

What Smaller Agencies Need to Know About Safety and Security: FTA and TSA Updates

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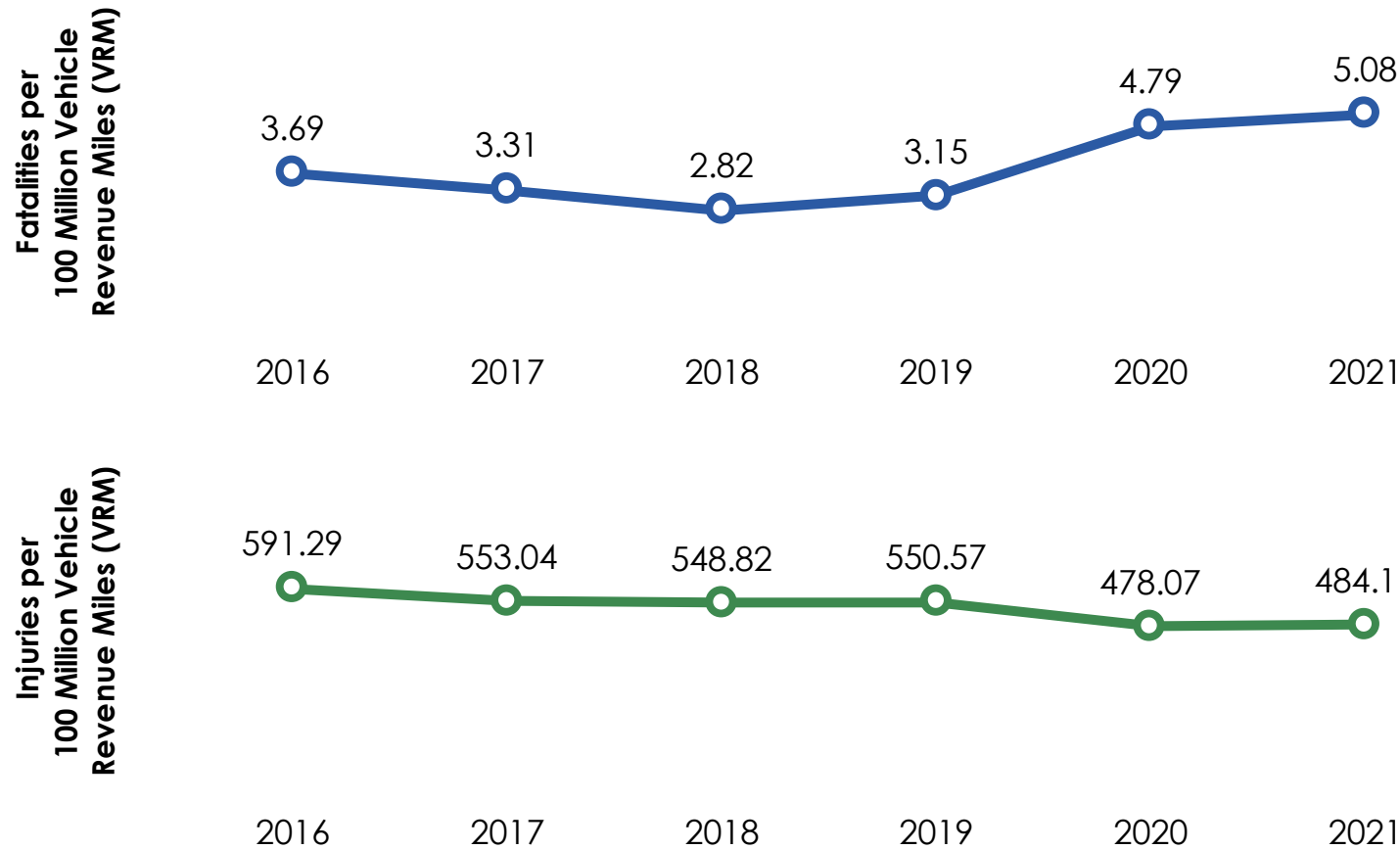


Updates

- State of Bus Transit Safety
- Fall 2022 Unified Regulatory Agenda
- PTASP Safety Committee Status
- National Roadway Safety Strategy (NRSS)
- Suicide Prevention Signage Safety Advisory
- Other Resources – Mental Health Resources and FTA’s Drug and Alcohol Conference
- Transit Advisory Committee on Safety (TRACS)
- Protecting Assets from Cyber Threats - Cybersecurity Assessment Tool, Webinar and Resources

