



Transit Safety and Oversight Spotlight

Federal Transit Administration
Office of Transit Safety and Oversight

Message from the Associate Administrator

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Dear Transit Colleagues,

In August, Ohio became the first of 30 states in the nation to receive FTA certification of its State Safety Oversight (SSO) program in accordance with the requirements of federal public transportation safety law and the [SSO final rule](#). Ohio's diligence in fulfilling these requirements and devoting necessary resources will make public transportation safer for the passengers who ride the rail transit systems in their state.

Ohio achieved certification by taking a proactive approach to the [certification application](#) process. They were one of several states required to pass legislation before their SSO program could be certified. They addressed these requirements early, not allowing the legislative process to hold them up.

They also maintained an open line of communication with their FTA SSO Program Manager, often reaching out weekly. The FTA holds monthly one-on-one calls with SSO Program Managers, but Ohio recognized the importance of asking questions as they arose.

We expect to see more states submitting certification applications soon. FTA recommends that states submit applications by April 15, 2018 and no later than September 30, 2018 to meet the April 15, 2019 deadline. This allows time for states to correct deficiencies and for FTA to conduct onsite verifications when necessary.

SSO and rail transit agency personnel will hear more details about Ohio's experience at the upcoming training workshop, taking place October 24-27 in Washington, DC. In the meantime, you can read FTA's news release about Ohio's certification [here](#).

Congratulations, Ohio, on achieving this major milestone!

Sincerely,
Thomas Littleton, PhD



Ohio's SSO Agency oversees the safety of the Cincinnati Bell Connector Streetcar and Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority's Rapid Transit rail system. *Photo credits: 5chw4r7z (top) and Michael Barera (bottom), Creative Commons licenses via Wikimedia Commons*

Upcoming Training

The FTA sponsors several safety training courses, including those listed below. The FTA's training website is unavailable until further notice, but you may contact [Radonna Snider](#) at the FTA-sponsored [Transportation Safety Institute \(TSI\)](#) at (405) 954-4799 for safety training registration and courses.

eLearning Self-Paced Online Courses

Curbing Transit Employee Distracted Driving	Go to tsi.dot.gov
Fatigue and Sleep Apnea Awareness for Transit Employees	Go to tsi.dot.gov
Rail Nomenclature	Go to tsi.dot.gov
SMS Awareness	Go to tsi.dot.gov
Transit Asset Management Training: Calculating Perfor-	Go to tsi.dot.gov

General Transit Safety Courses

SMS Principles for Transit	Brooklyn, NY	Oct. 11-13
Transit Supervisor Certification Course	San Antonio, TX	Oct. 23-27
SMS Safety Assurance	Virtual-Live Training	Oct. 24
SMS Principles for Transit	Landover, MD	Oct. 25-27
SMS Principles for Transit	Seattle, WA	Oct. 30-Nov. 1
SMS Principles for Transit	Seattle, WA	Nov. 1-3
SMS Principles for Transit	Boston, MA	Nov. 6-8
SMS Safety Assurance	Virtual-Live Training	Nov. 16
SMS Principles for Transit	Philadelphia, PA	Nov. 29-Dec. 1
SMS Principles for Transit	State College, PA	Dec. 5-7
SMS Safety Assurance	Virtual-Live Training	Dec. 12
SMS Principles for Transit	Orange, CA	Dec. 13-15

Transit Crime Prevention and Emergency Management Courses

Effectively Managing Transit Emergencies	Chicago, IL	Oct. 17-20
Transit System Security	San Diego, CA	Nov. 13-17
Effectively Managing Transit Emergencies	Landover, MD	Nov. 14-17
Transit System Security	Austin, TX	Nov. 27-Dec. 1

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Bus Transit Courses

Fundamentals of Bus Collision Investigation	New Orleans, LA	Oct. 30-Nov. 3
Transit Bus System Safety	San Bernardino, CA	Oct. 30-Nov. 3
Transit Bus System Safety	New Orleans, LA	Nov. 27-Dec. 1
Fundamentals of Bus Collision Investigation	Columbus, OH	Dec. 4-8
Transit Bus System Safety	Landover, MD	Dec. 11-15

