

# APTA TRANSform Conference & EXPO



## Safety Coordinating Committee Meeting FTA Safety Updates

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October 8, 2023

**Joe DeLorenzo**

Associate Administrator and Chief Safety Officer  
Office of Transit Safety and Oversight



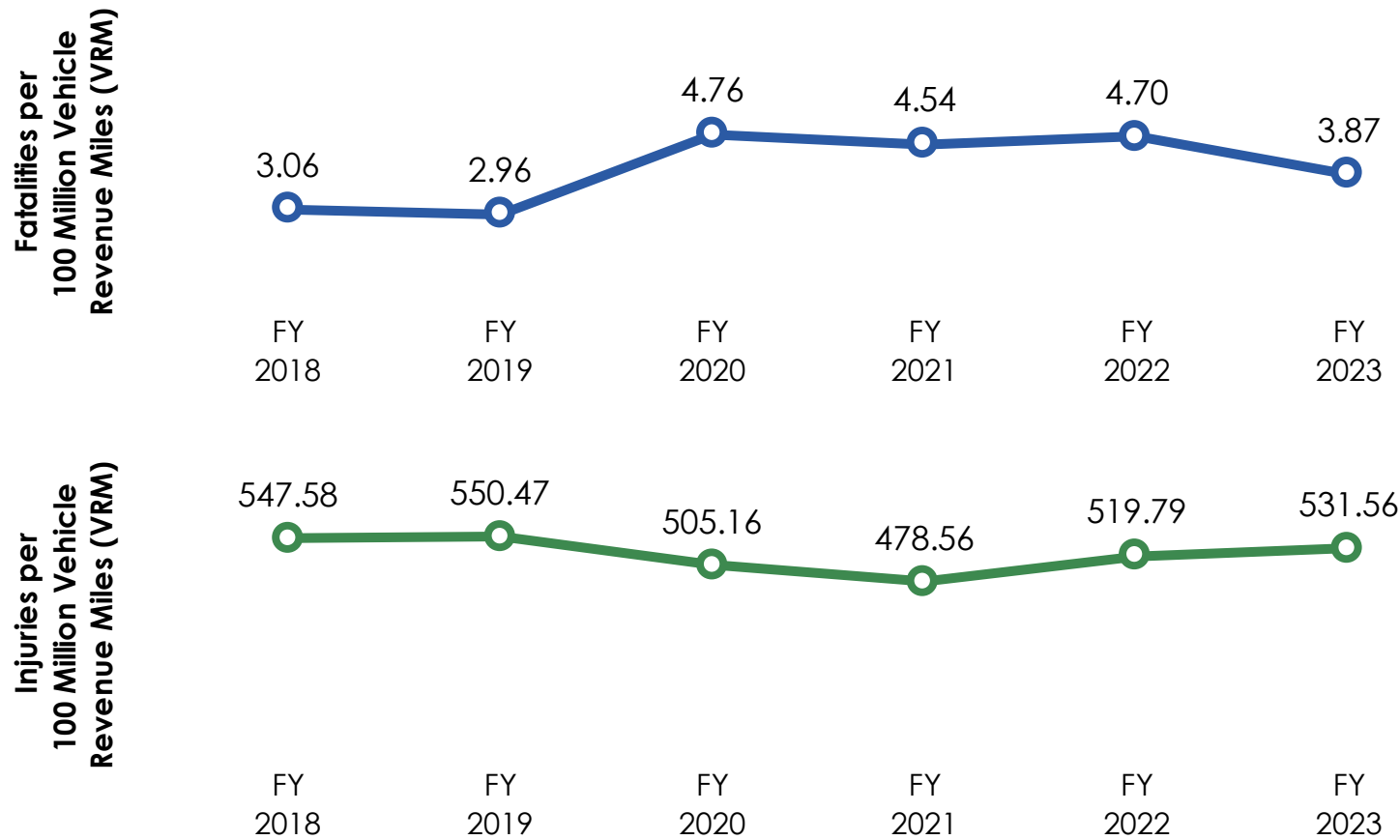
U.S. Department of Transportation  
Federal Transit Administration

