

Rail Share

Rail Transit Safety Updates

November 28, 2023

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Office of Transit Safety and Oversight



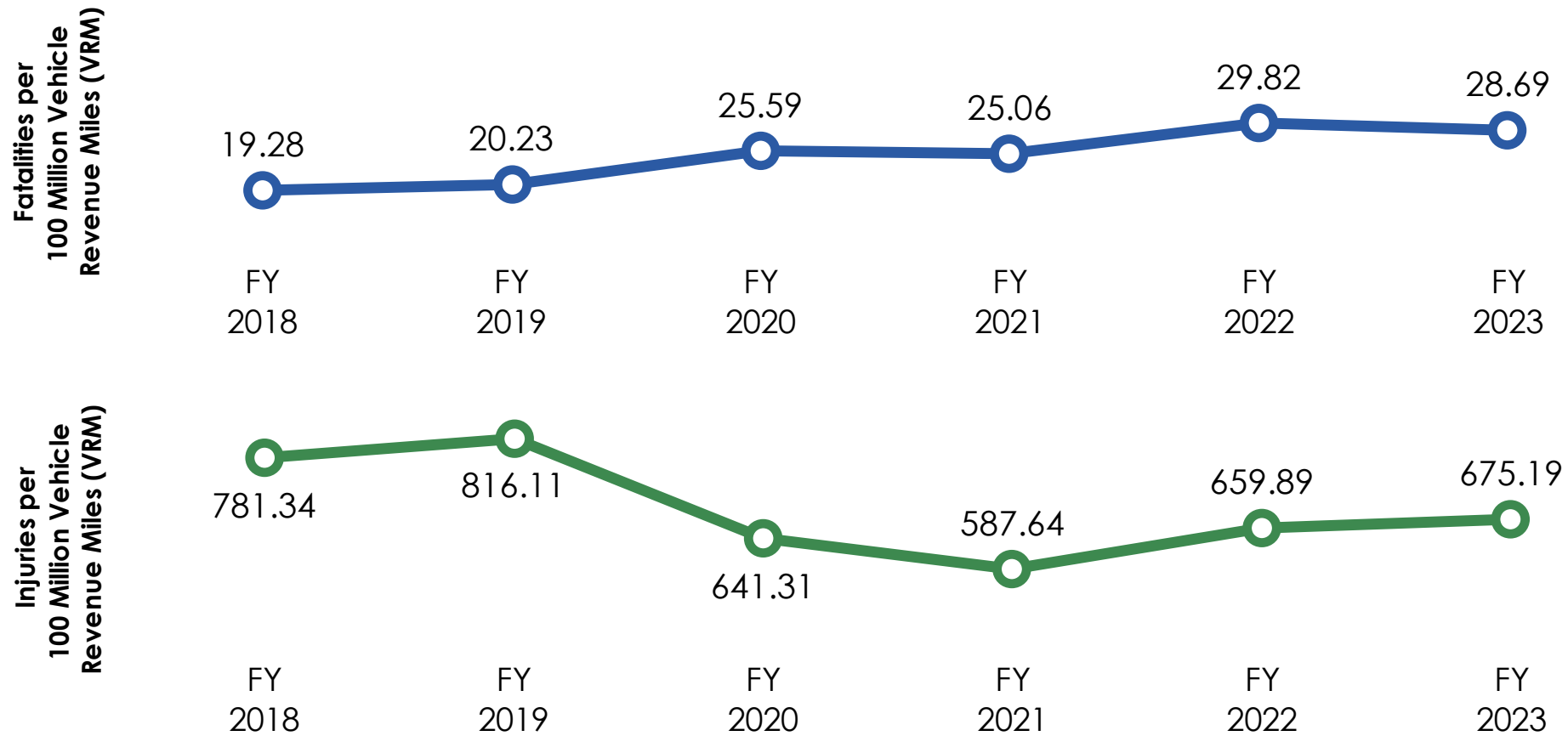
Presentation Purpose and Agenda

The purpose of this presentation is to provide an overview of safety data and current rail transit safety focus areas, discuss how FTA is addressing safety challenges, share initiatives and resources and discuss how FTA partners with the industry to bolster education and outreach to the public.