Rail Transit Courses

Transit Rail Accident Investigation	Atlanta, GA	Oct. 23-27
Transit Rail Accident Investigation	Cleveland, OH	Nov. 6-10
Transit Rail System Safety	Seattle, WA	Nov. 27-Dec. 1
Transit Rail System Safety	Charlotte, NC	Dec. 11-15



Mark your calendars for the 2017

Joint State Safety Oversight and Rail Transit Agency Workshop

October 24-27, 2017

[The Westin Arlington Gateway](#)

801 N. Glebe Road
Arlington, VA, 22203

Questions? Contact FTA's [Juan Morrison](#).

Upcoming TSO Speaking Events

The FTA's Office of Transit Safety and Oversight (TSO) will speak at the following events. We hope to see you there!

[APTA Annual Meeting](#), Atlanta, GA

- October 10, 1:30 pm—Safety Management Systems (SMS) Implementation
- October 11, 9:30 am—State Safety Oversight Program Certification/Safety Regulatory Update

TSO Presentations Available from FTA State Programs Meeting

TSO's slides from the 17th Biennial FTA State Programs Meeting and State Public Transit Partnerships Conference are [now available](#). The event took place August 16-18, 2017, in Washington, DC, and was hosted by FTA in partnership with the American Public Transportation Association, the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials, and the Community Transportation Association of America. Participants represented state transit programs and state transit associations from across the country.

TSO speakers discussed program oversight, safety training, FTA's Drug and Alcohol Program, State Safety Oversight certification, and employee safety reporting.



Clockwise from top:

1. *Dakisha Spratling, Policy Analyst, Safety Policy and Promotion Division (left), discusses the Public Transportation Safety Certification Training Program. Lyon Rosario, Drug and Alcohol Program Manager (center), and Mike Coplen, Chief, Safety Policy and Promotion Division (right), also participated in FTA's safety update.*



2. *Patrick Nemons, Acting Director, Office of Safety Review, takes questions from the audience about State Safety Oversight certification.*

3. *Scott Giering, Acting Director, Office of Program Oversight (left), discusses FTA's State Management Review Program. He was joined by Hope Jensen (second from left), Acting Division Chief, Compliance Programs.*

4. *Lyon Rosario (right) discusses FTA's Drug and Alcohol Program.*



Updated State Safety Oversight Certification Status Table Available

The [State Safety Oversight \(SSO\) Certification Status Table](#) has been updated on the FTA's website. The table, pictured below, lists the certification progress of the 30 states with rail transit systems required to establish an FTA-certified SSO Program by April 15, 2019. This update includes Ohio's new certification status as well as progress made by several other states. Questions? Contact FTASafetyStakeholder@dot.gov.

State	Certification Stage ¹	Estimated FTA Formula Funding (FY2019) ²
Arizona	2	\$117,005,463
Arkansas	2	\$33,585,909
California	2	\$1,399,901,100
Colorado	2	\$122,239,166
District of Columbia	3	\$210,465,763
DC, MD, VA (Metro Safety Commission)	3	\$638,233,977
Florida	2	\$393,569,020
Georgia	2	\$194,509,592
Hawaii	1	\$45,307,477
Illinois*	1	\$609,101,428
Louisiana	2	\$65,058,832
Maryland	3	\$252,138,184
Massachusetts	3	\$377,572,975
Michigan*	1	\$142,597,929
Minnesota	3	\$113,535,596
Missouri	2	\$104,260,944
New Jersey*	1	\$630,788,783
New York*	1	\$1,523,909,156
North Carolina	3	\$124,046,200
Ohio	Certified	\$190,956,911
Oklahoma*	1	\$52,170,951
Oregon	2	\$104,230,003
Pennsylvania	3	\$438,670,071
Puerto Rico*	1	\$74,078,304
Tennessee*	1	\$92,833,519
Texas	1	\$444,293,604
Utah	3	\$76,951,916
Virginia	3	\$175,630,030
Washington	2	\$261,144,863
West Virginia	2	\$27,796,756
Wisconsin	2	\$88,028,303

Last updated August 2017

Note 1: The status shows the SSO certification process in four stages:

Stage 1 – State is working on its submissions to FTA. Where applicable, legislation has not yet been enacted or executive action taken.

