

2023 Passenger Transportation Conference: Transportation Safety

March 2, 2023



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U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Transit Administration

Agenda

- Safety Communication and Best Practices
- PTASP
- Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Requirements
- FTA State of Rail Transit and Bus Transit Safety
- Taking Action to Reduce Transit Worker Assaults
- Safety Advisories
- Trespass and Suicide Prevention
- Rail Grade Crossing Safety

Safety Communication and Best Practices

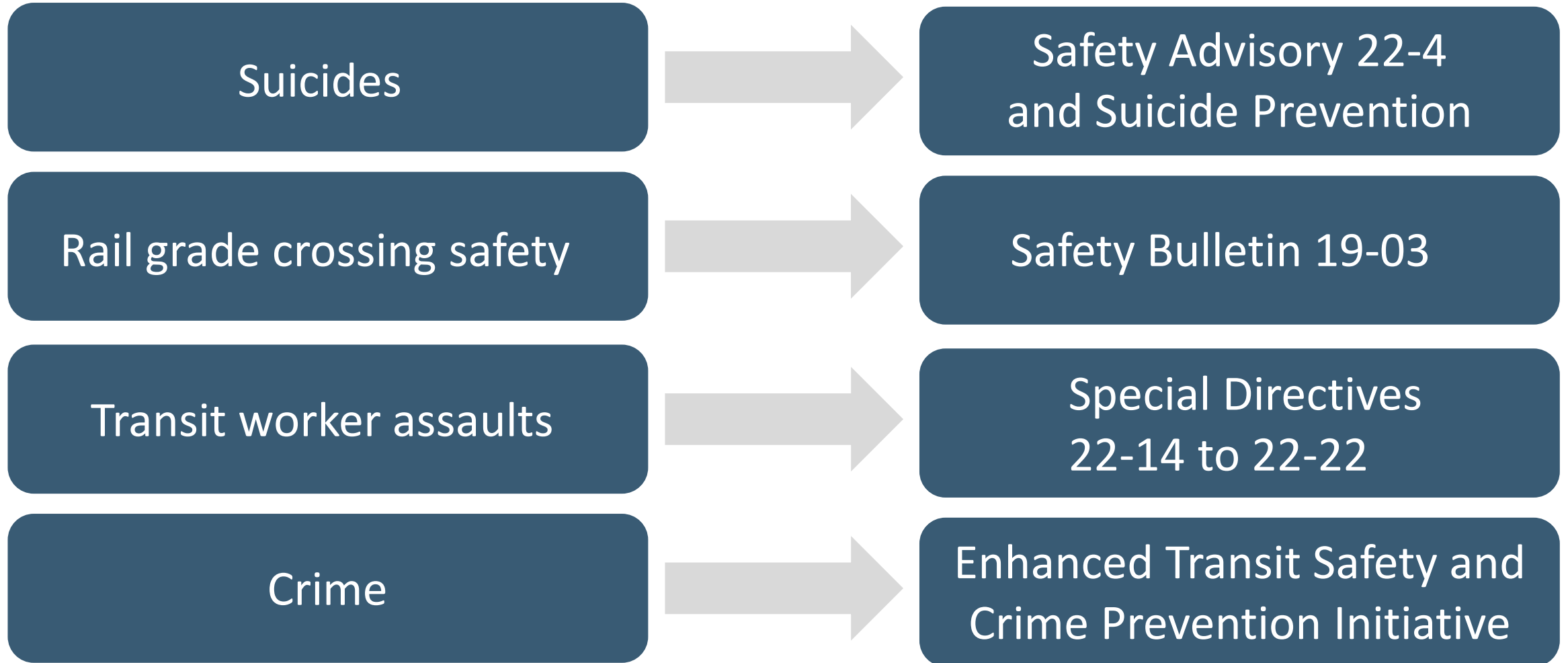
FTA's outreach efforts promote understanding and acceptance of safety initiatives, safety authority, rule requirements and compliance deadlines.

FTA practices two-way communications with workers, riders and the Industry

- GovDelivery email distribution, social media, monthly e-newsletter, website with safety topic webpages, conference participation, webinars, workshops, trade publication articles and regular meetings with stakeholder groups.