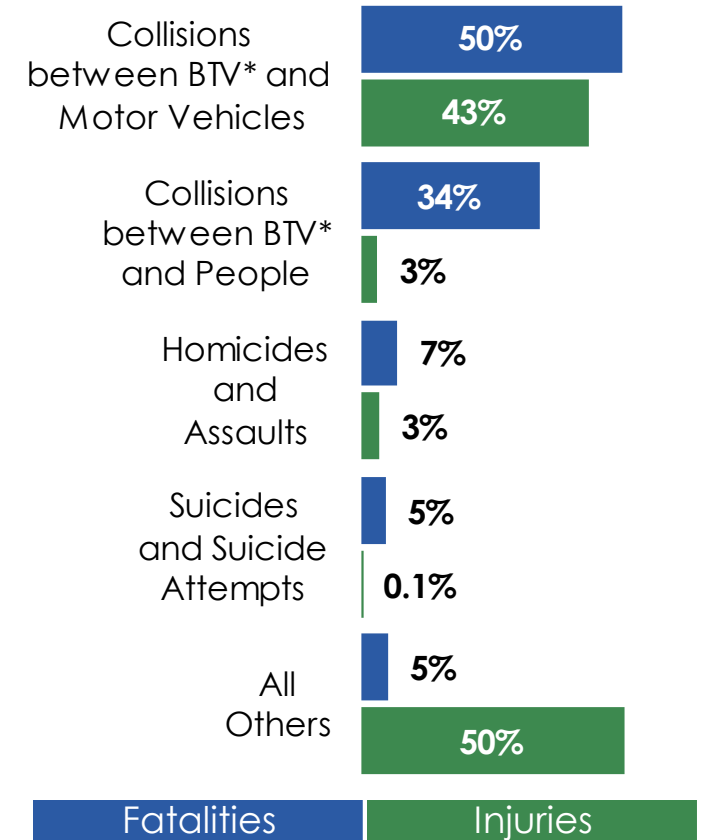


State of Bus Transit Safety



Source: National Transit Database (NTD)
2021 Preliminary Data

Sources of Bus Fatalities and Injuries



Data as of: December 2, 2022
**Bus Transit Vehicles*

Fall 2022 Unified Regulatory Agenda

Published on January 4, 2023

Rail Transit Roadway Worker Protection

- Establishes minimum baseline standards and risk-based redundant protection requirements

State Safety Oversight

- Introduces changes to clarify State Safety Oversight Agencies' (SSOA) oversight responsibilities and authority to conduct inspections

Public Transportation Safety Certification Training Program

- Amends training curriculum to reflect new requirements and training course information

Public Transportation Agency Safety Plans

- Incorporates new requirements established through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law

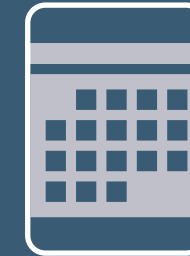
NEW: Transit Worker Fitness for Duty

- Asks questions about establishing minimum standards related to transit worker fitness for duty



PTASP Safety Committee Implementation Status

- Beginning in CY23, FTA will integrate the new PTASP requirements into the Triennial (TR) and State Management Review (SMR) processes.
- Recipients certify that they have established a Safety Committee as part of the annual certifications and assurances for FTA grants (monitored in the Transit Award Management System).
- FTA's February 2022 Dear Colleague Letter established compliance dates, and FTA has discussed the safety committee requirement with the industry and labor at conferences and meetings, provided technical assistance, and shared email reminders with resources.



July 31, 2022 Safety Committee Formation Compliance Date



431 Applicable Agencies



219 TRs/SMRs anticipated for FY23



National Roadway Safety Strategy

- The U.S. Department of Transportation's NRSS aims to significantly reduce serious injuries and deaths on our nation's roadways and highways.
- Nearly 95% of transportation deaths occur on streets, roads, and highways.
- Call-To-Action campaign launched on February 3, 2023.
- FTA plans to focus on reducing the bus to person collision rate, while also encouraging commitments from all transit agencies through broad promotion of the Call-To-Action on the FTA website.

COMMIT TO **ZERO** FATALITIES


To make our roadways
safer for everyone,
we can't do it alone.

WE NEED YOU.



National Roadway Safety Strategy (cont.)