# Agenda

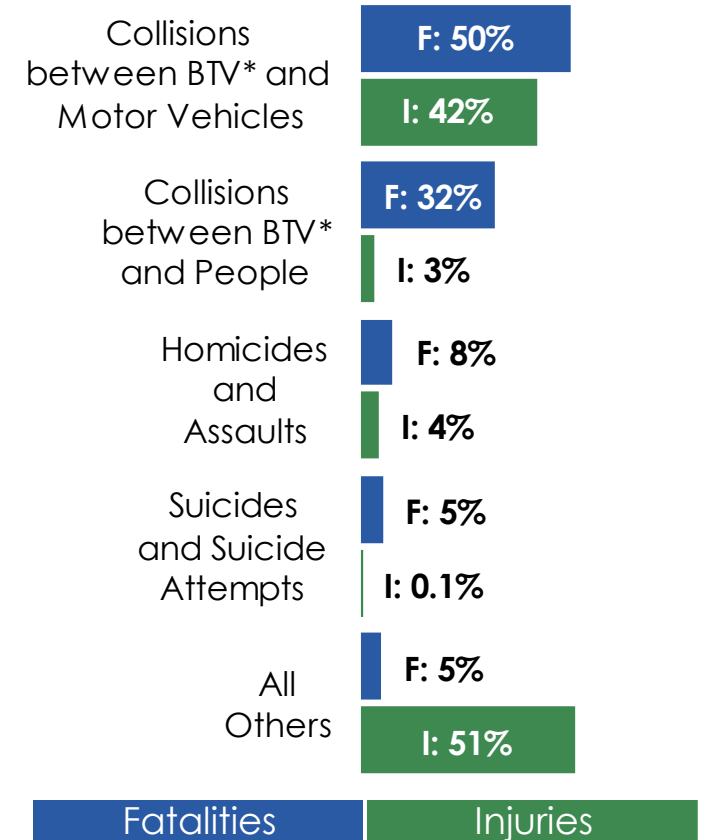
- State of Bus Transit Safety
- Bus to Person Safety Advisory
- Transit Worker Assaults
- FTA Update on Regulatory Agenda
- State of Rail Transit Safety
- Rail Grade Crossing Collision/Safety
- Update on the RBI program
- 2023 Joint FTA SSO and RTA Workshop



# State of Bus Transit Safety – Annual Trends



## Sources of Bus Fatalities



**Source:** National Transit Database (NTD)  
*FY 2022–23 data are preliminary.*

**Data as of:** Sep 5, 2023  
*\*Bus Transit Vehicles*

# Safety Advisory 23-1 Overview

- **Distribution:** Published in the Federal Register
- **Effective Date:** September 19, 2023
- **Audience:** Agencies that provide bus service
- **Overview:** Recommends transit agencies that provide bus service...
  - Consider mitigation strategies to reduce bus-to-person collisions
  - **Identify specific hazards** that may cause or contribute to bus-to-person collisions, **assess the associated safety risk**, and **implement appropriate mitigations** to reduce the likelihood and severity of those collisions



# Recommended Actions

*Transit agencies that focus on **bus operator vision impairment** as a safety hazard may consider the below categories of safety risk mitigations, among others:*

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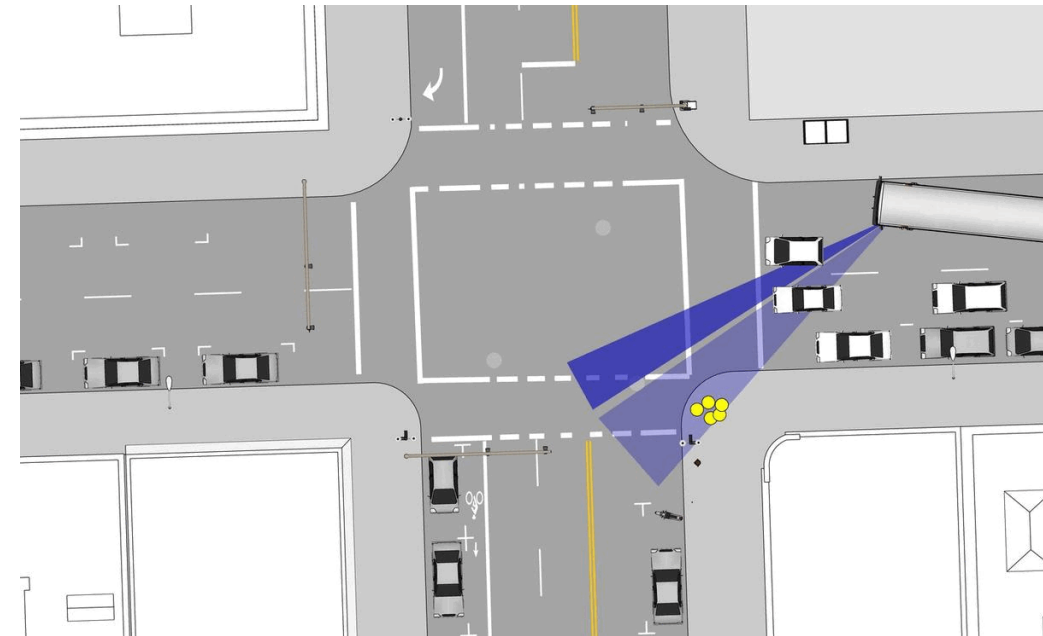
## Vehicle Design

