## State DOT Roundtable CTAA Expo

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U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Transit Administration

## **Presentation Overview**

The purpose of this presentation is to provide an update on FTA's recent transit safety initiatives, including Bipartisan Infrastructure Law implementation, cybersecurity and mental health resources for the transit industry, and an update on the Transit Advisory Committee for Safety.

## Agenda

- Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Overview
- National Public Transportation Safety Plan
- Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan Requirements
- Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Resources
- Cybersecurity Resources for Transit Agencies
- Mental Health Resources for Transit Workers
- Transit Advisory Committee for Safety (TRACS) Update



## **Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Overview**

# 7206 increase in funding

- The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law includes a funding increase of 72percent
- Average community transit funding increased by 30-percent
- PEnhances State Safety Oversight programs by strengthening rail inspection practices to protect transit workers and riders from injuries and ensure safe access to transit

## **National Public Transportation Safety Plan**

- Guides the national effort to manage safety risk in the nation's public transportation systems following SMS principles.
  - ✓ Establish safety performance measures by mode to address new risk reduction program requirements
  - ✓ Update voluntary safety standards
  - ✓ Include precautionary and reactive actions required to ensure public and personnel safety and health during an emergency



## Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan

(PTASP) Requirements

- The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law added new PTASP requirements:
  - ✓ Create safety committees comprised of representatives of both management and frontline employees (agencies receiving 5307 funds and serving large UZAs)
  - ✓ Develop an Agency Safety Plan (ASP) in cooperation with frontline employee representatives (agencies serving small UZAs)
  - ✓ Address through their ASP, strategies consistent with the CDC or State health authority guidelines to minimize exposure to infectious diseases
- Review the FTA Dear Colleague Letter



Administrator

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE Washington, DC 20590

February 17, 2022

#### Dear Colleague

On November 15, 2021, President Biden signed into law the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, which authorizes \$108 billion over the next five years for public transportation – the most significant federal investment in transit in the nation's history. The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law amends FTA's safety program at 49 U.S.C. \$5329(d) (Section 5329(d)) by adding to the public transportation agency safety plan (FTASP) requirements. These changes include the requirement that certain transit agencies establish a Safety Committee. I am writing to inform you of these changes to Section 5329(d), which are included here. These new requirements apply to those transit agencies that must have an Agency Safety Plan (ASP) in place under the PTASP regulation (49 CFR part 673). Transit agencies should review their ASP to determine if it meets these requirements.

The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law requires transit agencies to address strategies to minimize exposure to infectious diseases, consistent with Centers for Disease Control and Prevention or State health authority guidelines. Each transit agency should consider identifying mitigations or strategies related to exposure to infectious diseases through the safety risk management process described in the agency's ASP.

Changes to PTASP requirements for agencies serving an urbanized area with a population of fewer than 200,000 (small urbanized area)

A transit agency serving a small urbanized area must develop its ASP in cooperation with frontline employee representatives. If the agency's ASP was not developed in cooperation with frontline employee representatives, FTA expects the transit agency to update its ASP in cooperation with frontline employee representatives by December 31, 2022.

Changes to PTASP requirements for Urbanized Area Formula Funding (49 U.S.C. § 5307) recipients serving an urbanized area with a population of 200,000 or more (large urbanized area)

A transit agency that receives Section 5307 funding and serves a large urbanized area must establish a Safety Committee compliant with 49 U.S.C. § 5329(d)(5) by July 31, 2022. Once established, the Safety Committee should begin work to meet its responsibilities as soon as practicable. If a transit agency is not yet compliant with the new PTASP requirements, FTA expects the Safety Committee to approve an update to the agency's ASP, incorporating applicable PTASP requirements in 49 U.S.C. § 5329(d), by December 31, 2022.