Encouraging commitments from 39 select bus agencies



FTA will encourage commitments from select bus agencies to mitigate roadway safety issues related to bus operations through targeted engagement and distribution of a letter from the FTA Administrator sent from the FTA regions.

39 bus agencies were selected as having the highest rates based on ranking of 2017-2021 Bus-to-Person Collision Rate (per 100M VRM) from National Transit Database (NTD) data.



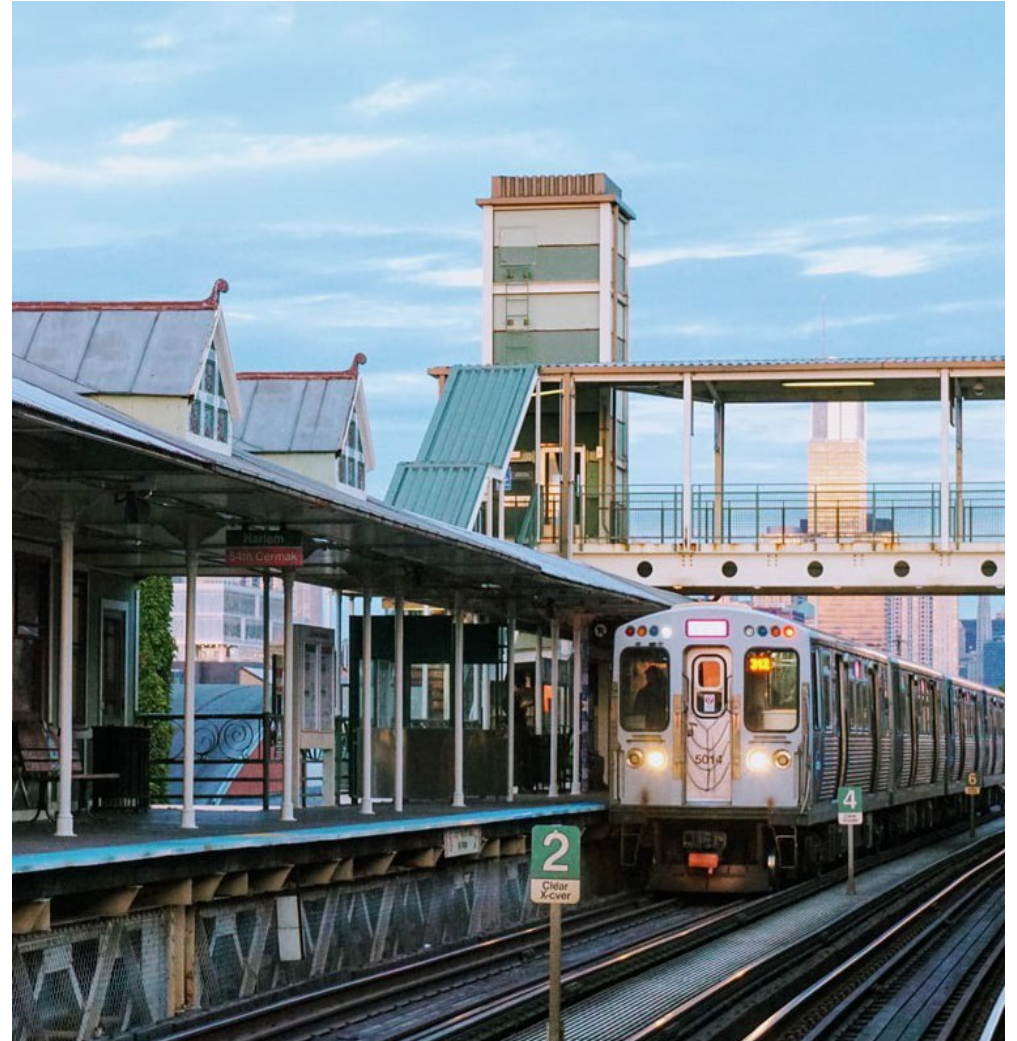
For additional questions, please email FTASafetyStakeholder@dot.gov



Safety Advisory 22-4 Overview and Purpose

Safety Advisory Overview

- **Date:** Published in the Federal Register on December 7, 2022
- **Safety Advisory Number:** 22-4
- **Audience:** Transit Agencies
- **Purpose:** FTA encourages transit agencies to implement, update, or expand suicide prevention signage and messaging campaigns that apply best practices for reducing suicide attempts. Additionally, FTA encourages incorporating general mental health awareness on public-facing media, partnering with suicide prevention organizations, and assessing suicide event and crisis center data through Safety Risk Management and Safety Assurance processes.