1. Vehicles
2. Vehicle Systems



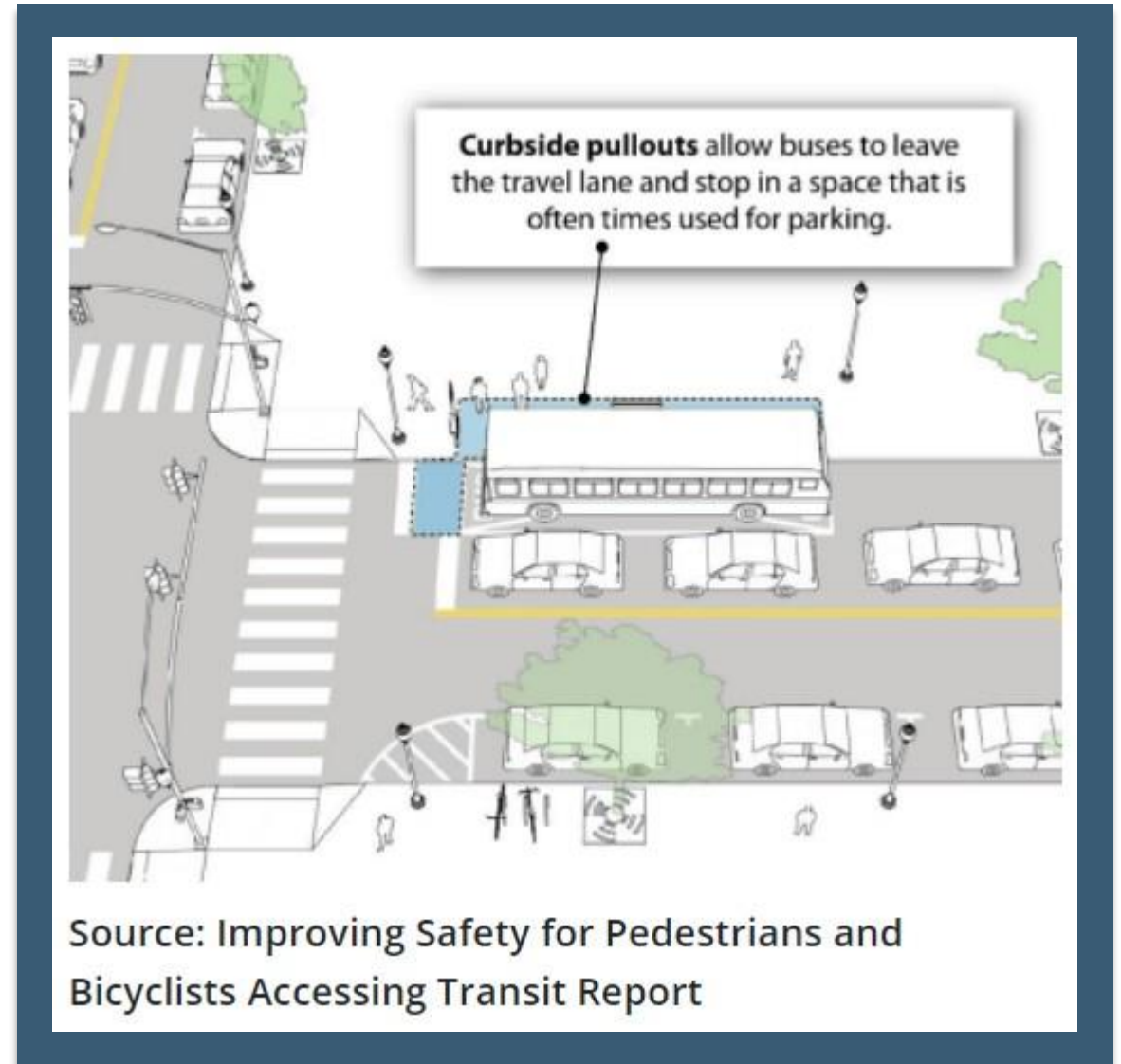
## Operator Driving Policies and Procedures

