



Transit Safety and Oversight Spotlight

Federal Transit Administration
Office of Transit Safety and Oversight

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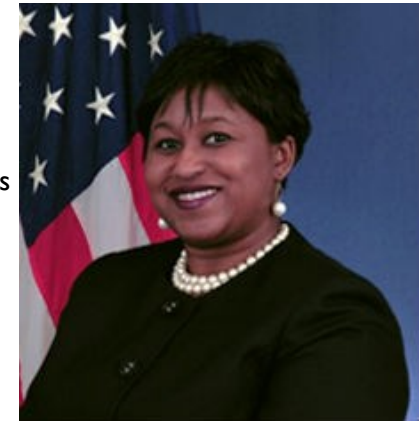
Message from the Acting Associate Administrator

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Dear Transit Colleagues,

I am thrilled to introduce myself as FTA's Acting Associate Administrator for the Office of Transit Safety and Oversight (TSO).

My experience in providing capital and operating assistance as FTA's Associate Administrator for the Office of Program Management (TPM) uniquely situates me to help TSO move forward. Before TSO became its own office, safety and oversight were part of TPM, so I am deeply familiar with and committed to TSO's work to promote safe transit and effective oversight. Working with Deputy Associate Administrator Angela Dluger and the entire TSO team, we will ensure the success of FTA's role in advancing our prominent safety and program oversight responsibilities.



Henrika Buchanan, Acting Associate Administrator for Transit Safety and Oversight

I'm looking forward to participating in the State Safety Oversight (SSO) Program Managers Training Workshop, taking place May 15-17 in Bethesda, MD. Workshop sessions will address topical safety issues relevant to rail transit safety oversight, ranging from SSO agency staff development to post-certification oversight. In addition to several FTA presenters, we will be joined by guest speakers from the National Safety Council, National Transportation Safety Board, Operation Lifesaver, and the American Public Transportation Association. FTA Acting Administrator K. Jane Williams, who worked closely with the SSO program during her time at the Maryland Department of Transportation, will kick off the workshop.

The workshop will also feature safety training critical to the SSO program certification process and offer a chance for those states still working toward certification to discuss the process face-to-face with FTA. There are 30 states that must meet the SSO requirements. As of May 14, FTA has certified 12, with the remaining states in stage three of the four-stage certification process. FTA's [certification status table](#) has updates on each state's progress.

I look forward to working with you in the coming months to keep public transit safe.

Sincerely,
Henrika Buchanan

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](#) or [Rhoderick Ramsey](#) to request an [Individual Training Plan \(ITP\)](#). Participants in the Interim Provisions have three years to complete the requirements in their ITP.

Courses Required by the Interim Provisions (RAIL)*		
Effectively Managing Transit Emergencies	Tampa, FL Seattle, WA Houston, TX	May 15-18 July 10-13 July 31-Aug. 3
Transit Rail System Safety	Minneapolis, MN Atlanta, GA	June 25-29 Aug. 27-31
Transit System Security	Las Vegas, NV Ft. Worth, TX Cleveland, OH San Francisco, CA Boston, MA	May 21-25 June 25-29 July 9-13 Aug. 6-10 Aug. 20-24
Transit Rail Incident Investigation	Chicago, IL Boston, MA Portland, OR	May 21-25 June 4-8 Aug. 6-10
SMS Awareness (eLearning)	Go to tsi.dot.gov	Available 24/7
SMS Safety Assurance	Virtual-Live Training	May 17 June 19 July 19 Aug. 21
SMS Principles for Transit	El Paso, TX Washington, DC Houston, TX	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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Additional Courses Available in FY2018		
Bus & Rail Courses (In-Person)		
Transit Supervisor Certification Course	Oklahoma City, OK	June 4-8
Substance Abuse Management and Program Compliance	Largo, MD Richland, WA Houston, TX	June 26-28 July 18-20 Aug. 14-16
Reasonable Suspicion and Post-Accident Testing Determination Seminar	Largo, MD Houston, TX	June 29 Aug. 17
Transit Industrial Safety Management	Cleveland, OH	June 11-15
Transit Safety & Security Audit Course	Philadelphia, PA	Aug. 15-17
Instructor's Course for Transit Trainers	Salt Lake City, UT Orange, CA Las Vegas, NV Owensboro, KY	May 21-25 June 4-8 July 16-20 Aug. 13-17
eLearning Courses (Web-Based)		
Curbing Transit Employee Distracted Driving	Go to tsi.dot.gov	Available 24/7
Fatigue and Sleep Apnea Awareness for Transit Employees	Go to tsi.dot.gov	Available 24/7
Rail Nomenclature	Go to tsi.dot.gov	Available 24/7
Transit Asset Management Training: Calculating Performance Measures and Setting Targets	Go to tsi.dot.gov	Available 24/7

Voluntary Interim Provisions Courses (BUS)		
Fundamentals of Bus Collision Investigation	Denver, CO Clemson, SC Seattle, WA	June 11-15 June 25-29 Aug. 13-17
Transit Bus System Safety	Denton, TX Boston, MA San Diego, CA	July 9-13 July 30-Aug 3 Aug. 27-31
Advanced Problems in Bus Collision Investigation	Landover, MD	July 16-20

Safety Research Spotlight

MARTA's Wayside Worker Protection Project Aims to Improve Roadway Worker Safety

FTA's safety research programs provide technical and financial support for transit agencies to pursue innovative approaches to improving transit safety. To help get the word out about important research being conducted at transit agencies across the country, the TSO Spotlight will regularly highlight some of these projects, starting this month with the Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority's (MARTA) Wayside Worker Protection Project.

