U.S. Department
of Transportation
Federal Transit Administration

FTA Office of Safety and Security

Programs That Support Safety & Security for the Transit Industry

The number one strategic goal of the U.S. Department of Transportation and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) is to ***"promote the public health and safety by working toward the elimination of transit-related deaths, injuries, property damage and the improvement of personal security and property protection."*** In support of this goal, FTA published its Safety Action Plan in March 2000, documenting six key areas and accompanying actions that FTA identified as being critical for the advancement of safety in the transit industry. FTA further refined its safety actions and highlighted its accomplishments for FY 2000, as well as its proposed activities for FY 2001, in its "Safety Action Plan: Accomplishments and the Future" brochure, published in October 2000. The **Office of Safety and Security's** mission and function is the achievement of this goal.

Federal Transit Administration's Office of Safety and Security

FTA's Office of Safety and Security (Office) directly supports the U.S. Department of Transportation's safety goals through a series of programs designed to maintain continuous improvement of the safety and security of our nation's transit systems. These programs are designed to promote, as well as oversee, transit safety and security nationwide.

The Office is under the executive leadership of the Associate Administrator for Program Management, who reports directly to the Federal Transit Administrator.

The Office's program consists of both regulatory and non-regulatory programs in support of the total system safety concept.

This support includes the Office serving as a technical assistance and training/educational resource to the transit industry in the following areas:

- Modal Safety
  - Rail Fixed Guideway*
  - Railroad
  - Bus
- Information Sharing/Technical Assistance
- Training/Education
- Substance Abuse Program*
- Security Program
- Data Collection and Analysis Program
- Special Programs

(* Denotes a regulatory program)

1. Modal Safety Program

The Office's Modal Safety program has three key components: rail fixed guideway, railroad, and bus. The rail fixed guideway program is a regulatory program, while the railroad and bus components of the program consist of technical assistance and coordination activities.

Rail Fixed Guideway - As mandated by the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act, FTA published a final rule (49 CFR Part 659) defining State Safety Oversight in December 1995. This rule created a program for the safety oversight of rail fixed guideway systems by affected states. This program requires states to designate an independent Oversight Agency to oversee the safety of rail systems not regulated by the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA). FTA audits the affected states for compliance with the rule and provides technical assistance.

Railroad - The Office has an ongoing coordination program with the FRA on issues that impact the transit industry, including commuter rail, shared track, and shared corridor rail projects.

Bus - The Office has an extensive outreach program focused on promoting and enhancing safety in the transit bus industry. The program is being fully coordinated with the transit industry, the American Public Transportation Association, the Community Transportation Association of America, and the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials.

2. Information Sharing/Technical Assistance Program

The Office's information sharing/technical assistance includes the following resources:

Clearinghouse - The clearinghouse serves as an ongoing focal point for all requests for information, materials, and resources currently available on the subject of transit safety and security and related technologies.

Transit Safety and Security Web Site - The web site is a central point for communication to provide a descriptive overview of ongoing programs, as well as new initiatives of the Office. The web site allows easy access to documents and forms, which can be downloaded by users.

Technical Assistance Guidelines and Newsletters - Another tool to disseminate valuable safety information is the sharing of guidelines, reports, and newsletters with the industry on lessons learned, regulatory changes, best practices, and program news and events.

3. Training/Education

FTA provides safety and security training to the transit industry through the Transportation Safety Institute. The focus of the program is to improve the operational safety of transit systems and the personal security of the riding public and transit employees. Courses are conducted at locations throughout the country. The curriculum includes such courses as: Transit System Security, Effectively Managing Transit Emergencies, Transit Rail Accident Investigation, Transit Rail System Safety, Fundamentals of Bus Accident Investigation, and Substance Abuse Management.

4. Substance Abuse Program

The Omnibus Transportation Employee Testing Act of 1991 authorized the U.S. Department of Transportation to mandate substance abuse management for safety-sensitive employees in the transit industry. FTA published final drug and alcohol testing regulations (49 CFR Parts 653 and 654) for transit employers in February of 1994.

The Office is responsible for the implementation of these regulations including auditing transit compliance with these drug and alcohol rules. The audits include a comprehensive records review, simulated collections, and various detailed questionnaires.

5. Security Program

The Office's transit security program consists of security audits conducted in conjunction with State Safety Oversight audits and security reviews done at the request of transit operators. The goal of these activities is to reduce the vulnerability of transit systems to the consequences of intentional harm. Further, the security program works cooperatively with other agencies within the U.S. Department of Transportation as part of the Security Working Group. A quarterly newsletter allows the Office to share its security efforts with the transit industry.

6. Data Collection and Analysis Program

The Office's data collection and analysis program's primary component is the Safety Management Information Statistics (SAMIS). SAMIS is an annual report that provides a compilation of the analysis of transit safety and security statistics reported through FTA and the National Transit Database. Collection and analysis of safety and security data provides FTA and the industry with a basis for identifying key safety and security concerns, as well as possible solutions. In addition, FTA has extended its efforts by collecting causal data for its regulatory programs, through the State Safety Oversight Annual Reporting requirement and Drug and Alcohol Management Information System.

7. Special Programs

The Office has a variety of special programs. The priorities for these programs are established through FTA's Strategic Planning Process. This process reflects the needs of the industry, recommendations by the National Transportation Safety Board, congressional recommendations, and policy and technical issues. Some of the current special programs are:

- Fire/Life Safety
- Hazard Analysis Guidelines
- Investigations
- Pedestrian and Bike Safety
- Human Factors/Fatigue
- Emergency Management
- Children Riding Transit
- U.S. Department of Transportation Safety Council
- Rail-Highway Grade Crossing/Operation Lifesaver
- Safe Communities Task Force
- Buckle Up America Task Force
- Security Working Group

FTA Office of Safety and Security

Phone: 202-366-2896

Office Director	Harry Saporta
Modal Safety	
Rail Fixed Guideway	Roy Field
Railroad	Jerry Fisher
Bus	Frank McCarron/Amy Jernigan
Information Sharing/Technical Assistance Program	Vicki Bellet/Carole Ferguson/Iyon Lyles
Training and Education Program	Edith Rodano
Substance Abuse Program	Mark Snider
Security Program	Edith Rodano
Security Audits	Carole Ferguson
Data Collection and Analysis Program	Amy Jernigan
Emergency Management	Laura Mizner

http://transit-safety.volpe.dot.gov

FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

The Federal Transit Administration's Office of Safety and Security can be contacted regarding any of the topics in this document:

- Guidelines and newsletters published by the Federal Transit Administration and distributed through its safety and security clearinghouse: 617-494-2108 **(http://transit-safety.volpe.dot.gov)**
- State Safety Oversight Program: 202-366-0197 **(www. fta.dot.gov)**
- Training from the Transportation Safety Institute: 405-954-3682 **(www.tsi.dot.gov)**
- Training from the National Transit Institute (Rutgers): 732-932-1700 **(http://policy.rutgers.edu/nti/)**

U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Transit Administration

FTA Federal Transit Administration