1. Scanning
2. Square Left Turns



# Safety Advisory 23-1 Resources

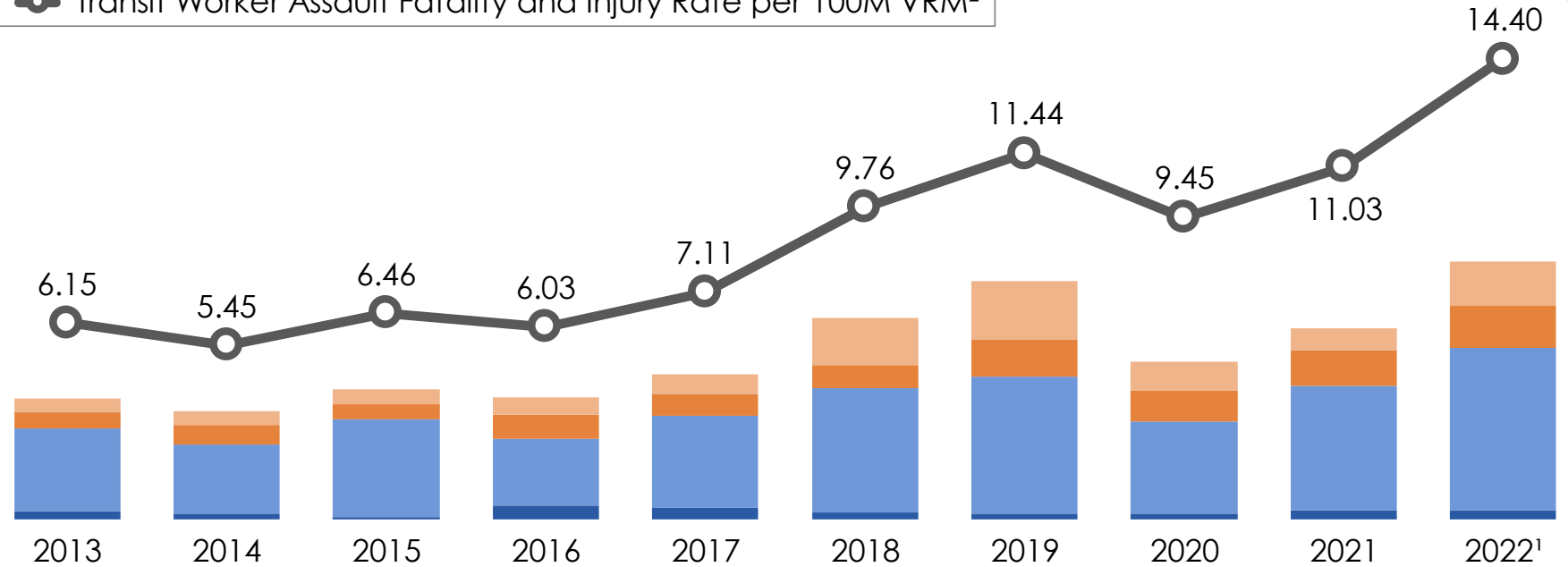
- FTA's Bus-to-Person Collision Safety Advisory Webpage
- FTA's Dedicated Bus Transit Providers Webpage
- USDOT National Roadway Safety Strategy



# Transit Worker Assault Fatalities and Injuries, 2013–2022<sup>1</sup>

○ Transit Worker Assault Fatality and Injury Rate per 100M VRM<sup>2</sup>

## Transit Worker Assault Fatalities and Injuries By Mode and Location



Transit Worker Assault Fatalities and Injuries	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022 <sup>1</sup>
On Rail Vehicles	24	24	26	32	36	85	108	53	40	80
In Rail Stations	31	36	29	46	40	44	67	56	66	77
On Bus Vehicles	151	127	179	123	171	227	252	169	228	300
In Bus Stations	16	12	5	25	21	14	12	12	18	17

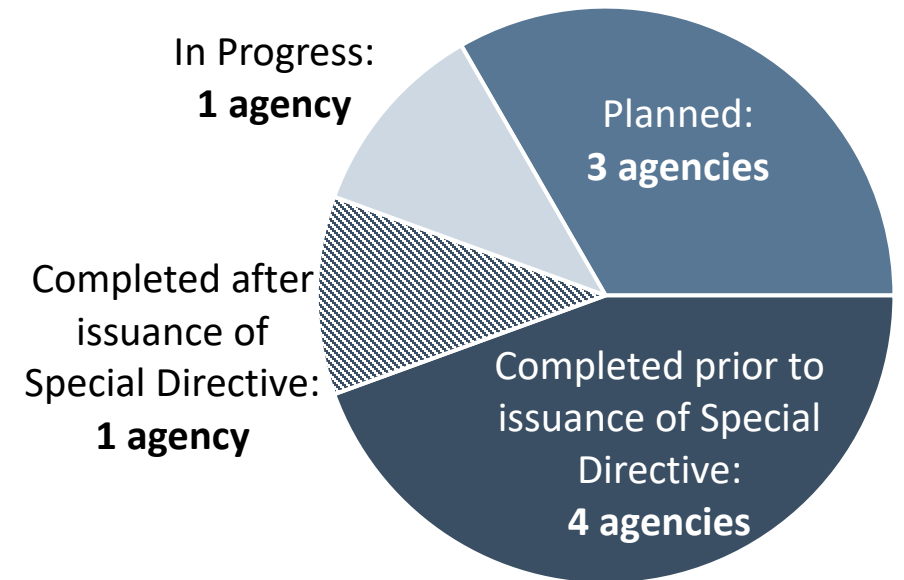
Source: National Transit Database (NTD) submissions through 5/2/2023

<sup>1</sup>2022 data are preliminary

<sup>2</sup>100M VRM = 100 Million Vehicle Revenue Miles

# Special Directives: Required Actions Regarding Assaults on Transit Workers

Safety Risk Mitigation	# Agencies	Complete	In Progress
Operator Area Protective Barriers	9	5	4
De-Escalation Training Program	8	6	2
Video and Audio Surveillance	8	7	1
Policing Strategies	7	7	-
Operating Procedures and Training	6	6	-
Emergency/Silent Alarms	6	6	-
Automatic Vehicle Location	4	4	-
Communication Devices and Protocols	4	4	-
Public Awareness Campaigns	3	3	-
Surveillance/Penalty Signage	3	2	1





# Expanded Assault Reporting

**Federal Register Notice:** [NTD Safety and Security Reporting Changes and Clarifications](#) published February 2023

**NTD Webinars:** <https://bit.ly/3QxORr5>

Before NTD Updates	After NTD Updates
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>FTA collected only transit worker assault data that qualified as major events from full reporters to NTD</li><li>Major events involve one or more fatalities or injuries requiring medical transport</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>FTA will collect all transit worker assaults data for major and non-major events</li><li>Non-major transit worker assaults will be collected in a summarized format</li></ul>

**When do changes take effect?**

Full Reporters	Reduced Reporters
April 2023	NTD report year 2023

# FTA Update on Regulatory Agenda

## Public Transportation Agency Safety Plans (PTASP)

Incorporates new requirements established through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.