MARTA's project aims to improve track worker safety and reduce hazards associated with track inspection, maintenance, and repair by testing, installing, and demonstrating a secondary wayside worker protection technology, designed by Bombardier, within their rail system. The technology is intended to serve as a backup to primary wayside worker protections, such as the transit agency's internal policies and procedures for keeping workers safe. MARTA initially undertook the effort of validating the viability of the prototype system along a

selection of Green Line track in 2012 through a demonstration project with FTA. In 2015, FTA selected the Wayside Worker Protection Project to receive funding for further development and testing, enabling MARTA to demonstrate the system on a six-mile segment of their Red Line track during revenue service.

Bombardier's wayside worker protection system uses Radio-Frequency Identification (RFID) technology to monitor roadway workers' positions along a track. To do this, roadway workers are equipped with an RFID tag, typically embedded in a wristband or ID card. The workers at MARTA use the RFID chip embedded into their wayside certification badge to "tag in" at a wayside access unit before entering the track and "tag out" when they exit. As the workers proceed along the track, they tag in at various checkpoints. This creates an "Alert Warning Zone" and automatically illuminates LED lights and audio alerts at those wayside access points that warn train operators of roadway workers' presence. The train operator sees warning lights at the edge of a station platform when there are roadway workers between that station and the next. As the train operator gets closer to the workers' area, the system activates wayside lights and audio alerts with increasing frequency. Roadway workers receive warning signals through a device that is wearable on a belt or lanyard, in a pocket, or as part of their personal protective equipment vest. As a train enters an Alert Warning Zone, the wearable device alerts roadway workers with flashing lights and audible and vibratory alerts so they can move to a safe location. The system is also capable of tracking the roadway workers' location and relaying that information to the central control operation center.

The system is currently undergoing testing and commissioning along with training of MARTA staff. MARTA expects to start revenue service testing and data collection by May of 2018. FTA expects the demonstration project to be completed with evaluation results published in Spring 2019.

For more information on this project, please contact FTA's [Roy Chen](#).



A roadway worker tags in using an RFID wristband

TSO Profile

Q&A with Kelly McFetridge, Transportation Analyst, Office of Program Oversight



How would you explain your job to someone you've never met before?

I am responsible for the Office of Program Oversight's internal reporting that tracks how we are meeting strategic goals. TSO is the system owner for the Oversight Tracking System (OTrak) database, which is the central repository for our program oversight data and activities. I provide training and assistance to OTrak users, and I work with the development team to make priorities and process changes to the system.

What were you doing prior to this role?

I worked in the marketing department for the Republic of the Marshall Islands Maritime Registry. In addition to marketing tasks, I was responsible for data analysis and reporting.

What led you to work in transit?

Kelly McFetridge

My work at the maritime registry introduced me to the transportation field, so when I started exploring Federal government careers, the US Department of Transportation seemed like a good fit. By joining the FTA, I was excited by the prospect of my work directly affecting transit riders.

What are some current projects or initiatives that you or your team are working on?

I'm working with several information technology teams to automate internal reports to streamline the creation processes and make the reports more readily available. In addition, FTA updated OTrak in fiscal year 2017 to allow recording of corrective action-specific timelines and attributes. This new information will help analyze which corrective actions are working best for certain types of deficiencies among different types of recipients. As we gather more data, we can offer more tailored technical assistance to our recipients.

What are your hobbies or interests outside of work?

I like to spend time outdoors. This summer, I'm looking forward to spending time outside in Washington, DC, and kayaking.

Upcoming TSO Speaking Events

[State Safety Oversight \(SSO\) Training Workshop](#)

Bethesda, MD

May 15-17, 2018

Open to SSO program managers and contract support

For more information, contact FTA's [Ruth Lyons](#)

[Community Transportation Association of America \(CTAA\) Expo](#)

Pittsburgh, PA

June 10-14, 2018

[American Public Transportation Association \(APTA\)](#)

[Rail Conference](#)

Denver, CO

June 11-12, 2018



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**Federal Transit
Administration**

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<https://www.fta.dot.gov/regulations-and-guidance/safety/transit-safety-oversight-tso>

FTA Participates in Cherry Blossom Motor Carrier Safety Strike Force Event

Each year, thousands of people visit Washington, DC, to view the cherry blossoms lining the city's Tidal Basin and parks. Many visitors arrive by motor coach, making it an ideal time for DC-area oversight and law enforcement agencies to inspect these vehicles without passengers on board. The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) invited FTA safety personnel Paulina Orchard and Joe Powell to observe commercial motor carrier enforcement activities on April 6, 2018, as part of the annual Cherry Blossom Motor



A US Park Police officer guides a bus during an inspection at the 2018 Cherry Blossom Motor Carrier Strike Force event

Carrier Strike Force event at Haines Point. The US Park Police conducted the event in partnership with the FMCSA; Virginia State Police; Washington, DC Metropolitan Police Department; and other local agencies. Inspections and enforcement activities conducted during the event help to ensure that motor carriers are in compliance with federal law and are not traversing the roadways transporting people in unsafe vehicles with unsafe drivers.

The FTA provides financial support and guidance to bus transit systems, but many safety requirements that affect day-to-day bus transit operations are set by other agencies at the State or Federal level. For example, FMCSA establishes safety-related regulations for employers, employees, and commercial motor vehicles transporting passengers in interstate commerce. In the transit industry, relevant FMCSA regulations may include driver fitness and licensing, hours of service, and vehicle safety equipment and maintenance. For more information about FMCSA regulations that may apply to your transit system, please visit <https://www.fmcsa.dot.gov/regulations> or contact your local FMCSA field office at <https://www.fmcsa.dot.gov/mission/field-offices>.