Presentation Agenda

- Safety Data Overview
- Available Resources
- Transit Rail Focus Areas
- What FTA is Doing
- Questions

State of Rail Transit Safety – Annual Trends



Source: National Transit Database (NTD)

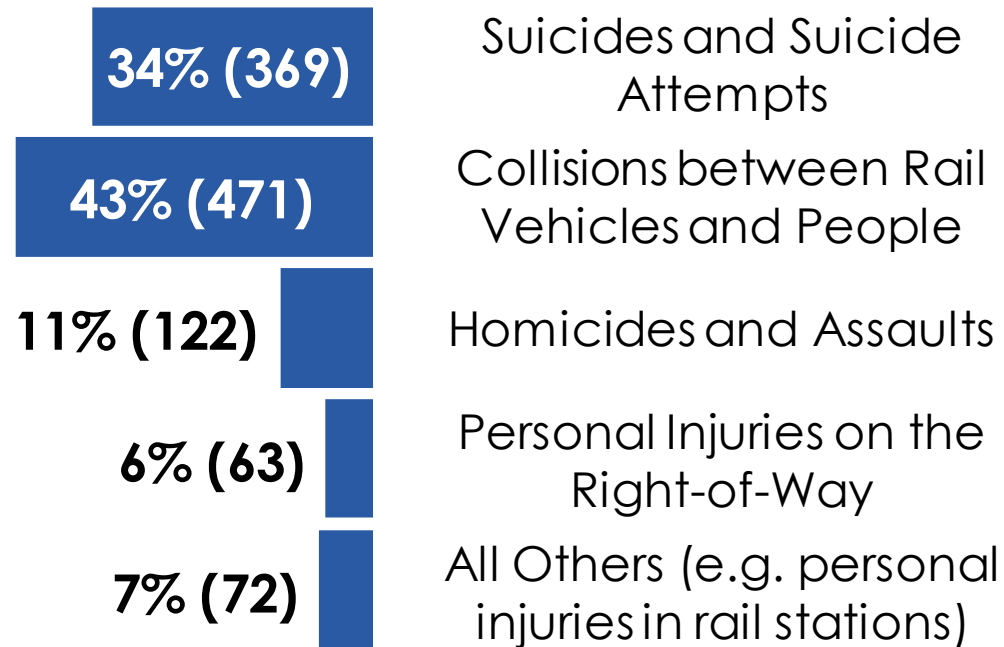
Data as of: Nov 3, 2023

FY 2022–23 data are preliminary.

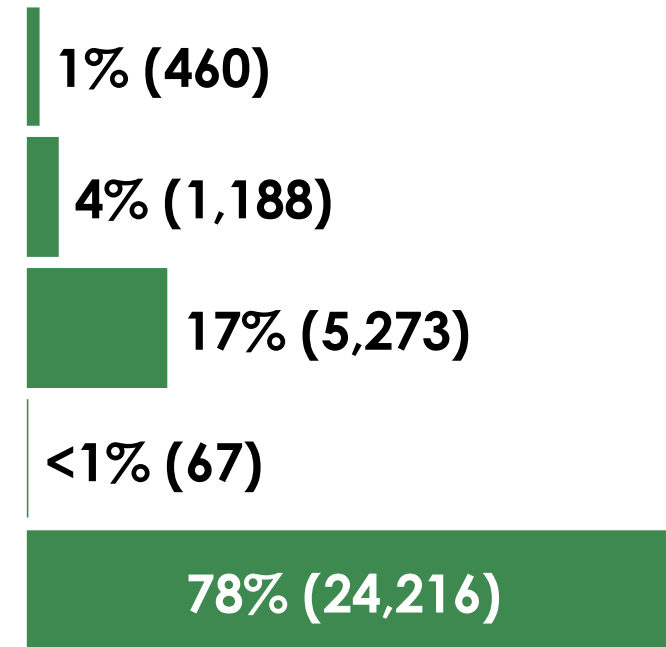
Sources of Rail Transit Fatalities and Injuries

Rail Transit Fatalities and Injuries by Source, Oct 2017–Jul 2023

Fatalities



Injuries



Source: National Transit Database (NTD)
2022–2023 data are preliminary.