Suicide on Public Transit

Facts on Suicide

Suicide is a leading cause of fatalities on public transit

150

The average number of suicide attempts per year on or by transit over the past five years

71%

The percentage of suicide attempts reported inside a rail station

COVID-19

The pandemic has exacerbated risk factors associated with suicidal behavior

Source: National Transit Database (July 2019); BMC Psychology, Pathirathna et. al (2022)

Suicide's Impact on Agency Operations

Impact to Operations

- Suicide on transit impacts everyone involved, including transit operators
- In addition to impacts on operator well-being, suicide events may impact transit agencies' daily operations
- These impacts may include:
 - Missed work hours to recover from the shock, which is especially relevant in times of employee shortages and understaffing
 - Time to complete required station maintenance after an event
 - Difficulty in recruiting and maintaining workforce

Source: Transit Advisory Committee for Safety (TRACS) Report 18-03; TCRP Research Report 233

Signage as an Intervention Tool for Transit

Agencies

Signage can be effective in the immediate moment to talk down or deter suicide

- SA 22-4 recommends that signage include the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline and suicide prevention messaging
- **San Francisco Bay Area Rapid Transit District (BART):** BART partnered with the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline in 2015 for a signage campaign, resulting in the helpline receiving 20 to 50 calls per year from transit stations since the campaign began
- **Toronto Transit Commission:** Toronto's *Crisis Link* is a suicide prevention program that installed posters on every subway platform. It's estimated the suicide rate dropped by 46% since 2019

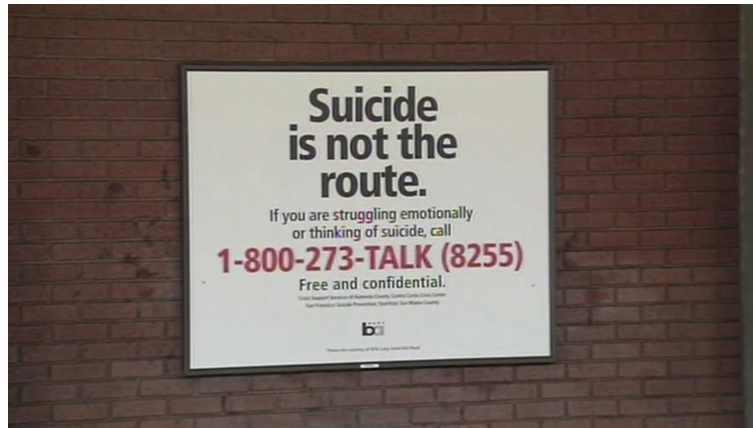


Image 1: BART (2015)



Image 2: Toronto's Crisis Link (2019)

Source: TRACS Report 18-03

Suicide Prevention Signage on Public Transit

Signage

- Display the national Suicide & Crisis Lifeline phone number (988) and the local crisis center or local public transit helpline phone number
- Direct patrons to nearby public phones, if available
- Present information in all languages frequently spoken within the jurisdiction
- Consider language, word choice, and other demographic risk factors, like age and gender, within the jurisdiction for signage and messaging campaigns

Source: FTA Report No. 0227



Image 3: An example of generic 988 messaging from the U.S. Army (2022)

Suicide Prevention Signage on Public Transit

Mental Health Awareness

- Convey anti-suicide and general mental health awareness information on public-facing media, such as bus advertisement space, station booths, bus shelters, fare cards, and vending machine screen savers
- Partner with suicide prevention organizations, including community mental health organizations, to coordinate mental health and suicide prevention messaging and resources
- Place suicide prevention signage in highly visible areas that pose the greatest risk for suicide
- Assess and monitor the effectiveness of different signage approaches and make use of available data to guide transit agency activities on suicide prevention