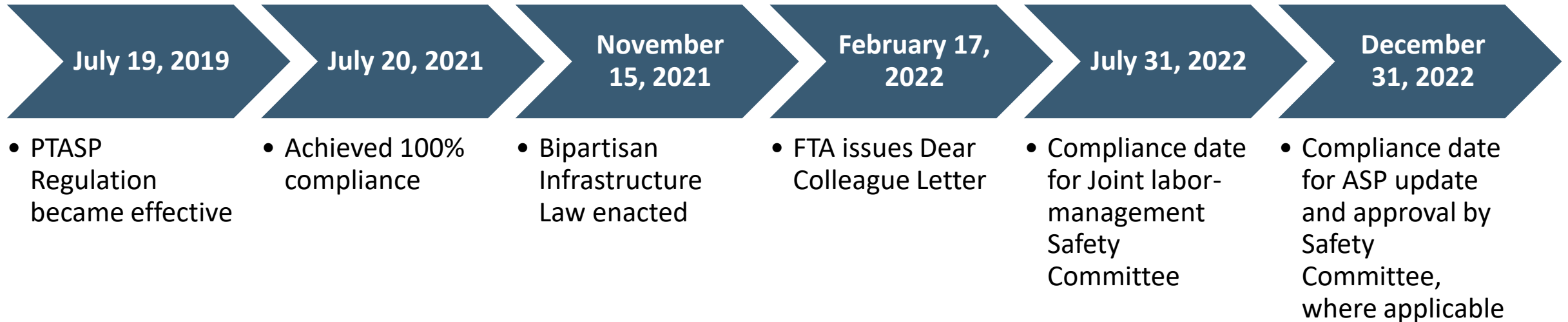


Safety Communication and Best Practices



Public Transportation Agency Safety Plans

- Requires certain operators of public transportation systems that receive FTA funds to develop Agency Safety Plans that incorporate Safety Management System (SMS) principles and practices.
- The regulation applies to more than 700 transit agencies and 50 States.



Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and PTASP

The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law added new PTASP requirements:

Agencies receiving 5307 funds and serving Large UZAs:

- ✓ Establish safety committees with equal numbers of frontline employee representatives and management representatives
- ✓ Establish risk reduction programs and targets, and set aside 0.75% of section 5307 funds for safety related projects
- ✓ Increase safety training: include maintenance personnel in the agency's comprehensive safety staff training program and provide de-escalation training
- ✓ Address strategies consistent with the CDC or State health authority guidelines to minimize exposure to infectious diseases

Agencies serving Small UZAs:

- ✓ Develop an Agency Safety Plan (ASP) in cooperation with frontline employee representatives
- ✓ Address strategies consistent with the CDC or State health authority guidelines to minimize exposure to infectious diseases



PTASP Technical Assistance

Technical Assistance Center:

www.transit.dot.gov/PTASP-TAC

Frequently Asked Questions:

www.transit.dot.gov/PTASP-FAQs



www.transit.dot.gov/PTASP-TAC



877-827-7243



PTASP-TAC@dot.gov

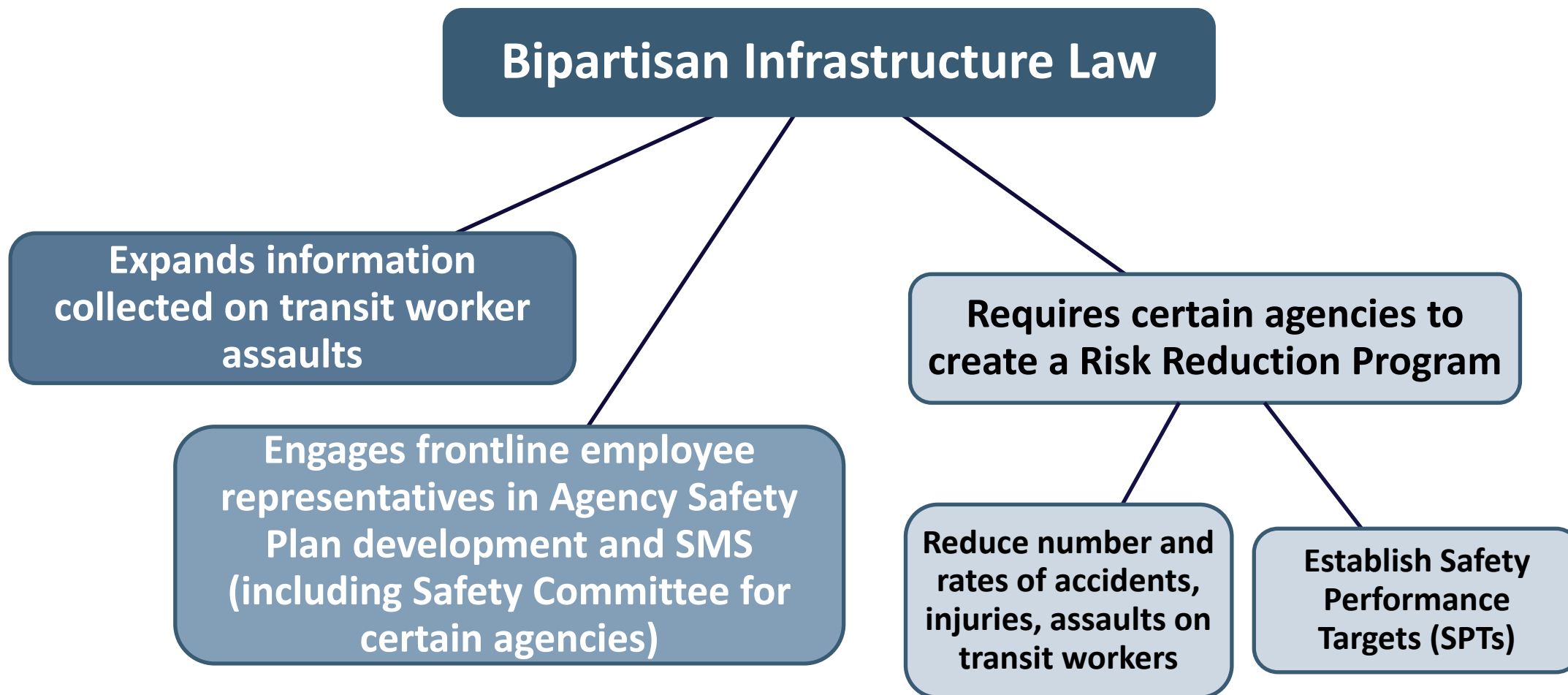
Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Requirements: National Public Transportation Safety Plan (NSP)

Guides the national effort to manage safety risk in the nation's public transportation systems following the principles of SMS.