Data as of: Nov 3, 2023

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



	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022*
Total Collisions	787	775	733	620	458	522	592

Source: NTD

Data as of: May 2, 2023

**2022 data are preliminary*

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*

Conventional vs. Street Intersection RGX

Conventional: trains have exclusive right-of-way, except at the rail grade crossing intersections, typically marked with flashing lights and gates



RTD Denver

Street Intersection: people and privately-owned-vehicles encounter trains in travel lanes at urban street intersections

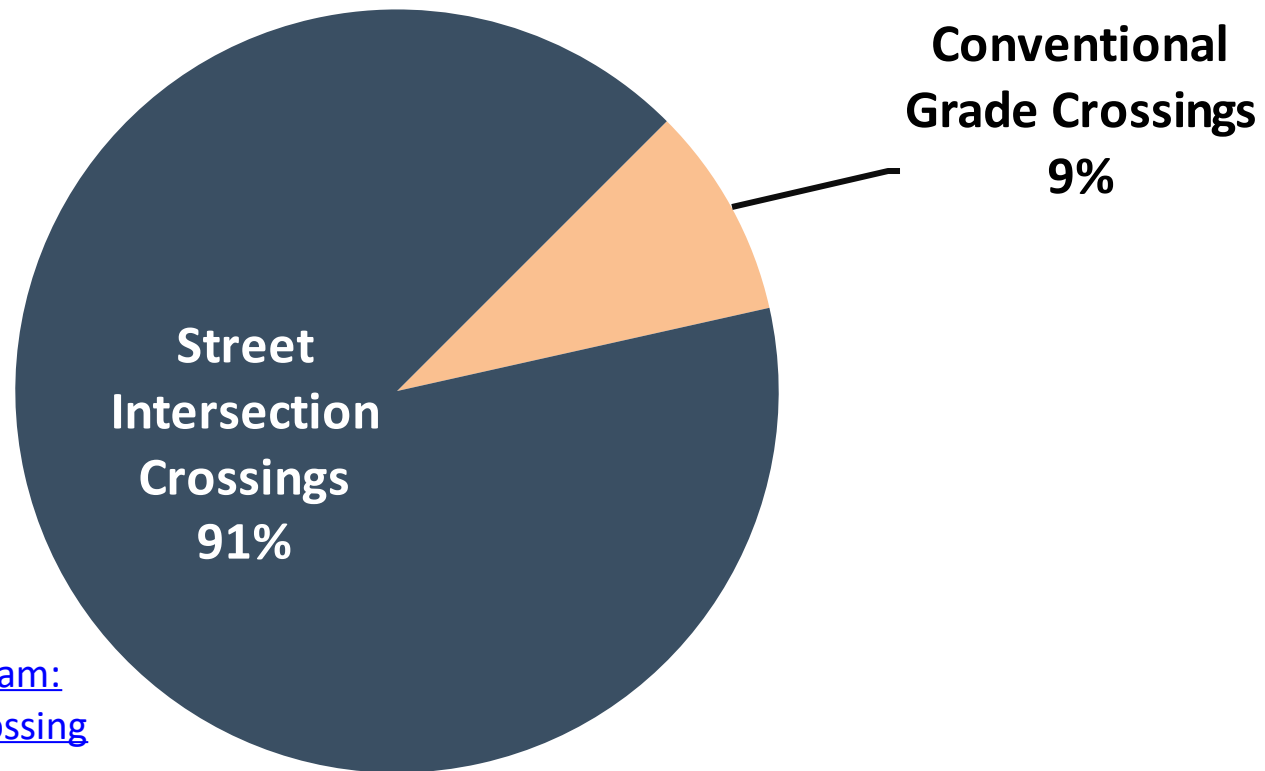


Seattle DOT

Incidents by Crossing Type

Incidents reported were *nearly 10 times higher* at street intersection crossings than conventional grade crossings during a recent FTA survey

Percentage of Incidents Reported at Conventional Grade Crossings vs. Street Intersection Crossings




Source: [FTA Standards Development Program: Rail Transit Roadway/Pedestrian Grade Crossing Exploratory Report](#) | May 2022

Safety Bulletin 19-03: Safety Considerations Associated with Rail Transit Grade Crossings

Safety Bulletin Overview

- **Date Published:** November 12, 2019
- **Purpose:** Outlines safety considerations and provides suggestions on ways to manage safety risks associated with rail transit grade crossings. Summarizes Federal actions taken and provides data analysis and resources.



FTA SAFETY BULLETIN
FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION


SB 19-03 Safety Considerations
November 12, 2019 Associated with
Rail Transit Grade Crossings

Purpose
This Safety Bulletin (SB 19-03) outlines safety considerations associated with rail transit grade crossings.