Stage 2 – State has submitted some requirements to FTA.

Stage 3 – State has submitted all required documents to FTA and is engaged in a dialogue with FTA to address comments and questions.

Where applicable, all required legislation has been enacted.

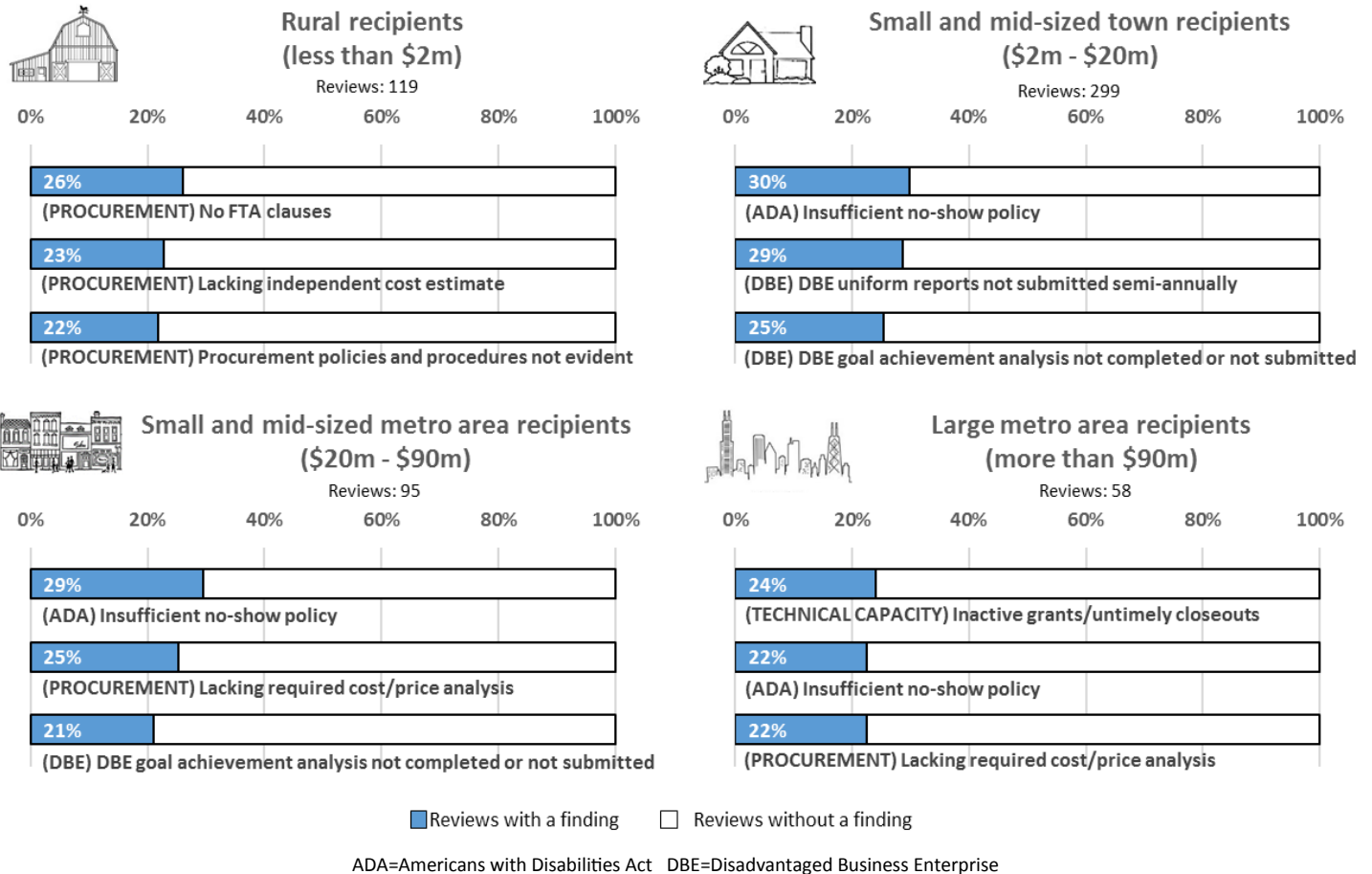
Stage 4 (Certified) – State has successfully met all SSO Program requirements, including the resources to carry out the requirements, and has received FTA certification.