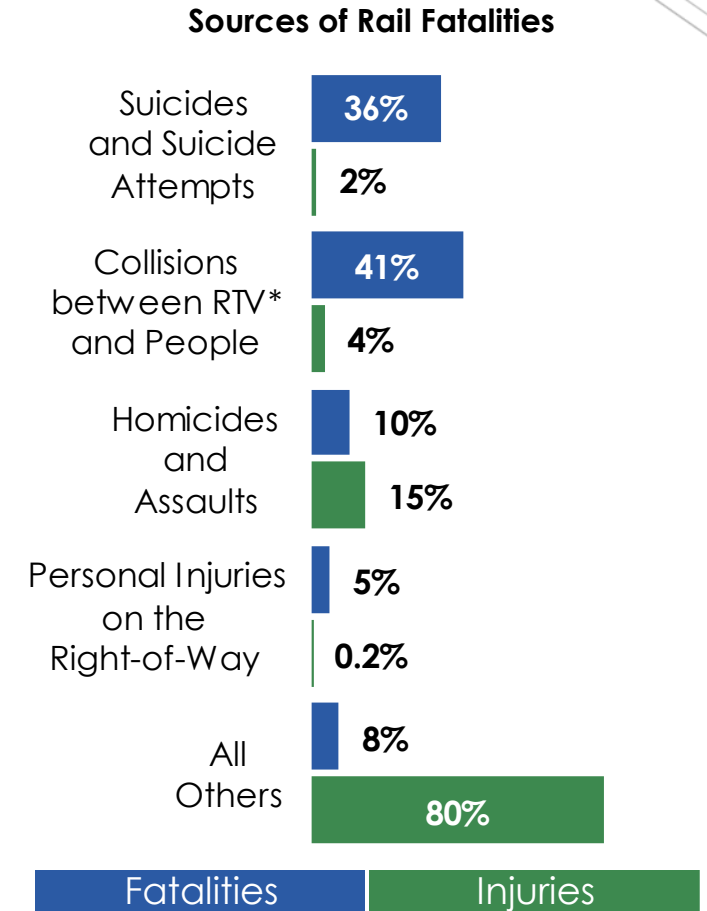
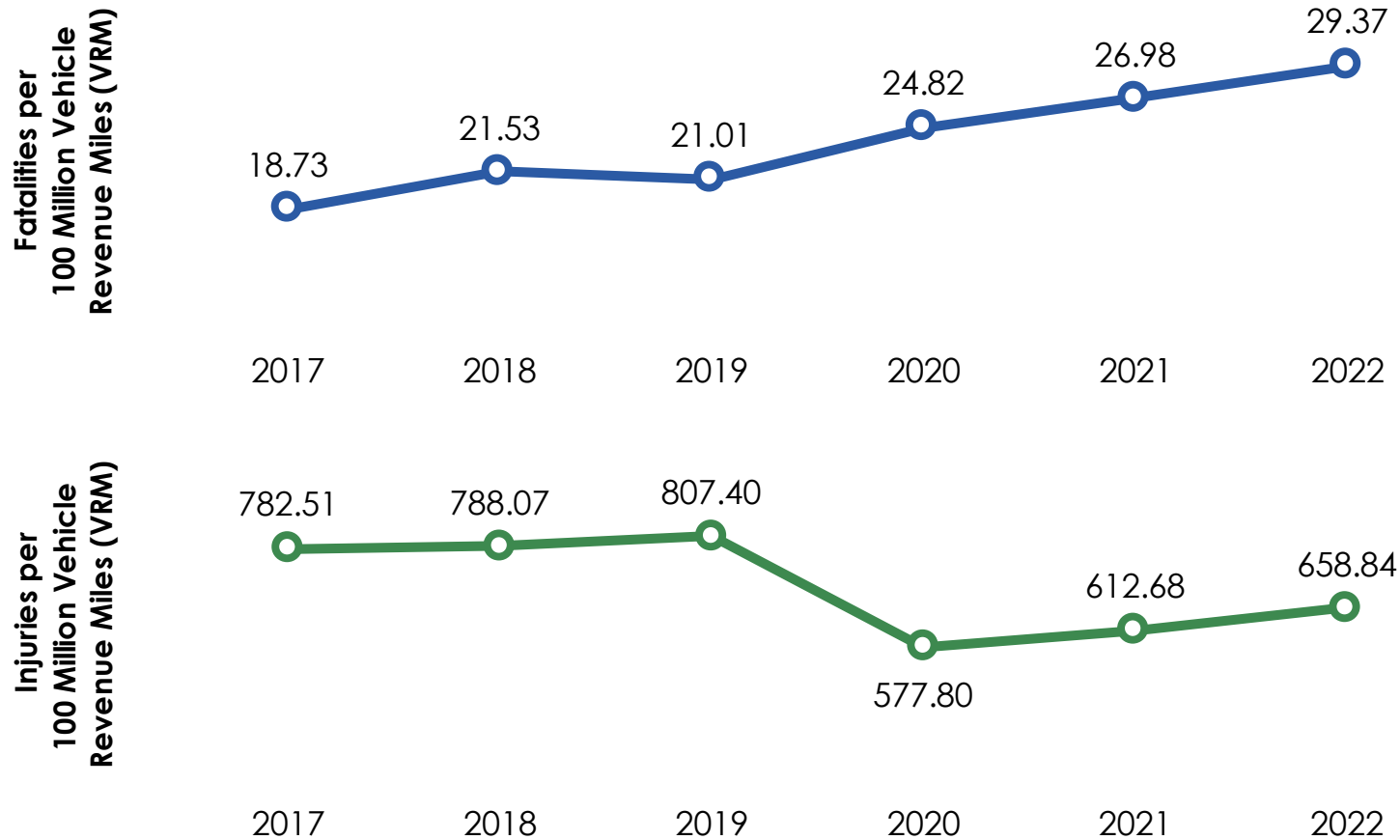
The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law added new NSP requirements:

- ✓ 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.

Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Requirements: Transit Worker Assault



