

Transit Safety and Oversight Spotlight

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Upcoming Safety
Training

2-3

Upcoming PTASP
Webinars

3

The SSOA's Role in
PTASP Certification
and
Implementation

4

TSO Profile

5

Sign Up for FTA's
PTASP Updates
through
GovDelivery

5

Safety Research
Spotlight: Enhancing
Transit Safety with a
Connected Vehicle
Warning System

6

FTA Issues
Emergency
Response Guide for
Bus Transit

7

Three States Obtain
State Safety
Oversight Program
Certification

7

Upcoming TSO
Speaking Events

7

Message from the Acting Associate Administrator

Dear Transit Colleagues,

August marks one year since Ohio [became the first state](#) to obtain FTA certification of its State Safety Oversight (SSO) program. Since Ohio achieved this milestone, 23 additional states have followed suit, with Illinois and Tennessee being the most recent on August 29. This is terrific progress over the course of a year, and I hope that the states who have obtained certification have been pleased to see their hard work pay off.

Throughout the process, we have urged states to submit certification applications to FTA by September 30, 2018, and that date is fast approaching. The majority of uncertified states have already submitted applications, and they are currently under review. FTA recently reached out to the governors or equivalent of the remaining jurisdictions to remind them of the September 30 deadline. If a state fails to obtain certification by the April 15, 2019 deadline, FTA will be prohibited by law from obligating any new grant funds to transit agencies within the state until certification is achieved. We are committed to working with these states as they progress toward the finish line.

Meanwhile, our work with the transit industry in implementing two new safety rules is going strong. After issuing the [Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan \(PTASP\)](#) and [Public Transportation Safety Certification Training Program \(Training\)](#) final rules in July, we've kicked off a well-attended webinar series and responded to questions received on these important rules. I encourage you to visit our [PTASP](#) and [Training](#) rule websites to read the rules, download resources, and register for upcoming webinars.

This fall, FTA is partnering with the American Public Transportation Association (APTA) to spotlight safety at several [APTA Annual Meeting](#) sessions, including a dialogue to discuss FTA's new safety rules, a panel discussion about Safety Management Systems (SMS) and an SMS training for transit executives. In October, FTA will once again hold the Joint SSO and Rail Transit Agency (RTA) Workshop and will hold separate SMS training sessions for both SSO agencies (SSOA) and RTAs. Invitations with [registration information](#) have been sent to SSOAs and RTAs. We look forward to seeing many of you at these events.

Sincerely,
Henrika Buchanan



Henrika Buchanan, Acting
Associate Administrator for
Transit Safety and Oversight

Upcoming Safety Training

FTA sponsors several safety training courses, including those listed below. The [complete schedule](#) of training courses offered in FY 2018 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 Public Transportation Safety Certification Training Program have three years to complete the requirements in their ITP.

Courses Required by the Public Transportation Safety Certification Training Program (RAIL)*

Effectively Managing Transit Emergencies	Boston, MA	Sept. 18-21
Transit Rail System Safety	Atlanta, GA	Aug. 27-31
SMS Awareness (eLearning)	On demand at tsi.dot.gov	Available 24/7
SMS Safety Assurance	Virtual-Live Training	Sept. 13
SMS Principles for Transit	Landover, MD Newark, NJ (registration closed)	Aug. 27-29 Sept. 24-26

The required Transit Rail Incident Investigation course will be offered again in FY19.

Voluntary Courses for the Public Transportation Safety Certification Training Program (BUS)**

Fundamentals of Bus Collision Investigation	Spokane, WA	Sept. 17-21
Transit Bus System Safety	San Diego, CA	Aug. 27-31

*Applies to 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.

**Voluntary bus participants must also complete Effectively Managing Transit Emergencies, SMS Awareness, SMS Assurance, and SMS Principles for Transit. Please see the rail schedule above for course availability.

Cont. on pg. 3

Training, cont. from pg. 2

Additional Courses Available in FY 2018		
Bus & Rail Courses (In Person)		
Advanced Rail Incident Investigation	Chicago, IL	Sept. 10-14
Crime Prevention through Environmental Design	Salt Lake City, UT	Sept. 5-6
Instructor's Course for Transit Trainers	Seattle, WA	Sept. 17-21
Transit System Security	Honolulu, HI	Sept. 10-14
	Landover, MD	Sept. 17-21
eLearning Courses (Web Based)		
Curbing Transit Employee Distracted Driving	On demand at tsi.dot.gov	Available 24/7
Fatigue and Sleep Apnea Awareness for Transit Employees	On demand at tsi.dot.gov	Available 24/7
Rail Nomenclature	On demand at tsi.dot.gov	Available 24/7
Bus Nomenclature	On demand at tsi.dot.gov	Available 24/7

Upcoming Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan Webinars

FTA will host a series of webinars for the transit industry on the Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan rule. Register to attend by clicking on the links below. Webinar information is also posted on [FTA's PTASP website](#).

