# Welcome to FTA's Transit Renewal Initiative Listening Session 2











FTA Acting Associate Administrator for Transit Safety and Oversight and Chief Safety Officer









Steve Goodman
FTA Region II
Administrator











FTA Associate Administrator for Communications and Congressional Affairs



### **Panel 1: Transit Industry Leaders**



Jeffrey Nelson
American Public
Transportation
Association (APTA)



Kendra McGeady
Community Transportation
Association of America (CTAA)
/Pelivan Transit



Jim Tymon
American Association
of State Highway and
Transportation
Officials (AASHTO)



# Jeffrey A. Nelson APTA Chair General Manager, MetroLINK

# APTA's Health and Safety Commitments Program







committing to making every ride safer — and we need your help.



# **APTA Member Transit Agency Examples**

Capital Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Cap Metro)

- ➤ Launched an innovative passenger information technology using LED displays to communicate useful / reassuring information with the public.
- > Cap Metro married a communication plan with IT tools to keep riders safe.



# Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA)

- ➤ Produced a series of video ads, highlighting real-time crowding information, expanded mobile pay options, and face mask rules.
- The "Doing Our Part" campaign is on TV, radio, digital and social media





# **Upcoming APTA Seminars**

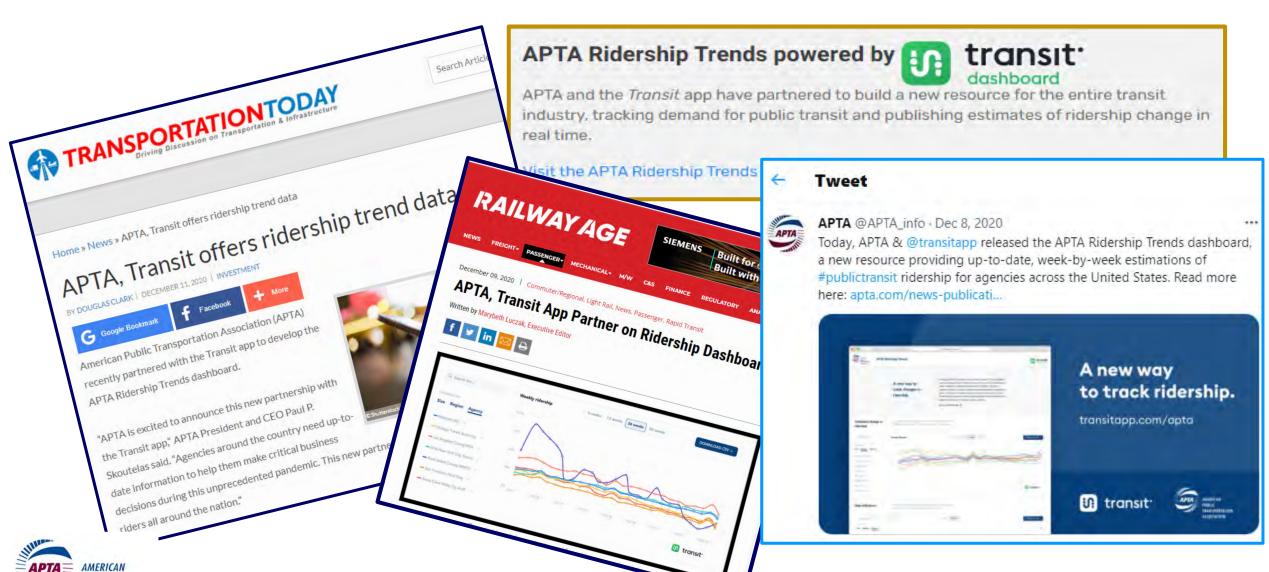








# APTA / TRANSIT APP RIDERSHIP DASHBOARD



**ASSOCIATION** 

# AMERICA'S OPEN AND TRANSIT IS OPEN

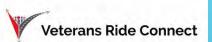
Transit Safety for Transit Renewal

Kendra Sue McGeady

Director of Transit

Pelivan Transit











### CTAA Rural System of the Year

- \*Pelivan Transit
- \*Veterans Ride Connect
- \*PICK Transportation
- \*Cherokee Nation
- \*Northeast Tribal Transit Consortium