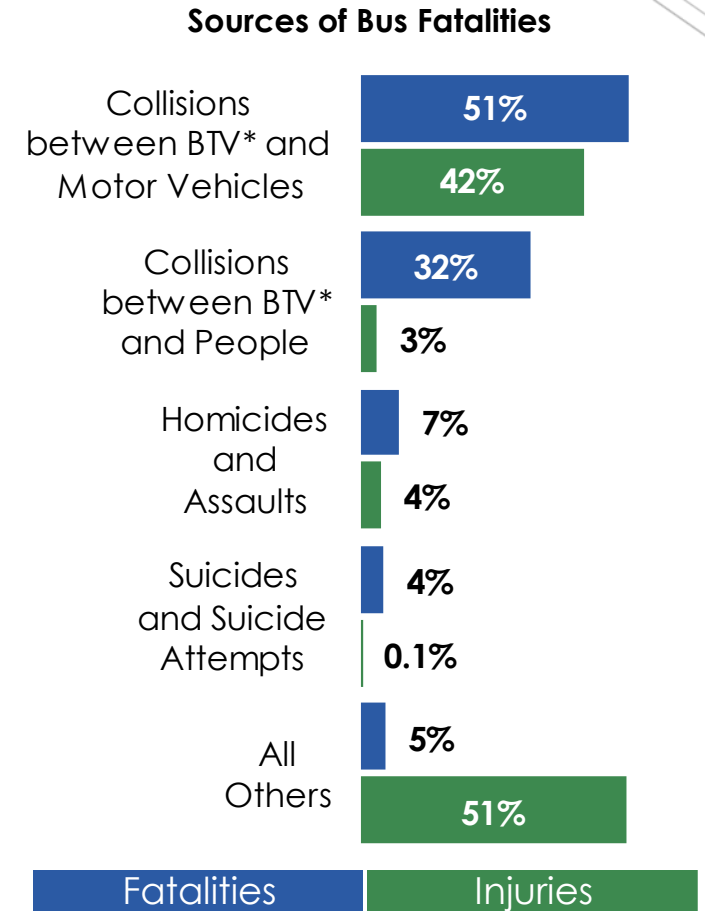
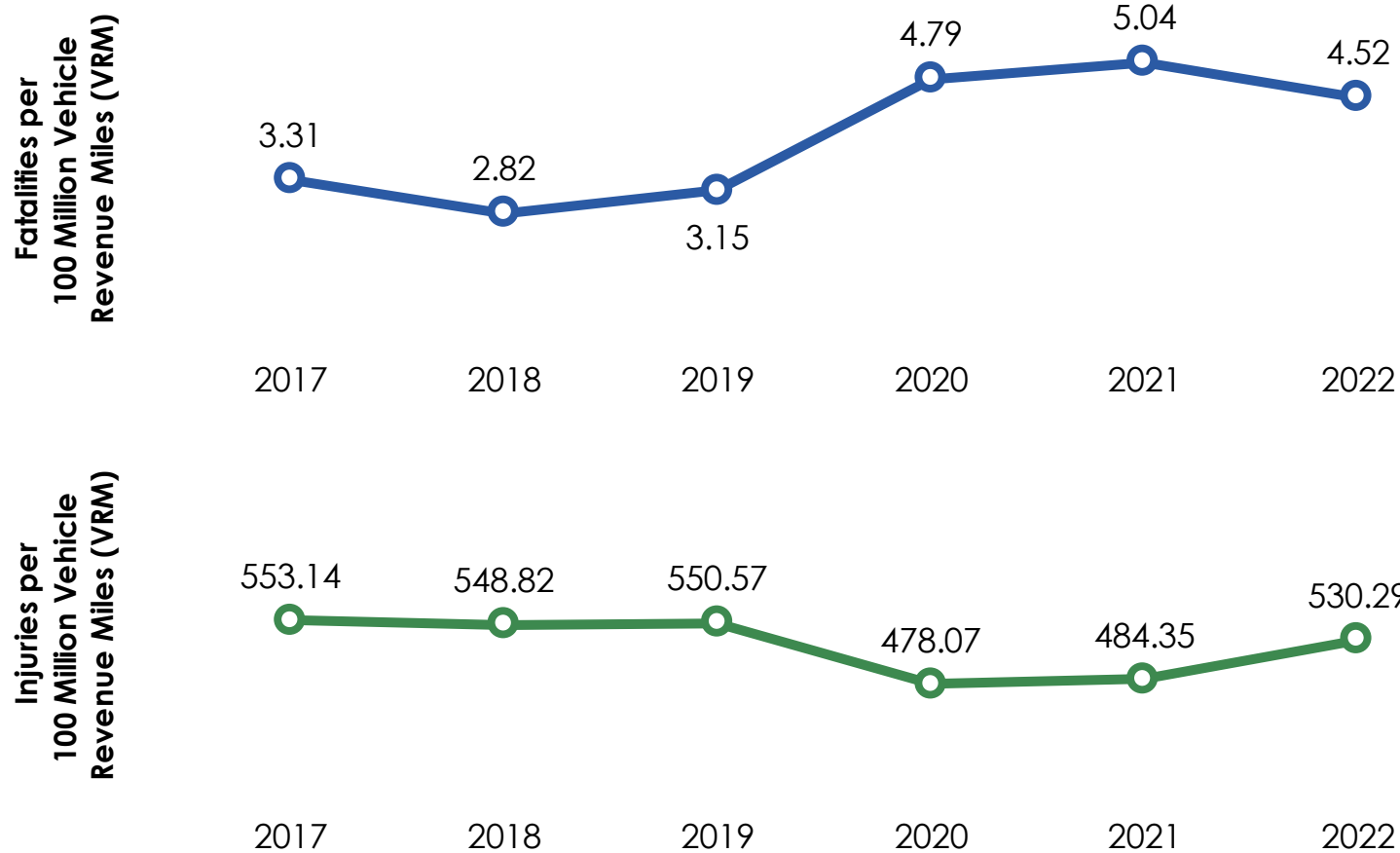
State of Rail Transit Safety