August and September Webinars	
Bus-Only Agencies Webinar	Tuesday, August 28 at 2 p.m. ET
State DOTs Webinar	Wednesday, August 29 at 2 p.m. ET
Multimodal Agencies Webinar	Thursday, August 30 at 2 p.m. ET
State Safety Oversight Agencies Webinar	Wednesday, September 5 at 2 p.m. ET
Rail-Only Agencies Webinar	Thursday, September 6 at 2 p.m. ET
State DOTs Webinar	Wednesday, September 12 at 2 p.m. ET

The Role of State Safety Oversight Agencies in PTASP Certification and Implementation

Under the [Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan \(PTASP\) final rule](#), certain transit operators are required to develop and implement an agency safety plan rooted in [Safety Management System \(SMS\)](#) principles and methods.

Each rail transit agency (RTA) must submit its safety plan to the agency's designated State Safety Oversight Agency (SSOA) for review and approval. Approved safety plans must be in place by July 20, 2020.

SSOA Authority

FTA's State Safety Oversight final rule requires that SSOAs have the authority to review, approve, oversee, and enforce the implementation of an RTA's safety plan. It is the responsibility of the SSOA to confirm that each safety plan meets the minimum requirements of the PTASP rule.

The FTA recommends that SSOAs work with RTAs to establish a PTASP submission deadline. This will ensure that SSOAs have sufficient time to review and approve safety plans prior to the compliance deadline.

PTASP Review and Approval

SSOAs must review and approve the safety plan for every RTA in its jurisdiction. It is the responsibility of the SSOA to confirm that the RTA has fulfilled the minimum requirements of the PTASP rule, as well as any requirements from other safety rulemakings, including the [State Safety Oversight \(SSO\) rule](#). FTA's [PTASP rule fact sheet](#) includes a summary of PTASP minimum requirements.

Additional details regarding PTASP requirements are available on [FTA's PTASP website](#).

PTASP Implementation

SSOAs do not implement safety plans. RTAs are responsible for implementation of approved safety plans. An SSOA has the right to request safety plan documentation and implementation plans at any time. RTAs must maintain these documents for at least three years after they are created.

Agency safety plans will help ensure the continued safety of public transportation systems nationwide.

For more information on the State Safety Oversight Agency's role in PTASP certification, please email PTASP_QA@dot.gov.





Jeremy Flores

TSO Profile

Q&A with Jeremy Flores, Transportation Program Analyst

How would you explain your job to someone you've never met? I support FTA's administration of the [Triennial Review](#). The goal of these reviews is to ensure transit agency compliance with federal guidelines. My current focus is to improve the technical assistance process, which helps agencies understand how to comply.

What is your favorite part of your job? Making sure federal grant money is being used appropriately so that public transportation is fair and equitable across the nation.

What were you doing prior to this role? I worked at Virginia Railway Express (VRE) as an operations and communications administrator. I oversaw the communications control center. I was monitoring and managing the trains, their locations and times, and

communicating that to the riders. I was also in charge of fare collection. I addressed customer services issues and I managed relationships with the vendors who sold tickets and the contractor who performed maintenance on the machines. My last big responsibility was performing as the operations data steward, ensuring operations performance data was correct before it was presented to management and the public.

