

# FTA

FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION

## **Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan (PTASP) Implementation and Employee Safety Reporting Programs (ESRP)**

Candace Key

FTA Office of Transit Safety and Oversight

November 18, 2020



U.S. Department of Transportation  
Federal Transit Administration



# Agenda

- PTASP implementation update
- Employee Safety Reporting Programs (ESRP)

# PTASP IMPLEMENTATION UPDATE



# COVID-19 Impacts

- Transit providers and State DOTs are experiencing **unprecedented challenges**:
  - Transit ridership has reached a plateau since July 2020 and remains down about **63 percent** nationally compared to a year ago
  - A recent APTA survey shows that without additional funding, **6 in 10 transit systems may need to reduce service and furlough employees in the coming months**
- On April 22, 2020, FTA extended its enforcement deadline for the PTASP regulation from **July 20, 2020 to December 31, 2020**

# Certification Status

- Despite challenges from COVID-19, States and transit providers **continue to make progress** towards compliance with the PTASP regulation
- As of November 16, 2020:
  - **62 percent** (439 of 705) of applicable transit providers have certified compliance with FTA's PTASP regulation
  - **47 percent** of State DOTs that are not also Section 5307 recipients (18 of 38) have certified compliance with FTA's PTASP regulation

## ASP Certifications to Date

Organization Preparing ASPs	Projected Total ASPs	Certified ASPs (as of 11/16/20)
Rail/Multi-Modal	63	42 (67%)
Large Bus	73	40 (55%)
Small Bus	251	159 (63%)
State DOT	318	198 (62%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>705</b>	<b>439 (62%)</b>

# FTA Technical Assistance

- FTA provides outreach and technical assistance to help transit agencies and States address Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan (PTASP) regulation requirements
- To date, FTA has reached out to every transit provider and State that must implement the PTASP regulation through the PTASP Technical Assistance Center (TAC)

# PTASP TAC

- Over the last year, FTA's PTASP TAC has become a trusted resource for assistance in addressing the PTASP regulation:
  - 40 webinars conducted with over 6,400 attendees
  - 61 guidance documents published, including templates, guides, and sample ASPs for differently sized agencies
  - Approximately 1,300 requests/questions resolved
  - 21 workshops provided with over 1,200 attendees
  - 20 biweekly updates published



# Voluntary ASP Reviews

- FTA's PTASP TAC also offers transit agencies and State DOTs voluntary ASP reviews on an ongoing basis:
  - To date, the TAC has reviewed over 300 voluntarily submitted ASPs
- Lessons learned from these reviews are documented and shared with industry

# **EMPLOYEE SAFETY REPORTING PROGRAMS (ESRP) LESSONS LEARNED**



# Establish Clear Expectations

## Lesson Learned #1

Some ASPs do not clearly state what employees should report, what employees should not report, and how to report

## Considerations

Clear directions help the transit agency:

- Gather “better” data
- Reduce the amount of input, or reports, that do not advance the agency’s safety mission
- Increase the likelihood of reporting

# Encourage Reporting by Making it Easier

## Lesson Learned #2

Some ASPs outline a cumbersome process for safety reporting that may not reflect the employees' work environment

## Considerations

- Making reporting easier increases the likelihood that employees will use the ESRP
- Not all reporting mechanisms work for all employees, depending on their work environment

# Establish Expectations for Responses

## Lesson Learned #3

Some ASPs do not describe how the RTA will provide feedback to employees who submit reports under the ESRP

## Considerations

Establish clear expectations for providing feedback to reports of safety concerns

# PTASP TAC Links and Contact Information



## Technical Assistance Center





- [www.transit.dot.gov/PTASP-TAC](http://www.transit.dot.gov/PTASP-TAC)

## PTASP Community of Practice

- [www.transit.dot.gov/PTASP-COP](http://www.transit.dot.gov/PTASP-COP)

## Frequently Asked Questions

- [www.transit.dot.gov/PTASP-FAQs](http://www.transit.dot.gov/PTASP-FAQs)

		<a href="http://transit.dot.gov/PTASP-TAC">transit.dot.gov/PTASP-TAC</a>
		1 - 877 - 827 - 7243
		<a href="mailto:PTASP-TAC@dot.gov">PTASP-TAC@dot.gov</a>
		PTASP Technical Assistance Center 943 Glenwood Station Lane, Suite 301 Charlottesville, VA 22901

# Questions?

Candace Key  
Director, Office of System Safety

[Candace.Key@dot.gov](mailto:Candace.Key@dot.gov)