- \*Director of Transit
- \*National Board Member CTAA
- \*SWTA Sec/Treasurer
- \*OTA Board Megaber



# Safety in general public and tribal transit & Ridership renewal

State of Good Repair

New procedures ~ More than just servicing fleet vehicles

Air Flow
Disinfecting and sanitizing
barriers between driver/rider
Limited Seating
Rear Entry
No front seat passengers
Mask Requirements for drivers and riders



### Specialized Training

CTAA offers de-escalation/conflict resolution and trauma informed training to providers

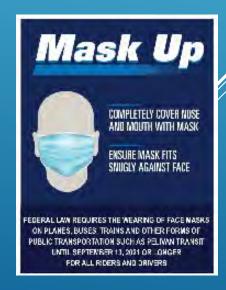
Vaccine clinics for drivers

COMMUNICATION is key

Newspapers, social media, technologies









### ESSENTIAL SERVICES, ESSENTIAL EMPLOYEES

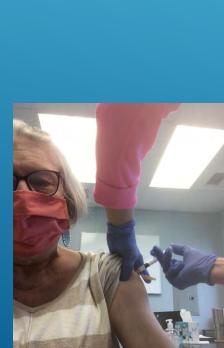
OVERALL VIEW...

Since March 2020, Pelivan Transit (including tribal operations) have given 108,169 trips.

Four incidents regarding mask requirements

Three drivers contracted COVID

Ability to pivot from people mover to home delivery service in a matter of hours.





Don't let transportati

be your barrier in getting

the COVID-19 Vaccination



# Jim Tymon

# Executive Director American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials



# Safety is the #1 Priority for State DOTs

- ☐ Absolutely the number one priority
- ☐ Safety focuses on our nation's infrastructure
- ☐ AASHTO works with state DOTs to reduce fatalities





# Transit is Safe, But COVID Created Challenges

- ☐ Public transportation is one of the safest modes of transportation.
  - Rural public transit systems are the safest.
- ☐ COVID gave new meaning for public transportation safety
- ☐ Measures were effective and systems stayed in operations
- ☐ Safety measures created their own challenges





# Transit is a Lifeline

☐ No lost confidence in public transit service

☐ Transit Rider kept riding

- ☐ Despite challenges, transit remains a lifeline
  - ☐ Increased ridership in rural areas isn't the end-all/be-all access is.



# **Examples of State DOTs Prioritizing Transit Safety**





### **Example of State DOTs Prioritizing Transit Safety**



http://www.drpt.virginia.gov/transit/covid-19-pandemic-response-and-mitigation/







HOME . COVID-19 MULTIMODAL TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM PERFORMANCE DASHBOARD

#### COVID-19 Multimodal Transportation System Performance Dashboard

Washington state has seen a significant decline in travel across all modes of transportation since mid-March 2020. Washingtonians have responded positively to Gov. Inslee's various COVID-19 related initiatives over the past year to curb the spread of the virus, which has resulted in positive outcomes for the state residents.

Multimodal travel changes in Highway Traffic, Toll Systems, and Ferries, Transit and Passenger Rail ridership are reflected in the executive summary below. For deeper dives into the data and daily updates on COVID-19's effects on items ranging from Freight and Safety to Aviation, see buttons below.

This dashboard is updated by 10:30 a.m. on weekdays (Monday through Friday). The latest data displayed on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays is for the previous Thursday. Data for Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays is added to the dashboard the following Monday.



