

## **FTA Announces \$4 Million Initiative to Support Human Trafficking Awareness and Public Safety**

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Every year millions of men, women, and children are sold into prostitution, domestic servitude, or forced labor around the world. Human traffickers often use public transit to move victims, due to the low cost and limited interaction with officials. Everyone—transit agencies and employees, state officials, the transportation industry, and the public—plays a critical role in identifying, reporting, and preventing potential trafficking situations.

At the federal level, the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) launched the Transportation Leaders Against Human Trafficking initiative to collectively combat human trafficking. In support of U.S. DOT's efforts, the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) recently [announced](#) a \$4 million human trafficking awareness and public safety initiative to enhance public awareness and develop innovative strategies to address human trafficking and other public safety issues within transit systems.

State DOTs, state and local governments, transit providers, and nonprofit organizations are eligible to submit project proposals under two competitive funding opportunities—the Crime Prevention and Public Safety Awareness, and Innovations in Transit Public Safety. The deadline to submit applications for both is May 28, 2019.

State departments of transportation (DOTs) are uniquely positioned to contribute to the human trafficking prevention effort. State DOTs oversee, fund, and operate various transportation modes—such as trucking, intercity bus, and public transportation—and have a broader reach to connect with the public and transportation operators.

Several states also have established transit and transportation human trafficking training and public awareness programs. States with established programs can collaborate across industries, assist other states looking to start their own programs, and seek available funding opportunities to enhance their current efforts.

In addition, an increase in information sharing could help fuse together data from multiple sources and jurisdictions to provide a more complete picture of the human trafficking process. For example, many state DOTs have readily available data sources, such as existing transportation system camera, video, and sensor data. Combining and streamlining this data can aid transportation and law enforcement officials to better detect movement trends of potentially trafficked persons.

The FTA will host informational webinars on April 8 and April 16 to discuss both funding opportunities and answer questions. You can register for the webinars or view the webinar recordings and presentations on [FTA's Human Trafficking webpage](#). You can submit additional questions on the funding opportunities to [FTAPublicSafety@dot.gov](mailto:FTAPublicSafety@dot.gov).

The U.S. DOT is committed to preventing human trafficking on all modes of transportation, including on our nation's public transit systems. We encourage you to sign the transportation leaders [pledge](#) to demonstrate your commitment and help *Put the Brakes on Human Trafficking*. For additional transit-focused human trafficking and crime prevention information and resources, visit [FTA's Human Trafficking](#) and [U.S. DOT's multimodal human trafficking](#) webpages.

[FTA Crime Prevention and Public Safety Awareness Funding Opportunity](#) focuses on preventing crimes, including human trafficking and operator assault, and developing and disseminating materials to support public safety awareness campaigns. The FTA will provide \$2 million in competitive funding to develop and implement technical guidance materials that promote practices to improve public safety on transit.

[FTA Innovations in Transit Public Safety Funding Opportunity](#) supports the development of innovative products and services to prevent human trafficking and reduce crime on public transit vehicles and in facilities. The FTA will provide \$2 million in competitive funding to assist transit agencies with identifying and adopting specific measures to address public safety in transit systems.