Background
FTA analyzes rail transit grade crossing data collected from annual State Safety Oversight Agency (SSOA) reporting. Grade crossings are locations where a roadway and a rail right-of-way intersect, including street intersections where rail transit is running at street level.
Transit rail grade crossing fatalities are on the rise, increasing almost eight percent per year. In 2015, 22 fatalities resulted from rail grade crossings—the highest count in the past eight years. These trends are described in more detail in FTA’s latest [Rail Safety Data Report](#), which covers safety data from 2007 through 2015.

Federal Actions Taken

- **Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan (PTASP):** FTA is assisting the transit industry with implementation of the PTASP regulation, published on July 19, 2018. The PTASP regulation requires certain operators of public transportation systems that receive federal funds to develop Agency Safety Plans (ASPs) that include the processes and procedures necessary for implementing Safety Management Systems (SMS). SMS focuses on proactive safety risk management (e.g., identified transit grade crossing issues), strong safety communication between workers and management, targeted safety

 Federal Transit Administration, November 12, 2019 1

Safety Advisory 22-4: Suicide Prevention Signage

Safety Advisory Overview

- **Date Published:** December 7, 2022
- **Purpose:** Recommends transit agencies use suicide prevention signage best practices to reduce events and encourage mental health intervention



**If you are
struggling emotionally
or thinking of suicide
call or text**

988

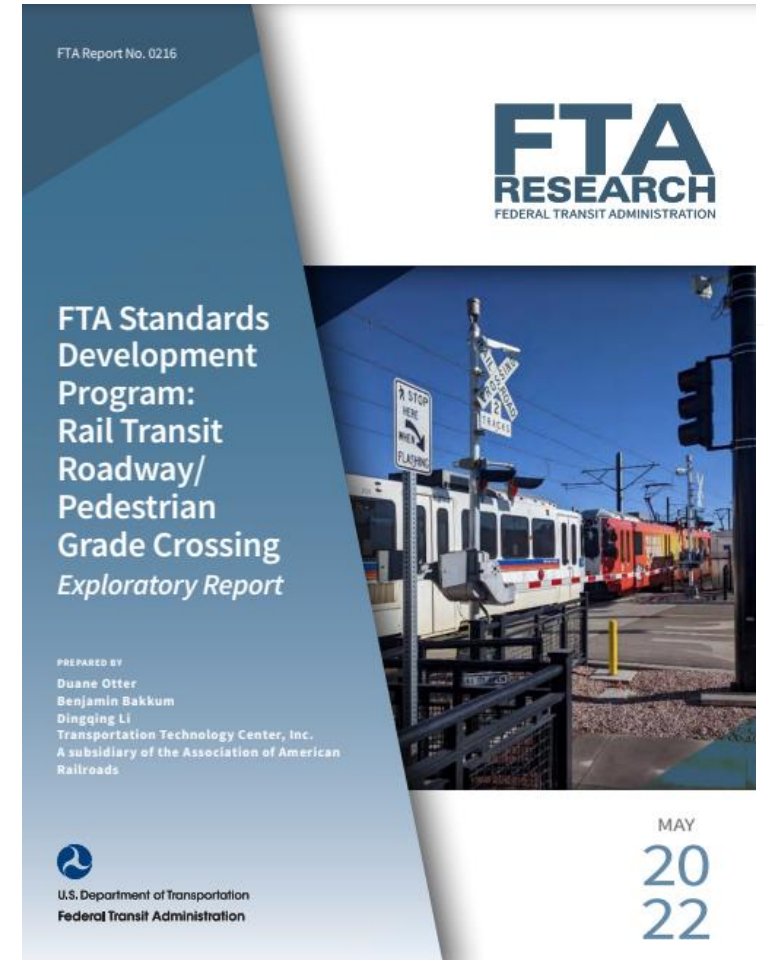
Free and confidential.

Source: Bay Area Rapid Transit

FTA Research

Report Overview

- **Title:** FTA Standards Development Program: Rail Transit Roadway/Pedestrian Grade Crossing, Exploratory Report
- **Date Published:** May 2022
- **Purpose:** Presents the results of a literature review, an industry survey, development of general use cases for grade crossing, and case studies on four transit properties to establish standards for rail transit roadways/pedestrian grade crossings.



Partnerships and Campaigns

Operation Lifesaver, Inc.