Note 2: Federal transit program (49 U.S.C. 53) formula amounts are based on Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act estimated apportionments for FY 2019. These funds illustrate the minimum annual funding amounts that FTA is prohibited from obligating if a state's SSO Program has not been certified by April 15, 2019.

* States with an asterisk still require state legislative or executive action prior to FTA certification. States should act promptly to ensure all necessary actions are taken with sufficient time to meet the April 2019 deadline.

Program Oversight Stat of the Month: FTA Triennial Review Findings by Recipient Total Operating Expenses (FY14 - FY16)

FTA’s Office of Program Oversight has begun to explore whether [Triennial Review](#) findings of deficiency (“findings”) are correlated with any specific characteristics of our grant recipients (“grantees”). For the graphic below, we used total operating expenses, as reported to the [National Transit Database](#), as a proxy for scale or size of the grantee’s organization. Grouping recipients by scale may allow FTA and grantees to proactively identify potential future findings.



As illustrated above, the Office of Program Oversight found that:

- Procurement findings are most common for recipients of less than \$2 million.
- Civil rights findings are most common for recipients of \$2 million to \$20 million.
- “Insufficient no-show policy” (an Americans with Disabilities Act finding) and “lacking required cost/price analysis” (a procurement finding) are most common for recipients of more than \$20 million.

This information paired with further research of this kind will help FTA better understand grantees’ needs and develop targeted trainings to support full compliance.

TSO Profile

Q&A with Adrienne Malasky, Senior Policy Analyst (Policy Lead)



Adrienne Malasky, Policy Analyst

How would you explain your job to someone you've never met before? As Policy Lead in the FTA's Office of Transit Safety and Oversight, I ensure that all of our Congressionally-mandated safety regulations are developed and published. I also assist with other safety policy documents that TSO issues to the transit industry, such as [general directives](#) and [safety advisories](#). I run our Federal advisory committee, the [Transit Advisory Committee for Safety](#) (TRACS), whose members represent the public transportation industry and advise FTA on transit safety matters. Lastly, I'm FTA's liaison to the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB), and lead our responses to all NTSB recommendations.

What were you doing prior to this role? Immediately prior to this role, I was working for a consulting company, focusing on process improvement and policy development for the Federal government. Previously, I worked for the State Department's security arm, where I developed policies focusing on security countermeasures for overseas embassies.

What led you to work in transit? Growing up in Boston, I rode the "T" to school and work. When I was a kid and my parents or other adults asked me what I wanted to be when I grew up, I said I wanted to be a "T" driver. I've changed direction since then, but I've maintained and ultimately followed my interest in public transportation.

What are some current projects or initiatives that you or your team are working on? We are working to move the Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan final rule forward, and we are beginning to update the [National Public Transportation Safety Plan](#), which was originally published in January 2017.

How do you work with people outside of the FTA? How would you like to be working with them in the future? Through TRACS, I get to work with representatives from transit agencies of all shapes and sizes, State Safety Oversight Agencies, transit associations, and academics who are conducting transit research. In the future, in addition to continuing to work with TRACS, I'd like to interact more with the community during the rulemaking process. The FTA's proposed rules go through the [Federal Register's](#) notice and comment procedures, but I would welcome more public input as early in the development process as possible.

What is one thing you would like people to know about FTA? Public transportation is one of the safest modes of transportation, and FTA is working hard to keep it that way.



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