**Anticipated Final Publication: Spring 2024**

**Docket Number: [FTA-2023-0007](#)**

## National Public Transportation Safety Plan (NSP)

Proposes additional performance measures, best practices, tools, technical assistance, voluntary standards and other resources.

**Anticipated Final Publication: Fall 2023**

**Docket Number: [FTA-2023-0010](#)**

## Transit Worker Hours of Service and Fatigue Risk Management

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

**Anticipated ANPRM Publication: Fall 2023**

**Docket Number: [FTA-2023-0018](#)**

## Public Transportation Safety Certification Training Program (PTSCTP)

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

**Anticipated NPRM Publication: Fall 2023**

**Docket Number: [FTA-2023-0025](#)**

## State Safety Oversight (SSO) Update

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

**Anticipated NPRM Publication: Fall 2023**

**Docket Number: [FTA-2023-0008](#)**

## Rail Transit Roadway Worker Protection (RWP)

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

**Anticipated NPRM Publication: Winter 2024**

**Docket Number: [FTA-2023-0024](#)**

## Transit Worker and Public Safety

Establish minimum baseline standards and risk-based requirements to address transit worker and public safety based on the most current research and available information.

**Anticipated NPRM Publication: 2024**

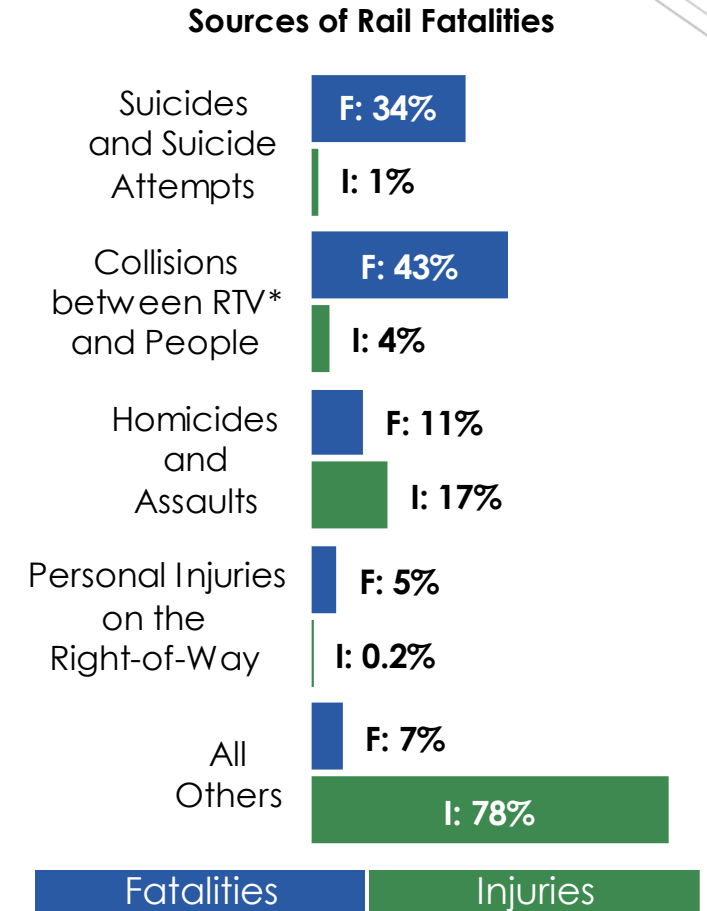
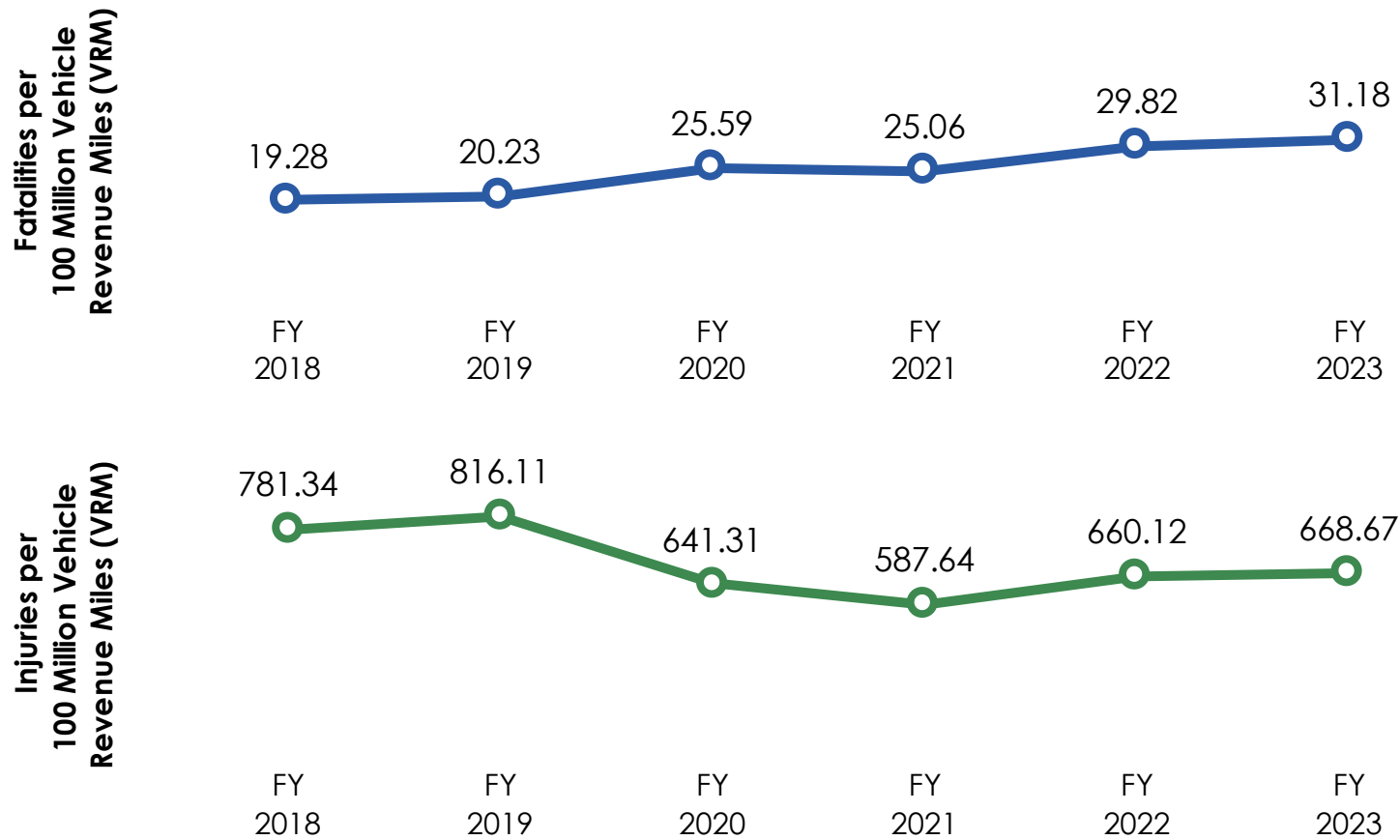
# Transit Worker Hours of Service and Fatigue Risk Management