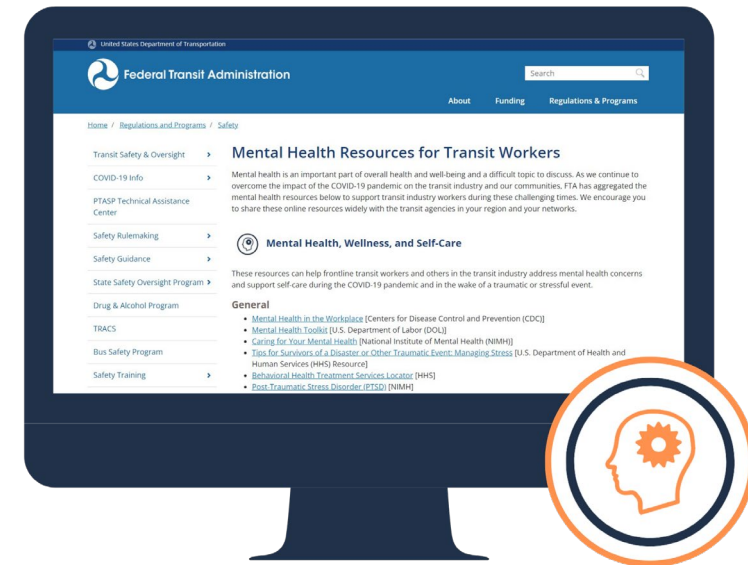
Source: FTA Report No. 0227



Image 4: Port Authority of New York and New Jersey's NJ Hopeline (2013)

Mental Health Resources for the Transit Industry

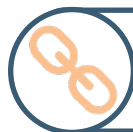
- On February 1, 2022, FTA published [Mental Health Resources](#) to support transit industry workers. We encourage you to share these resources widely with your networks.
 - **Mental Health, Wellness and Self-Care:** These resources help transit stakeholders address mental health concerns and support 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.



FTA Drug and Alcohol Program Conference

March 14-16, 2023

- The 16th FTA Annual Drug and Alcohol Conference will provide background on 49 CFR Part 655 and 49 CFR Part 40.
- This is a hybrid event with some sessions available to remote participants.
- Sessions will focus on running a compliant drug and alcohol program and provide training for beginner Drug and Alcohol Program Managers.
- Registration for in-person attendance closes on March 10th.



Visit FTA's [Drug and Alcohol Conference page](https://transit.dot.gov/drug-alcohol-program) for more information

Transit Advisory Committee for Safety

- 1/31: First meeting (virtual) for 2022-2024 committee
- 24 members
- TRACS Chair and Vice Chair were selected
- Initial taskings:
 - Develop recommendations that **advance transit rider and worker safety** and how FTA can support agencies in developing and implementing mitigations
 - Develop recommendations that define mitigations to **prevent bus-to-person and bus-to-privately-operated-vehicle collisions**
 - **Research and identify cybersecurity and data security system concerns** for public transit agencies and recommend FTA actions and policies to mitigate those hazards

The screenshot shows the Federal Transit Administration's website for the Transit Advisory Committee for Safety. The page features a navigation menu with links for Home, Regulations and Programs, and Safety. A prominent banner at the top right states: "NEW: FTA is reviewing TRACS applications. You can review the [2022-2024 TRACS Charter](#) and [TRACS Extension Federal Register Notice](#) for more information." Below this, the "About TRACS" section provides a detailed overview of the committee's mission, noting that it was established in 2009 to improve transit safety. The "Application Resources" section highlights that FTA is currently reviewing TRACS applications and provides a link to the 2022-2024 TRACS Charter. The "Notices and Participation" section explains that the committee meets at least twice a year and provides information on how to formally address TRACS or submit materials for review.

For additional information, visit [FTA's TRACS Webpage](#).

Protecting Assets from Cyber Threats

- Cybersecurity Assessment Tool for Transit (CATT)

FTA published an open-source PDF based [CATT tool](#) on February 10, 2023

- Assists small and mid-sized transit agencies in self-assessing their cybersecurity preparedness

An On-ramp for agencies to identify key practices of a modern cybersecurity program with self assessment

- Uses Dept. of Homeland Security's Cyber Resilience Review (CRR) as a basis
- Aligns with National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) framework

CATT has three primary components

- Data collection form
- Resulting report produced given data input from transit agency
- Resource guide on how to begin practices

Cybersecurity – Additional Resources

- **Cybersecurity Webinar to Demonstrate the CATT tool**
 - FTA will host a webinar on March 1 from 1pm to 2pm
- **Cybersecurity Webpages**
 - CATT tool download [Cybersecurity Assessment Tool for Transit \(CATT\)](#)
 - CATT tool brief [Cybersecurity Assessment Tool for Transit \(CATT\): Self-Assessment Package](#)
 - Cybersecurity research page [Cybersecurity Program](#)
 - Cybersecurity safety page <https://www.transit.dot.gov/regulations-and-programs/safety/cybersecurity-resources-transit-agencies>



Questions

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