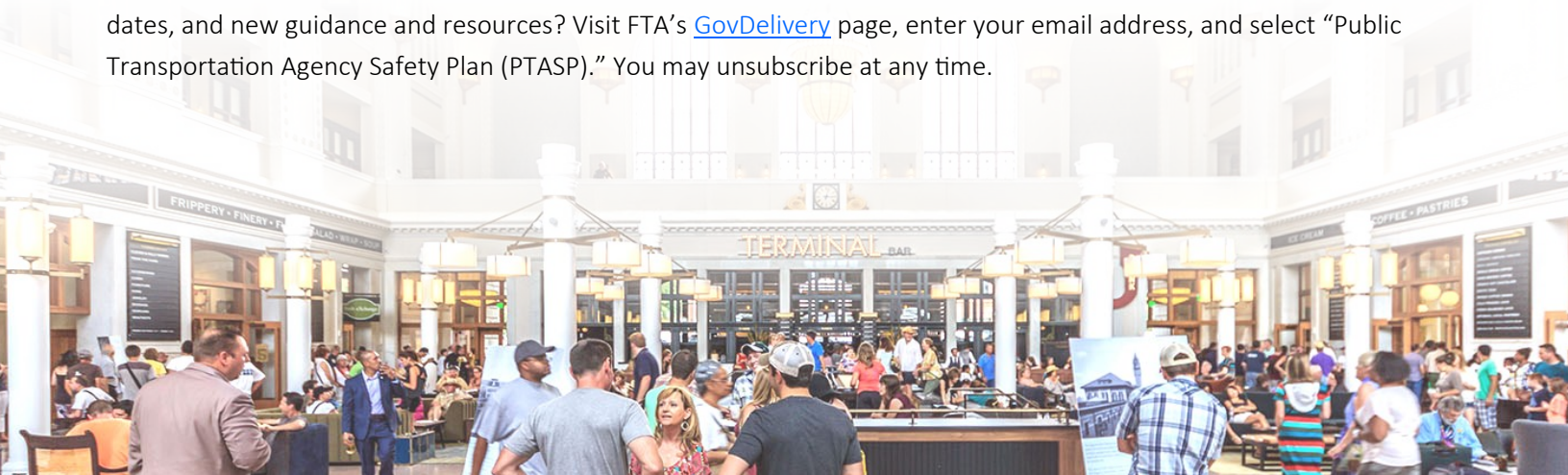
What led you to work in transit? In college, I majored in history, and one of my favorite classes was the history of the automobile. While cars and roads brought a dramatic decline in transit, it began my love affair with transportation and how it affects society.

What is your favorite form of transportation and why? My personal favorite is walking because it slows you down and you can see how different forms of transportation interact and influence different environments and you get to appreciate what's around you. As for transit, I have a fascination with Bus Rapid Transit (BRT). It's a genius system when it's done right, like in the BRT motherland of Brazil. It's a less expensive system to build than other fixed systems and very effective when designed correctly.

What are your hobbies and interests outside of work? I like talking about gadgets and technology. On the flip side of the coin, I also make a habit of cutting the cord and being out in nature with my family as much as possible. I also "roll" (or spar) jiu-jitsu, which some may think is violent, but in Japanese the name translates to "a gentle art."

Sign Up for FTA's PTASP Updates through GovDelivery

Want the latest information about the [Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan final rule](#), including news, webinar dates, and new guidance and resources? Visit FTA's [GovDelivery](#) page, enter your email address, and select "Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan (PTASP)." You may unsubscribe at any time.



Safety Research Spotlight: Enhancing Transit Safety with a Connected Vehicle Warning System

FTA's [safety research programs](#) provide technical and financial support for transit agencies to pursue innovative approaches to improving transit safety. In this month's spotlight, we look at a connected vehicle project called the Enhanced Pedestrian in Crosswalk Warning application, which is focused on reducing pedestrian incidents with transit buses. FTA has provided \$2.7 million to fund the project, which is part of FTA's Innovative Safety, Resiliency, and All-Hazards Emergency Response and Recovery Program. An earlier version was part of USDOT's Safety Pilot Model Deployment.