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nsportation and FTA, and we in the Bipartisan Infrastructure uture FTA may issue guidance TA updates related to the gov/BIL. For any further , please contact us at FTA-

of law and are not meant to bind de clarity to the public regarding es and subgrantees should refer to



## **Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Resources**

## **Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Webpage:**

https://www.transit.dot.gov/BIL

### **Program Fact Sheets:**

https://www.transit.dot.gov/funding/grants/fta-program-fact-sheets-under-bipartisan-infrastructure-law

### PTASP FAQs for Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Requirements:

https://www.transit.dot.gov/safety/public-transportation-agency-safety-program/public-transportation-agency-safety-plan-faqs

## Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Changes to PTASP Requirements Webinar:

https://www.transit.dot.gov/regulations-andprograms/safety/bipartisan-infrastructure-law-changes-publictransportation-agency

Questions? Email: FTA-IIJA@dot.gov

#### Bipartisan Infrastructure Law

#### BIPARTISAN INFRASTRUCTURE LAW

The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, as enacted in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, authorizes up to \$100 billion for public transportation – the largest federal investment in public transportation in the nation's history.

#### What's New

- Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan FAQs for New Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Requirement
- Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Disposition Requirements FAQs
- Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Hiring Preference. In 2021, FTA announced an initiative, implemented as a pilot program, to permit transit agencies to use hiring preferences on FTA-funded construction projects to promote equitable creation of employment opportunities and workforce development activities, particularly for economically or socially disadvantaged workers. The initiative has transitioned in response to the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, which includes hiring preferences related to the use of labor for transportation construction projects. Section 25019 provides an express authorization for FTA grant recipients and subrecipients to use a geographical or economic hiring preference for the construction of federally supported transit projects. See the Federal Register Notice.

The legislation will advance public transportation in America's communities through four key priorities



#### Safety

Enhancing state safety oversight programs by strengthening rail inspection practices to protect transit workers and riders from injuries and ensure safe access to transit



#### Modernizatio

Reducing the state of good repair investment backlog by repairing and upgrading aging transit infrastructure and modernizing bus and rail fleets.



#### Climate

Replacing thousands of transit vehicles, including buses and ferries, with cleaner,



#### Equity

Improving transit service for communities that have historically had more limited access to transit and provide for substantial upgrades to station accessibility.



## **Cybersecurity Resources for Transit Agencies**

FTA published cybersecurity resources to support transit agencies during a time of unprecedented ransomware attacks targeting the transportation sector.

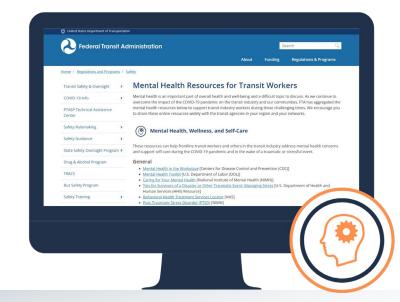


www.transit.dot.gov/regulations-and-programs/safety/cybersecurity-resources-transit-agencies

- National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST): NIST resources include a
  Cybersecurity Framework, voluntary guidance based on existing standards, and
  guidelines and practices for organizing to better manage and reduce cybersecurity risk.
- Transportation Security Administration (TSA): TSA resources include a Surface Transportation Cybersecurity Toolkit that provides cybersecurity information to surface transportation operators with fewer than 1,000 employees.
- Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA): CISA resources include a Cyber Essentials Starter Kit and how to report cyber incidents such as phishing and malware to CISA.

## Mental Health Resources for Transit Workers

- On February 1, 2022, FTA published Mental Health Resources to support transit industry workers. We encourage you to share these resources widely with your networks.
  - Mental Health, Wellness and Self-Care: These resources help transit stakeholders address mental health concerns and support self-care during the COVID-19 pandemic and in the wake of a traumatic or stressful event.
  - Suicide Prevention: These resources highlight free and confidential support for people in emotional distress and offer potential interventions for organizations.
  - Active Shooter Preparedness: These resources offer information to help transit stakeholders recognize indicators of potential workplace violence and understand actions to take when confronted by an active shooter.



## **TRACS Update**

- On February 2, 2022, FTA re-established TRACS via a 2022-2024
   Charter
- The member solicitation period opened on February 7 and closed on April 8
- FTA may select up to 25 members for the 2022-2024 Charter
- FTA received 155 applications
- The DOT Secretary and FTA Administrator will soon finalize committee selections

<u>www.transit.dot.gov/regulations-and-guidance/safety/transit-advisory-committee-safety-tracs</u>

Questions? Email: <u>tracs@dot.gov</u>





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