## FTA Wants Your Input!

Submit your comments  
to  
[www.regulations.gov](https://www.regulations.gov)  
Docket Number: FTA-  
2023-0018

- FTA plans to publish an Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (ANPRM) requesting input on specific questions
- Any individual or group may submit comments on part or all of the ANPRM
- Commenters may submit data and research

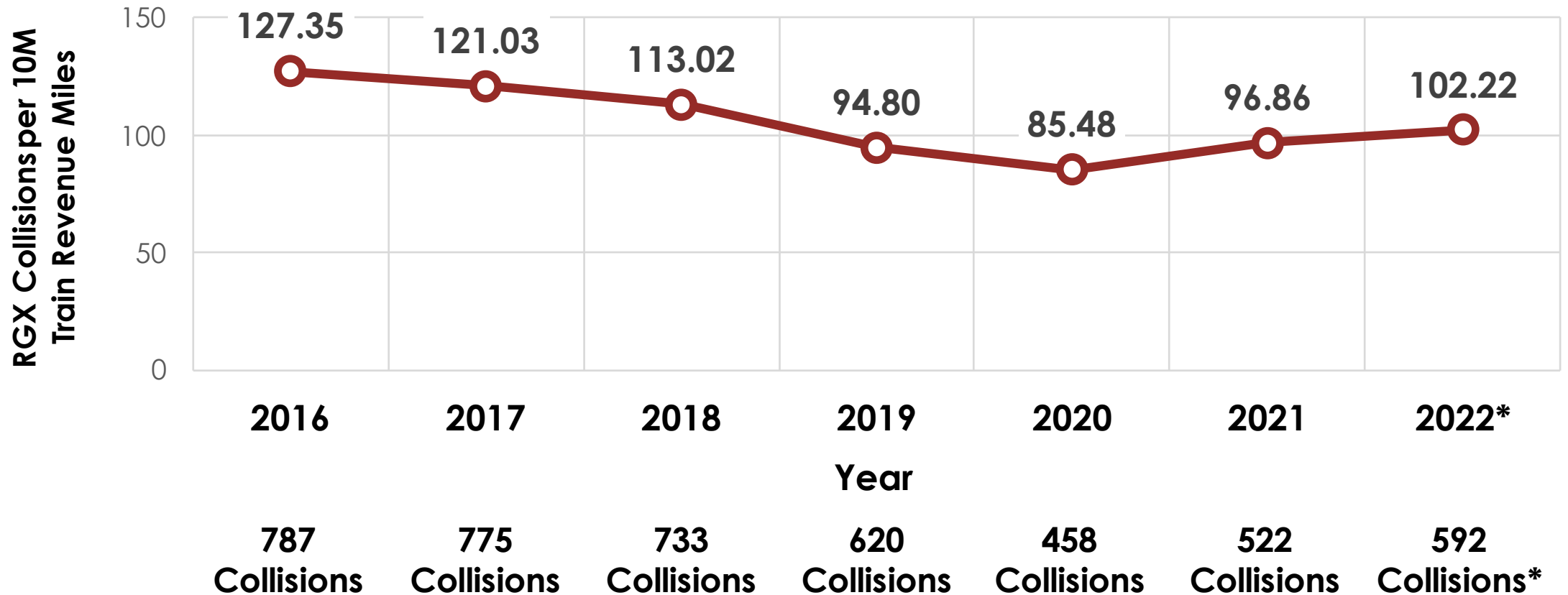
# State of Rail Transit Safety – Annual Trends



