



Tools for Implementing a Comprehensive Safety Training Program

Please note: *This article pertains to the PTASP Final Rule currently in effect as of July 19, 2019, and statutory requirements in 49 U.S.C. 5329(d). It does not pertain to the [Notice of Proposed Rulemaking \(NPRM\) for PTASP](#) published on April 26, 2023, in the Federal Register.¹*

The [Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan \(PTASP\)](#) regulation at 49 CFR § 673.29(a) (Part 673) requires applicable transit agencies to establish and implement a comprehensive safety training program, including refresher training as necessary, for all employees and contractors directly responsible for safety. Under the [Bipartisan Infrastructure Law](#), transit agencies that receive Section 5307 funding and serve one or more large urbanized areas (population of 200,000 or more) must ensure that the agency's comprehensive safety training program includes:

- Maintenance personnel
- De-escalation training for maintenance personnel, operations personnel, and personnel directly responsible for safety

Developing a comprehensive training program is an element of [Safety Promotion](#), one of the four Safety Management System (SMS) components required under Part 673. Part 673 defines Safety Promotion as “a combination of training and communication of safety information to support SMS as applied to the transit agency’s public transportation system.” Safety Promotion should cover all safety-related information employees need to perform their jobs safely.

Transit agencies determine who at their agency is [directly responsible for safety](#). Consider explicitly defining “directly responsible for safety” by job role or responsibilities (e.g., Accountable Executive, Chief Safety Officer, department heads, dispatchers, controllers, yardmasters, shift supervisors, etc.)

Resources

- [Safety Training Resources for Bus Transit Agencies](#)
- [Fiscal Year 2023 Transit Training Schedule](#)
- [Violence in the Transit Workplace – Prevention, Response and Recovery \(Train the Trainer\) \(NTI\)](#)

¹ The contents of this document do not have the force and effect of law and are not meant to bind the public in any way. This document is intended only to provide clarity to the public regarding existing requirements under the law or agency policies. Grantees and subgrantees should refer to FTA’s statutes and regulations for applicable requirements.

This article was originally published in the [June 2023 issue of the Transit Safety & Oversight Spotlight](#) newsletter.



Roles and Responsibilities

When developing your agency's comprehensive safety training program, consider the safety training topics relevant to various job roles or responsibilities. Training is most effective when aligned with an individual's specific activities to manage safety. Also, not everyone in the training program must receive the same training. For example, only portions of the safety training applicable to a vehicle mechanic may be applicable to an operator (and vice versa). A training needs assessment can help you identify the training relevant to specific employee roles and agency goals.

Transit agencies may consider setting training requirements for the Board of Directors or other individuals involved in developing, implementing, or performing safety management activities, such as members of an agency's joint labor-management Safety Committee. Bus transit agencies could consider reviewing the voluntary training curriculum identified in FTA's [Public Transportation Safety Certification Training Program regulation](#) (49 CFR part 672). Rail transit agencies may also reference their required training under Part 672.1.²

See the [PTASP Frequently Asked Questions](#) for more information on the new Bipartisan Infrastructure Law requirements.

FTA has been working with the National Transit Institute (NTI) to develop training to support these new requirements. Agencies may choose to use the free, online, on-demand [Violence in the Transit Workplace – Prevention, Response and Recovery](#) training video to meet the requirement for de-escalation training.

Visit the [PTASP TAC Resource Library](#) for guides, fact sheets, and webinars on the PTASP regulation and safety training resources and information. Email PTASP-TAC@dot.gov for technical assistance with any PTASP-related topic.



PTASP Technical Assistance Available Now

- Access one-on-one Agency Safety Plan support
- Learn and share through the PTASP Community of Practice
- Explore the PTASP Resource Library

<https://www.transit.dot.gov/PTASP-TAC>

² Note that State Safety Oversight agencies may have specific training requirements for the rail transit agencies in their jurisdiction, which this article does not discuss. This article only provides suggestions related to implementing the Safety Promotion component of SMS.