



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**Federal Transit
Administration**

Administrator

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

February 20, 2020

Dear Transit Agency Leader:

The U.S. Department of Transportation is leading the fight against human trafficking, a modern day form of slavery. Traffickers move their victims on all modes of transportation, including transit. In fact, 63 percent of human trafficking survivors reported using public transit.

On January 28, 2020, U.S. Transportation Secretary Elaine Chao hosted a Put the Brakes on Human Trafficking “100 Pledges in 100 Days” event at the USDOT headquarters to raise awareness about the issue of human trafficking. At the event, Secretary Chao announced \$5.4 million in grant selections as part of FTA's [Human Trafficking Awareness and Public Safety Initiative](#) and called for transportation leaders to sign the Transportation Leaders Against Human Trafficking (TLAHT) [pledge](#).

As a way of showing leadership, support, and solidarity in the battle against modern day slavery, we are asking transportation industry leaders to join us in combating human trafficking by signing the TLAHT pledge and training your workforce. Over the next several weeks, I will be asking transit agency leaders to sign the pledge in-person during industry conferences and stakeholder meetings. The pledge is attached to this email and can also be found on DOT's website, at <https://www.transportation.gov/TLAHT/Pledge>.

My goal is to obtain 100 additional transit pledge signatures by the end of March. Our combined efforts will help train over a million employees about how to detect the signs of human trafficking, and ultimately save lives. During the January 28 event, I heard first-hand about Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) and Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority (SEPTA) bus operators who intervened to save children from potential trafficking situations. Both operators credited recent human trafficking awareness training they had received with knowing the signs of what to look for and what to do to help.

You will hear more from FTA over the next few months as we continue to focus on eliminating the evil of human trafficking. I look forward to participating with you on efforts in your community. If you have questions about FTA's Human Trafficking support of the transportation leaders pledge, please contact FTA's Chief Safety Officer and Associate Administrator for the Office of Transit Safety and Oversight, at Henrika.Buchanan@dot.gov or 202-366-1783.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "K. Jane Williams".

K. Jane Williams
Acting Administrator