-8
Substance Abuse Management and Program Compliance	Kansas City, MO Charlottesville, VA Richland, WA	Mar. 13-15 April 3-5 July 18-20
Reasonable Suspicion and Post-Accident Testing Determination Seminar	Kansas City, MO Charlottesville, VA	Mar. 16 Apr. 6
Transit Industrial Safety Management	Charlotte, NC Cleveland, OH	May 7-11 June 11-15
Transit Safety & Security Audit Course	Columbia, SC Seattle, WA	Apr. 18-20 May 9-11
Advanced Rail Incident Investigation	Philadelphia, PA	Apr. 23-27
Instructor's Course for Transit Trainers	Boston, MA Oklahoma City, OK Salt Lake City, UT Orange, CA Las Vegas, NV	Mar. 26-30 Apr. 16-20 May 21-25 June 4-8 July 16-20
<b>eLearning Courses (Web-Based)</b>		
Curbing Transit Employee Distracted Driving	Go to <a href="http://tsi.dot.gov">tsi.dot.gov</a>	Available 24/7
Fatigue and Sleep Apnea Awareness for Transit Employees	Go to <a href="http://tsi.dot.gov">tsi.dot.gov</a>	Available 24/7
Rail Nomenclature	Go to <a href="http://tsi.dot.gov">tsi.dot.gov</a>	Available 24/7
Transit Asset Management Training: Calculating Performance Measures and Setting Targets	Go to <a href="http://tsi.dot.gov">tsi.dot.gov</a>	Available 24/7

<b>Voluntary Interim Provisions Courses (BUS)</b>		
Fundamentals of Bus Collision Investigation	Honolulu, HI Fairfax, VA Boston, MA Denver, CO Clemson, SC	Mar. 12-16 Apr. 30-May 4 May 14-18 June 11-15 June 25-29
Transit Bus System Safety	Tampa, FL St. Louis, MO Charlottesville, VA Denton, TX Boston, MA	Mar. 19-23 Apr. 9-13 Apr. 30-May 4 July 9-13 July 30-Aug 3
Advanced Problems in Bus Collision Investigation	San Bernardino, CA Landover, MD	Apr. 9-13 July 16-20

## Questions on DOT/FTA Significant Rulemakings?

We receive frequent questions from the industry on our proposed and final rulemakings. You can find answers and updates on significant rulemakings from FTA and the U.S. Department of Transportation [on our website](#).

DOT provides [this report](#) to inform the public regarding its regulatory activities, and this information can be used along with other tools available to the public. For instance, by using the Docket Number when it is provided in the Report, you can locate the public docket for a particular rulemaking. [This page](#) will be updated with the latest news and information. *For more information, contact FTA's Candace Key at [Candace.Key@dot.gov](mailto:Candace.Key@dot.gov).*

### FTA Issues Two-Hour Accident Notification Guide

The State Safety Oversight (SSO) rule at 49 CFR, Part 674 requires rail transit agencies (RTAs) to notify their SSO Agencies (SSOAs) and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) within two hours of any accident occurring on a rail fixed guideway public transportation system.

The [Two-Hour Accident Notification Guide](#) and [Two-Hour Accident Notification Quick Reference Checklist](#) provide guidance to RTAs on identifying accidents that require two-hour notification and how to notify FTA. The guidance documents can also be found by visiting [FTA's SSO Program website](#).

Please note, an RTA must provide the two-hour accident notification to FTA required under Part 674 once its SSO Program is certified by FTA or after April 15, 2019, whichever occurs first. Until a state's SSO Program is certified, an RTA must only continue to provide two-hour notifications to its SSOA as required by 49 CFR Part 659.



#### How do I notify FTA of an accident?

Contact the U.S. Department of Transportation Crisis Management Center (CMC) within two hours of a reportable accident, by email (recommended method) or phone: [CMC-01@dot.gov](mailto:CMC-01@dot.gov) or (202) 366-1863.

When providing two-hour notifications, please submit accident information details as specified by your SSOA's program standard. SSO-required notifications may include, but are not limited to, a summary of the event and pertinent details such as the number of fatalities, the number of serious injuries (including type of injury if known) and primary and secondary event types (e.g. collision, derailment, fire, etc.).

*For more information, contact FTA's Maria Wright at [Maria.I.Wright@dot.gov](mailto:Maria.I.Wright@dot.gov).*

## FTA Hosts Safety Discussion with APTA Staff

On February 12, 2018, TSO's Associate Administrator Thomas Littleton, PhD, hosted a meeting with Polly Hanson, the American Public Transportation Association (APTA)'s Director of Security Risk and Emergency Management; Brian Alberts, APTA Director of Safety; and Narayana Sundaram, APTA Director of Engineering and Commuter Rail Operations to discuss regulatory updates, standards development, SSO certification status, the role of FTA regional safety officers and a plan for future meetings in 2018.



*Thomas Littleton, PhD, discusses FTA safety priorities with APTA's Brian Alberts, Polly Hanson, and Narayana Sundaram.*

For more information, contact FTA's Donna Aggazio at [Donna.Aggazio@dot.gov](mailto:Donna.Aggazio@dot.gov).

## Upcoming TSO Speaking Events

### [13th Annual Drug and Alcohol Program National Conference](#)

Fort Lauderdale, FL

May 8-10, 2018

Registration open

### **State Safety Oversight (SSO) Training Workshop**

Washington, DC

May 15-17, 2018

Open to SSO program managers and contract support.

Additional details will be emailed soon.

### [APTA Rail Conference](#)

Denver, CO

June 11-12, 2018

### [SafeRail Conference](#)

Washington, DC

June 11-12, 2018



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Federal Transit  
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<https://www.fta.dot.gov/regulations-and-guidance/safety/>