Source: National Transit Database (NTD)
2022 includes Jan–Oct only. Data are preliminary.

Data as of: February 2, 2023
**Rail Transit Vehicles*

State of Bus Transit Safety



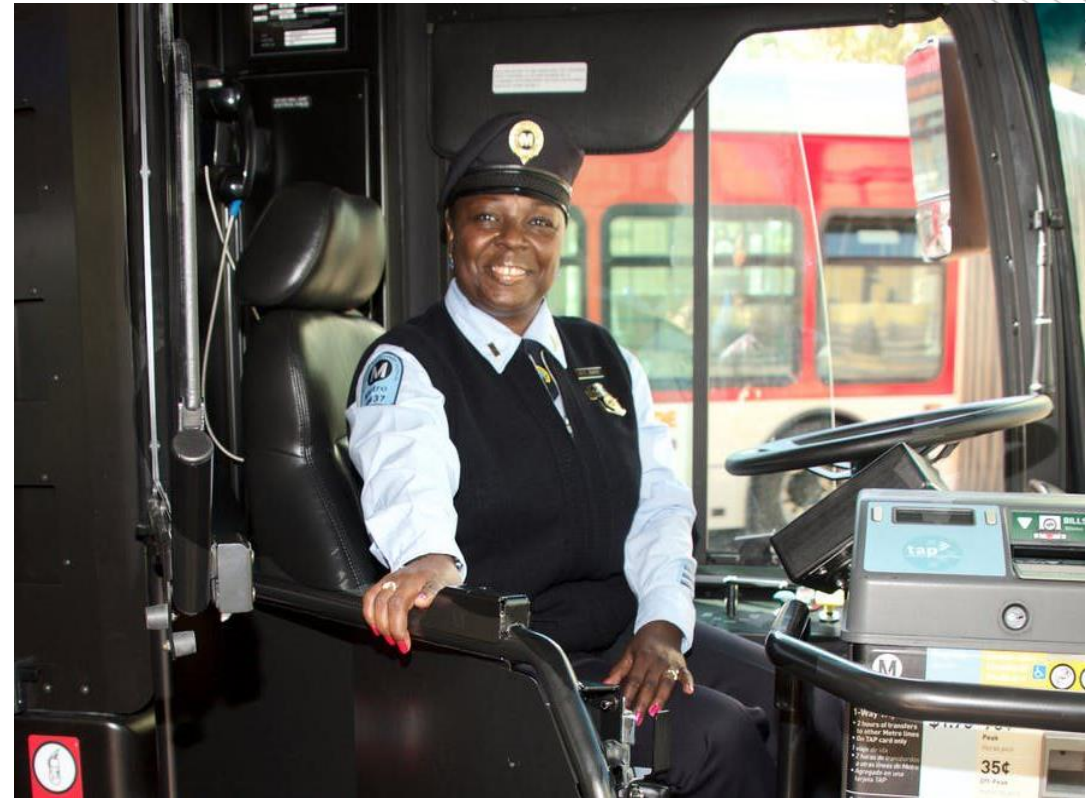
Source: National Transit Database (NTD)
 2022 includes Jan–Oct only. Data are preliminary.

Data as of: February 2, 2023
 *Bus Transit Vehicles

Taking Action to Reduce Transit Worker Assaults

From 2008-2021, transit agencies reported an average of 241 worker assault events per year

- 192 per year occurring in or on transit vehicles
- 44 per year occurring in transit revenue facilities
- Five per year occurring in non-public locations, such as maintenance shops and yards



This data includes only the most serious events, and may significantly underestimate the total number of assaults

Taking Action to Reduce Transit Worker Assaults

Special Directives: Required Actions Regarding Transit Worker Assault

- Issued to nine agencies that reported 79% of assaults on transit workers to NTD between 2016-2021
- Confirm that named recipients are addressing transit worker assault risk using their SMS processes (as required by the PTASP regulation and noted in the subsequent operator assault Federal Register notice)
- Determine if additional FTA intervention is required to reduce transit worker assault likelihood and/or severity in advance of pending regulatory action and subsequent risk reduction program development