**Source:** National Transit Database (NTD)  
*FY 2022–23 data are preliminary.*

**Data as of:** Sep 5, 2023  
*\*Rail Transit Vehicles*

# Transit Rail Grade Crossing (RGX) Collision Trends CY 2016–2022



\*2022 data are preliminary

Source: National Transit Database (NTD)

Data as of: May 2, 2023

# Transit RGX Collisions CY 2016–2022

Quick Facts from 2016-2022\*:

4,487

Total transit RGX collisions

119

Total fatalities

1,272

Total injuries



Source: National Transit Database (NTD)

Data as of: May 2, 2023

\*2022 data are preliminary



# Transit Rail Grade Crossing (RGX)



(St Louis Metro)

# Transit Rail Grade Crossing (RGX)



(SEPTA)



# RGX Safety Resources for Transit Agencies

State Safety Oversight Program >

Safety Management Inspections >

Drug & Alcohol Program

Program Oversight

TRACS

Safety Training >

Stakeholder Outreach >

FAQ >

## Rail Grade Crossing Safety Resources for Transit Agencies



### Overview

Rail transit grade crossing (RGX) events, fatalities and injuries remain a concern in the transit industry. Most recently in 2022, there were a total of 592 grade crossing collisions that resulted in 19 fatalities and 133 injuries, based on data reported to FTA's [National Transit Database Data \(NTD\)](#). FTA is raising awareness on this important safety concern and supporting the transit industry by providing data to analyze the current safety landscape and historical trends and resources to educate and inform the public. This webpage includes rail grade crossing safety resources to assist transit agencies in making transit safer for all.

### Rail Safety Week

[Rail Safety Week](#) is an annual observance event in mid-September spearheaded by [Operation Lifesaver, Inc.](#) (OLI) and rail safety partners across the U.S., Canada and Mexico. The goal is to raise awareness for multiple audiences on ways to Stop Track Tragedies. FTA has long supported OLI to spread this important safety message during Rail Safety Week and beyond.

### What's New

#### Spotlight on Safety: Transit Rail Grade Crossings Webinar

This webinar will discuss transit rail grade crossing safety from both operational and public education and outreach perspectives. FTA will provide an overview and the Center for Urban Transportation Research and MxV Rail will highlight research on engineering aspects related to rail grade crossing safety, as featured in the FTA Standards Development Program Rail Transit Roadway and Pedestrian Grade Crossings Exploratory Report, and discuss trespassing research results. The webinar will also feature guest speakers from TriMet who will talk about their experiences with rail grade crossings and the non-profit, Operation Lifesaver Inc., who will discuss safety education and outreach to transit riders and available transit agency resources.

- Thursday, September 21 at 2 p.m. ET, [Register Here](#)

#### 2023 Rail Safety Week Videos

- 2023 Rail Safety Week Videos
  - [FTA Deputy Administrator, Veronica Vanderpool](#)
  - [FTA's Associate Administrator for Transit Safety and Oversight and Chief Safety Officer, Joe DeLorenzo](#)

#### Operation Lifesaver Safety Pledge

- [OLI Transit Safety Pledge](#)

### Rail Safety and Resource Library

Click below to see list of resources



FTA Resources



Industry Resources



FTA Presentations



Data and Reports



<https://www.transit.dot.gov/RGX>

# Risk-Based Inspection (RBI) Programs



SSOAs must develop and begin to implement a risk-based inspection program for the RTAs they oversee by **October 21, 2024**



Risk-based inspection programs use qualitative and quantitative data analysis to inform inspection activities and prioritize inspections to address safety concerns and hazards associated with the highest levels of safety risk



Risk-based inspection programs must address the following:

- 1** Authority to Perform Inspections
- 2** Inspection Policies and Procedures
- 3** Data Sources and Collection
- 4** Inspection Prioritization
- 5** RBI Programs are Commensurate with Number, Size, and Complexity of the RFGPTS
- 6** SSOA Staffing, Training, and Qualifications