- Non-profit dedicated to improving safety around railroad tracks and highway-rail grade crossings
- Ongoing cooperative agreement to develop resources, conduct outreach and run a competitive grant program for transit agencies



Rail Safety Week



- Annual observance event in mid-September spearheaded by OLI and rail safety partners across the U.S., Canada and Mexico to raise awareness for multiple audiences on ways to Stop Track Tragedies.



FTA RGX Website

- Launched in September 2023
- Curates available DOT, FTA and industry resources:
 - OLI Transit Materials
 - Transit Safety Pledges
 - FTA presentations
 - TRACS Reports
 - FTA Research

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



Rail Grade Crossing Safety Resources for Transit Agencies

Rail Grade Crossing Safety Resources
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.

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

2023 Rail Safety Week Videos

- [2023 Rail Safety Week Videos](#)

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](#)

FTA RGX Webinar

- **Title:** Spotlight on Safety: Transit Rail Grade Crossings
- **Date:** September 21, 2023
- **Description:** Discussed transit rail grade crossing safety and trespassing research, and engineering aspects and public education and outreach related to rail grade crossing safety with guest speakers from the Center for Urban Transportation Research, MxV Rail, TriMet and Operation Lifesaver, Inc.



Presentation



Recording



Transit Rail Safety Pledge

- Pre-Readers
- Ages 6-12
- Adults



Materials for Kids

- Kids' Coloring and Activity Books
- PSAs



Transit Agency Materials

- Social Media Graphics
- Posters and Brochures
- PSAs



Fatigue

Denver RTD derailment (March 2023)



Source: Kevin J. Beaty/Denverite

CTA O'Hare Airport Derailment (March 2014)



Source: National Transit Safety Board (NTSB)

Transit Worker Hours of Service and Fatigue Risk Management ANPRM Overview

The Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking will collect public input on two topics related to transit worker fatigue:

- Hours of service regulations
- Fatigue risk management programs

ANPRM Publication Date: Monday, October 30, 2023
Docket No. FTA-2023-0018

First Listening Session Held:

- Sunday, October 8 (at APTA TRANSForm Conference)

Second Listening Session Scheduled:

- Tuesday, December 5 (virtual)



Link to the FRN

**Open for Comment
From October 30 –
December 29, 2023**

Purpose of the ANPRM



Informs the public that the Agency is considering rulemaking



Asks questions for public comment but does not propose regulatory text



Gauges stakeholder reaction



Engages the public and stakeholders early on before any decisions have been made



Encourages public participation into FTA's formulation of safety rules

Questions in the ANPRM

The ANPRM asks **21 questions** on hours of service and fatigue risk management, including:

Focus Areas

1. Should FTA adopt hours of service and fatigue risk management requirements for transit workers?
2. How would changes in hours impact worker health and safety and agency operations?
3. How do agencies track the prevalence of fatigue? Should FTA collect additional data to better track the safety impacts of fatigue?
4. Do you have information or data on existing state, local, or agency-specific hours of service and fatigue risk management requirements?



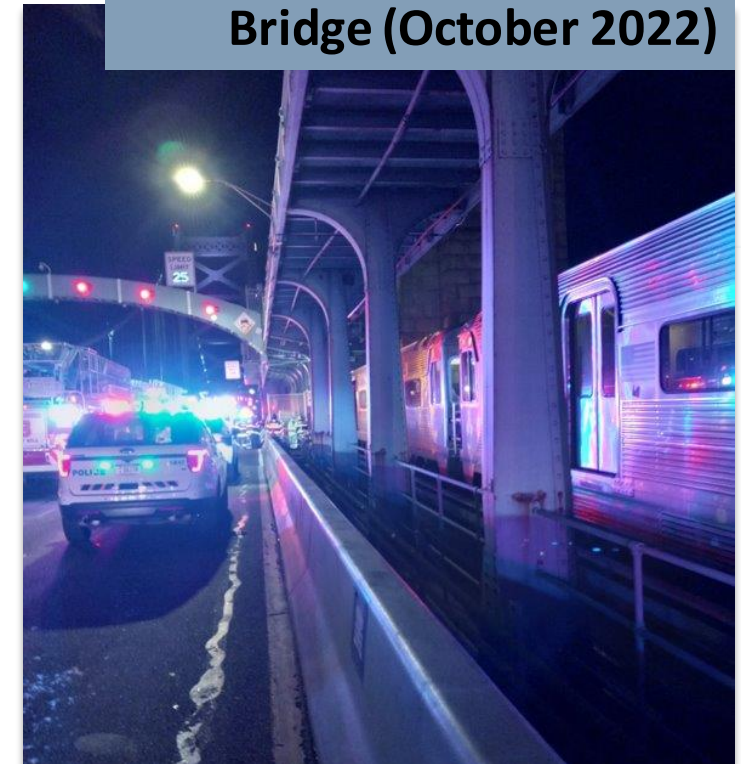
Right-of-Way Issues

CTA roadway worker fatality (October 2022)