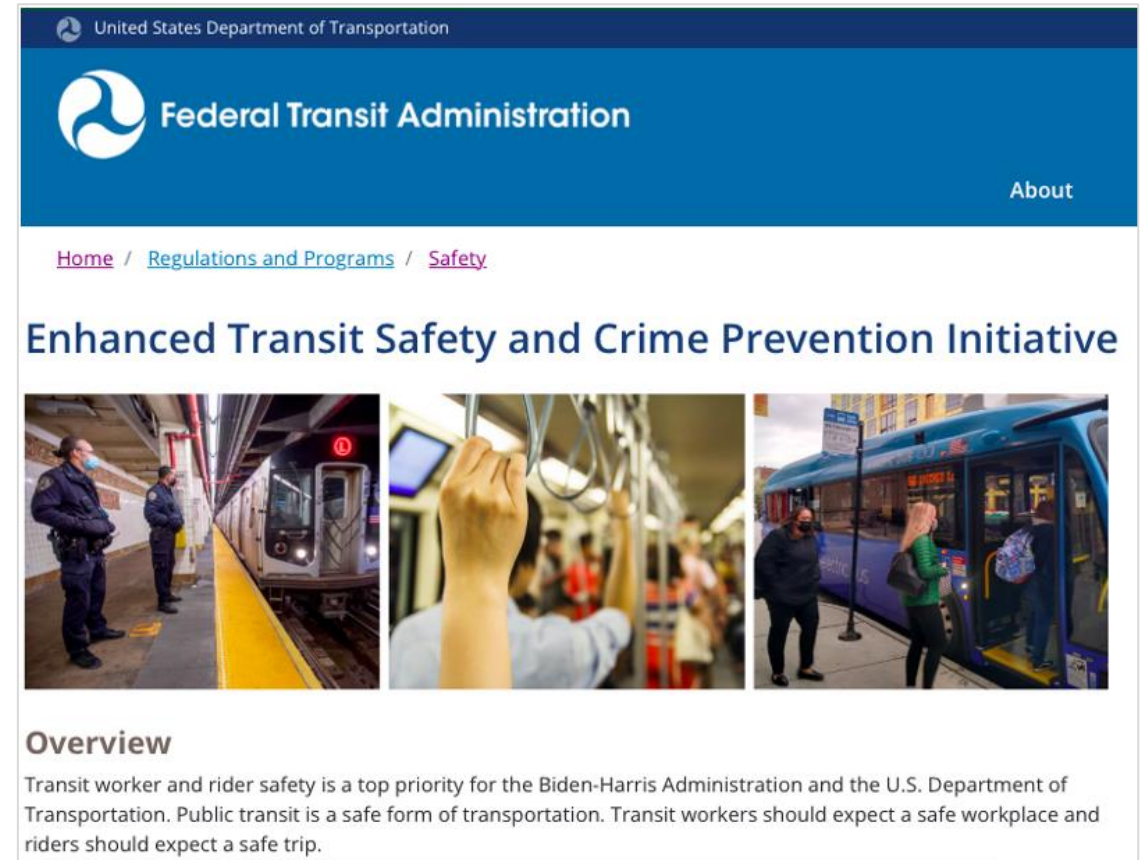
Visit FTA's [Special Directives webpage](#) for more information.



Taking Action to Reduce Transit Worker Assaults

FTA Enhanced Transit Safety and Crime Prevention Initiative

- [Information and resources](#) to help transit agencies protect transit workers and riders, including:
- Federal funding to improve safety
- Training courses offered by the National Transit Institute (NTI)
 - Assault Awareness and Prevention for Transit Operators
 - Violence in the Transit Workplace



The screenshot shows the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) website. At the top, it says "United States Department of Transportation" and "Federal Transit Administration" with the FTA logo. There is an "About" link in the top right. Below the header, there are navigation links: "Home / Regulations and Programs / Safety". The main heading is "Enhanced Transit Safety and Crime Prevention Initiative". Below the heading are three images: a transit worker on a platform, a hand holding a handrail on a train, and a person boarding a bus. Under the images is the section "Overview" with the text: "Transit worker and rider safety is a top priority for the Biden-Harris Administration and the U.S. Department of Transportation. Public transit is a safe form of transportation. Transit workers should expect a safe workplace and riders should expect a safe trip."