# Risk-Based Inspection Program Requirements



## FTA

- » Issue a special directive requiring each SSOA to develop and implement risk-based inspection program
- » Assess the capability of each SSOA to conduct compliant risk-based inspections



## SSOAs

- » Develop and implement a risk-based inspection program in accordance with 49 U.S.C. § 5329(k) and the Special Directive
- » After implementing the approved program for 6 months, submit evidence of implementation to FTA



## RTAs

- » Coordinate with their SSOA on policies and procedures for inspection access and data collection; incorporate these into their Agency Safety Plan
- » Share with SSOAs the data the RTA collects when identifying and evaluating safety risks

# Build the Foundation for Efficient, Effective RBIs



## Coordinate

**to develop & document policies & procedures for:**

- Accessing the RTA's system for announced and unannounced inspections
- Sharing with the SSOA, the data that the RTA uses to assess risk

## Communicate

**Policies & procedures to all RTA and contractor personnel so that:**

- All RTA staff know what to expect during risk-based inspections
- Data is shared efficiently and securely



INFORMATION & RESOURCES

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<https://www.transit.dot.gov/RBI>



U.S. Department of Transportation  
Federal Transit Administration

# 2023 FTA Joint SSO and RTA Workshop

**Dates:** November 14-16, 2023

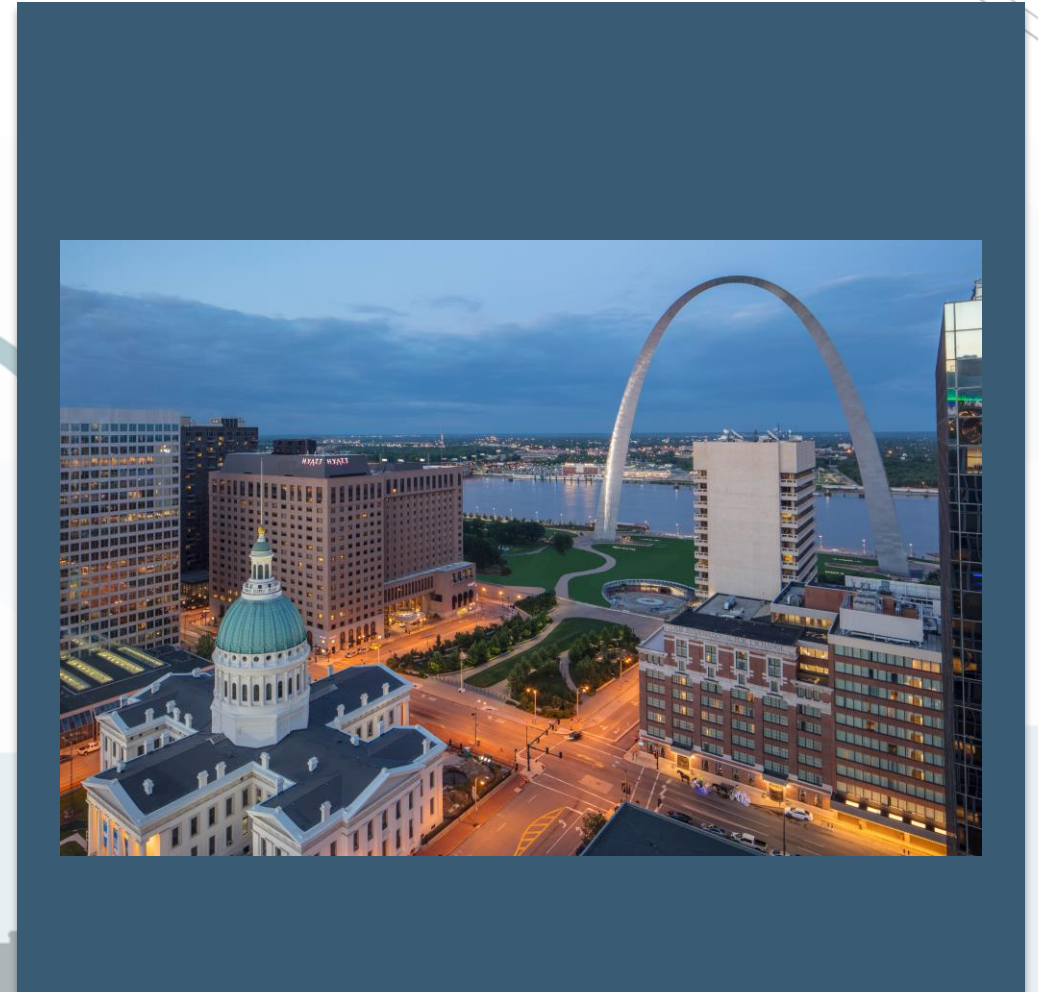
**Location:** Hyatt Regency St. Louis at The Arch

**Audience:** SSO staff, RTA Chief Safety Officers and Safety Directors, current contract support

**Topics Include:** Risk-based inspections, transit safety policy updates, safety data, transit worker and customer assault

**Registration and Info:** <https://bit.ly/3LG66T7>

Registration closes October 20



# Questions

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