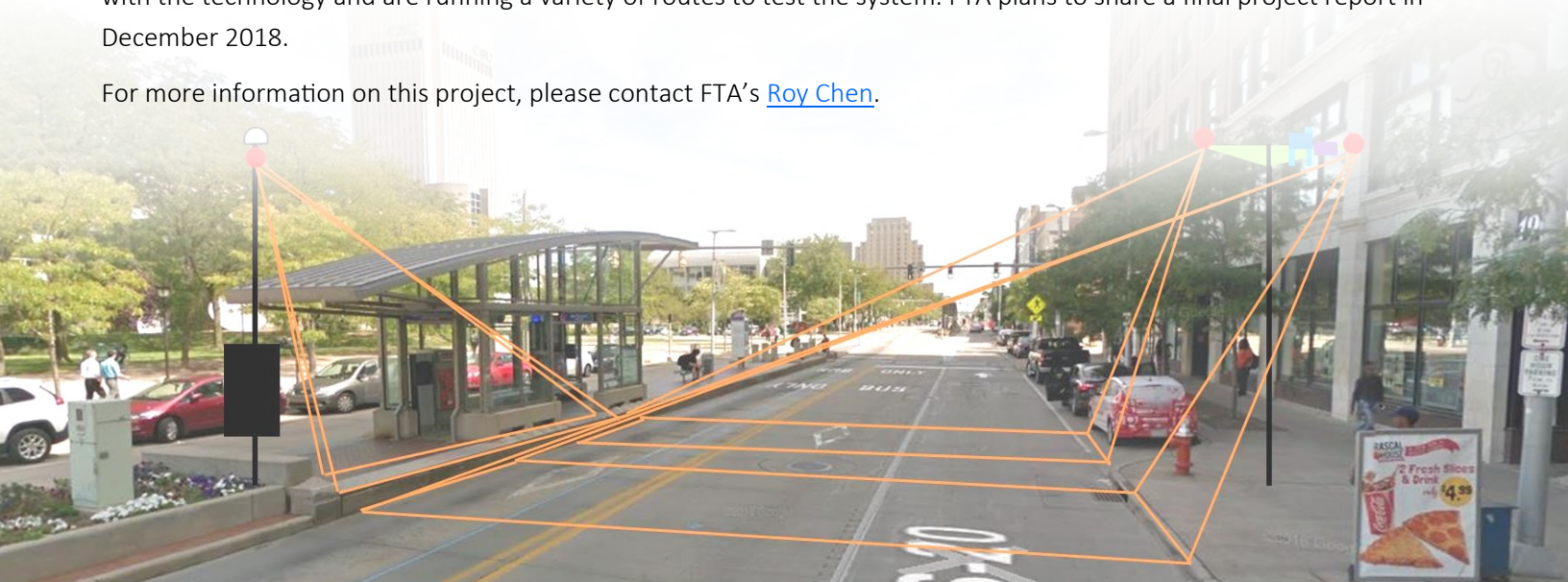
The Enhanced Pedestrian in Crosswalk Warning application is a warning system for operators of connected vehicles, like buses. The application works with cameras mounted at intersections. These cameras "see" and send signals to the nearby equipped buses, triggering a warning for the bus driver of an imminent collision with pedestrians. For example, if a bus pulls up to an equipped intersection and there is a pedestrian in the crosswalk, a red warning will appear on a screen in front of the bus operator. This warning is accompanied by a notification sound—similar to a beep—to get the driver's attention. The application is also programmed to provide a yellow warning if there are pedestrians on the curb. This alerts the driver to their presence, increasing driver awareness, and reducing the risk of a collision and possible injuries and fatalities.



Examples of visual warnings sent to a bus operator when using the Enhanced Pedestrian in Crosswalk Warning application

The current iteration of this application is being tested at three different intersections with a high presence of pedestrians in Cleveland, Ohio. Twenty-four Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority buses have been equipped with the technology and are running a variety of routes to test the system. FTA plans to share a final project report in December 2018.

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



FTA Issues Emergency Response Guide for Bus Transit

FTA's Bus Safety Program has released a new bus safety guide, "[Effective Practices in Bus Transit Safety: Emergency Response](#)." The guide is available on FTA's [website](#).

The guide describes some of the most common recommendations that [FTA's Bus Safety Program](#) has made to bus transit agencies to improve their response in emergencies. The guide also provides examples of effective emergency response practices that transit agencies can adopt to implement the recommendations.

Since 2007, FTA has completed over 60 voluntary onsite bus reviews at transit agencies of varying sizes across the country, which helped inform the emergency response guide. FTA plans for this guide to be the first in a series of bus safety guidance for the industry.

For more information on FTA's Bus Safety Program, please contact [Paulina Orchard](#), Bus Safety Program Manager.



**U.S. Department
of Transportation**

**Federal Transit
Administration**

Federal Transit Administration
Office of Transit Safety and Oversight
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

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

Illinois, Michigan, and Tennessee Obtain State Safety Oversight Program Certification

Three new states have obtained federal certification of their State Safety Oversight (SSO) programs. On August 16, FTA announced that Michigan obtained certification, and on August 29, Illinois and Tennessee obtained certification of their programs.

Michigan's SSO Agency (SSOA) oversees the safety of the Detroit People Mover and QLine streetcar. Illinois's SSOA oversees the Chicago Transit Authority's heavy rail system and partners with the Missouri Department of Transportation to oversee the St. Louis MetroLink (Metro) light rail system. Tennessee's SSOA is responsible for the Memphis Area Transit Authority's trolley and Chattanooga Area Regional Transportation Authority's Lookout Mountain Incline Railway.

To date, 24 states have obtained SSO program certifications. By April 15, 2019, each eligible state must obtain certification or FTA will be prohibited by law from obligating any new grant funds until certification is achieved.

To track states' progress, please refer to FTA's [SSO Program Certification Status Table](#).



Upcoming TSO Speaking Events

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

Nashville, TN

September 23-26