Recent FTA Safety Advisories



[Safety Advisory 22-4](#): Suicide Prevention Signage on Public Transit



[Safety Advisory 22-3](#): Steering Gearbox Bolt Failure



[Safety Advisory 22-2](#): Signal System Safety and Train Control



[Safety Advisory 22-1](#): Rail Car Passenger Door Inspection and Function Testing



Visit FTA's [Safety Advisories webpage](#) for more information.

FTA Safety Advisory 22-4: Suicide Prevention Signage on Public Transit

Overview

Published: December 7, 2022

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.



FTA Safety Advisory 22-4 Takeaways

Suicide is the leading cause of fatalities on transit

Suicide has an emotional and psychological impact on everyone the event impacts: family, friends, transit workers, transit leadership, and the community

Research suggests that suicide prevention signage is an intervention that can save lives

Transit agencies should consider installing or updating existing suicide prevention signage along operating routes in highly visible areas



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

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

If you are
**struggling emotionally
or thinking of suicide**
call or text
988
Free and confidential.

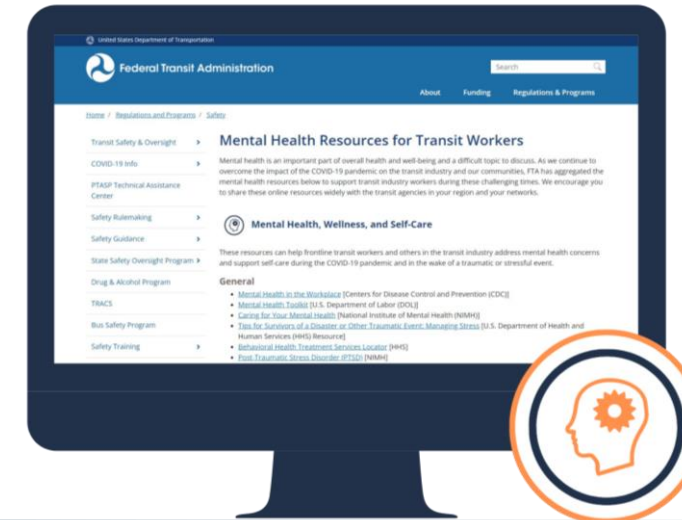
An example of San Francisco Bay Area Rapid Transit District's (BART) signage



View [FTA's Suicide Prevention Signage on Public Transit Webinar](#) for more information.

Mental Health Resources for Transit Workers

- 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.



Rail Grade Crossing Safety: Resources, Initiatives and Grants

- Formed in March 2022 to reduce serious and fatal injuries

DOT Safety
Action Team



- Published in 2019, actions taken, data analysis, resources
- <http://bit.ly/3A0wja6>

FTA Safety
Bulletin 19-03



- Funding to increase transportation infrastructure, safety and resilience
- <https://bit.ly/3TCOZnj>

FEMA Transit
Security Grants



Rail Grade Crossing Safety: Partnerships and Outreach



Operation Lifesaver

- Non-profit dedicated to improving safety around railroad tracks and highway-rail grade crossings
- Competitive grant program
- New transit safety education materials: <http://bit.ly/3g7XBV2>



Stop. Trains Can't. Campaign

- Help reduce collisions, deaths and injuries at freight and commuter train, and rail transit train crossings
- <http://bit.ly/3UmhTJb>

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Federal Transit Administration

Enter your email address to receive FTA email notifications and click **Submit**.

The screenshot shows the top of the subscription page with the U.S. Department of Transportation and Federal Transit Administration logos. Below the header, the text reads "Email Updates" and "To sign up for updates or to access your subscriber preferences, please enter your contact information below." There is a text input field for "Email Address" with a red asterisk indicating it is required. Below the field are "Submit" and "Cancel" buttons.

- Safety & Oversight
 - Safety Advisories & Directives
 - Drug & Alcohol
 - Safety Management Systems
 - Safety Training & Conferences
 - Safety & Oversight Newsletter
 - State Safety Oversight Program
 - Transit Advisory Committee for Safety (TRACS)
 - Bus Safety
 - Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan (PTASP)

- TrAMS
 - TrAMS
- Initiatives
 - CCAM/Rides to Wellness
- FTA Regional Offices
 - Region 10

Select the categories and topics for updates:

- All topics in the **Safety & Oversight** category
- **Transit Safety & Oversight** (Programs category)
- **Calendar of Events** (News & Events category)

Questions

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[TRANSIT.DOT.GOV](https://www.transit.dot.gov)



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