Source: NTSB

PATCO contractor fatalities on Benjamin Franklin Bridge (October 2022)



Source: WPVI-TV Philadelphia, PA

Rail Transit Roadway Worker Protection (RWP) NPRM Overview

FTA plans to issue for public comment a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) with proposed minimum safety standards for Rail Transit Roadway Worker Protection (RWP).

Minimum safety standards would help prevent:

- Accidents
- Incidents
- Fatalities
- Injuries to transit workers who may access the roadway during performance of work



**Link to the FTA RWP
Report Summary
(February 2022)**



Rail Car Maintenance

CATS derailment and failed bearing (May 2022)



WMATA National Airport derailment and brake disc (September 2023)



WMATA 7K derailment, Arlington Cemetery (October 2021)



Source: Charlotte Area Transit System

Source: WUSA and Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority

Vehicle Securement

SEPTA Runaway Train (July 2023)



Source: WPVI-TV Philadelphia

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

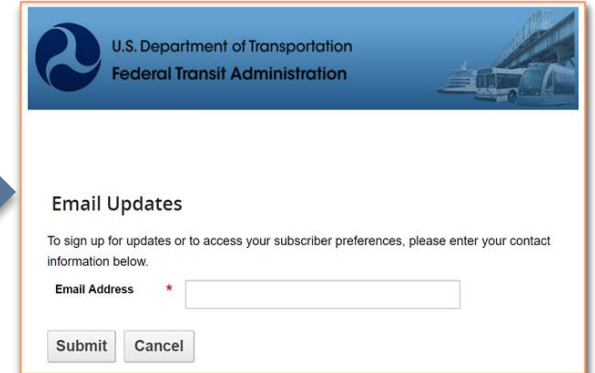
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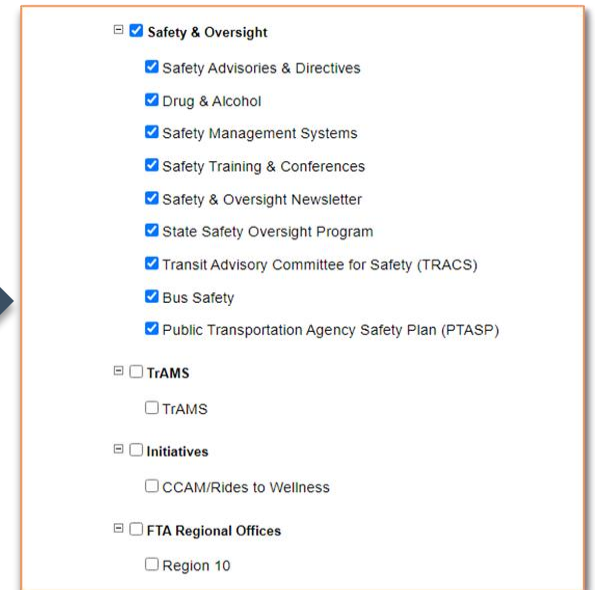
*Enter your email address to receive FTA email notifications and click **Submit**.*



The screenshot shows the top of the FTA website with the logo and name. Below is a section titled "Email Updates" with a sub-header: "To sign up for updates or to access your subscriber preferences, please enter your contact information below." There is a text input field labeled "Email Address" with a red asterisk indicating it is required. Below the field are two buttons: "Submit" and "Cancel".

Select categories and topics:

- *All in Safety & Oversight*
- *Programs: Transit Safety & Oversight*
- *News & Events: Calendar of Events*



The screenshot shows a list of categories and topics for email updates. Each category has a checkbox to its left. The "Safety & Oversight" category is checked and expanded, showing several sub-topics, all of which are also checked. The other categories are not checked and are collapsed.

- 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

Questions

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