https://www.wsdot.wa.gov/about/covid-19transportation-report/

#### **COVID-19 Safety Guidance for New Mexico Transit Agencies**

Transit and Rail Division

New Mexico Department of Transportation

Ream Lazaro Safety Consulting, LLC June 2020



#### Handling Conflict and De-escalation Skills for Transit Drivers & Supervisors

New Mexico Department of Transportation Transit and Rail Division with Ream Lazaro Safety Consulting, LLC August 2020





https://dot.state.nm.us/content/nmdot/en/ Transit\_Rail.html



## Thank You!!

### Jim Tymon Executive Director

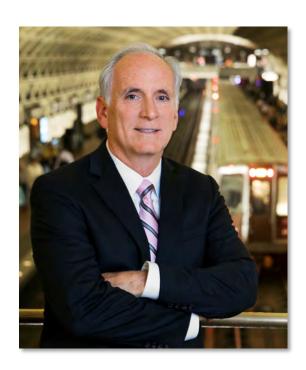
Shayne Gill
Program Director for
Multimodal Transportation
Email: sgill@aashto.org

Richard Price
Associate Program Manager,
Transit Policy and Technical Services
Email: rprice@aashto.org





### **Panel 2: Transit Agency Leaders**



Paul Wiedefeld
Washington
Metropolitan Area
Transit Authority



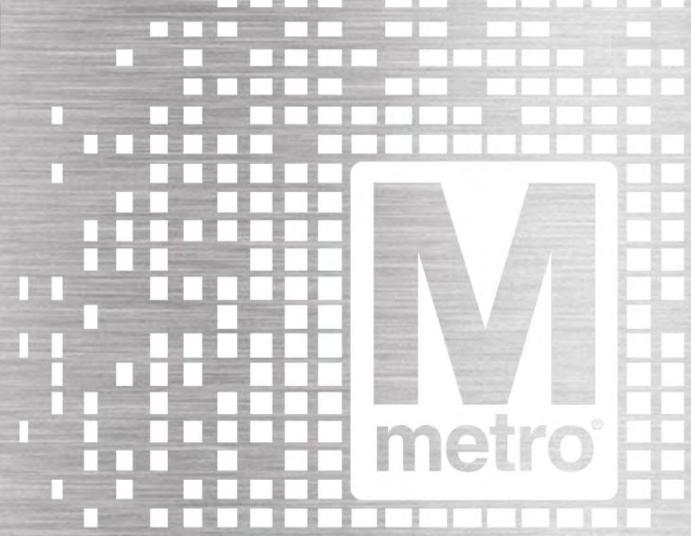
**David Eatman**Transit Administrator
GoRaleigh



Alex Wiggins
New Orleans
Regional Transit
Authority

# Doing Our Part to Support Safety and Regional Recovery

Paul J. Wiedefeld General Manager & CEO August 6, 2021



### **Metro: Capital Investments for Safety**



### SafeTrack

- ✓ Accelerated three years of track work into one
- ✓ Renewed 1/3 of track system infrastructure
- √ Reduced smoke/fire incidents systemwide
- ✓ Reduced rail service interruptions
- ✓ Noticeably smoother, quieter ride for customers

### Platform Improvement Project

- ✓ Completely rebuilt Metrorail station platforms
- ✓ Conducted repairs during 3-month station closures and rail segment shutdowns
- ✓ With 17 stations completed, nearly 40% of outdoor stations have new platforms and customer amenities
- ✓ Reconstructed platforms are safer and more accessible
- ✓ Customer experience improvements

### New platform shelters New next train signs





# \$2.6B Regional and Federal Investment Addressing Overdue Needs and Supporting Programs to Sustain Safety and SGR

Addressing
Overdue Capital
Needs

### Substantial Progress (Highlights)

- Replacement of Legacy Railcars with 7000 Series
- Track Rehab & SafeTrack
- Platform Program 17 of 20
   Stations Nearly Complete; Final
   Three Scheduled for Summer 2022

### More To Do to Catch Up (Priority Needs)

- Structures Bridges, Platforms,
   Tunnels & Water Mitigation
- Systems Train Control, Radio and Communications, Power
- Facilities Bus Divisions, Rail Maintenance, Offices

Ongoing
Programs to
Sustain Safety &
SOGR

### Recurring & Cyclical Maintenance, Rehabilitation & Replacement Programs

- Buses
- Railcars
- Paratransit Vehicles
- Service Vehicles
- Track
- Parking Facilities

- Elevators & Escalators
- Mechanical Systems
- Traction Power
- Signal Systems
- Lighting Systems

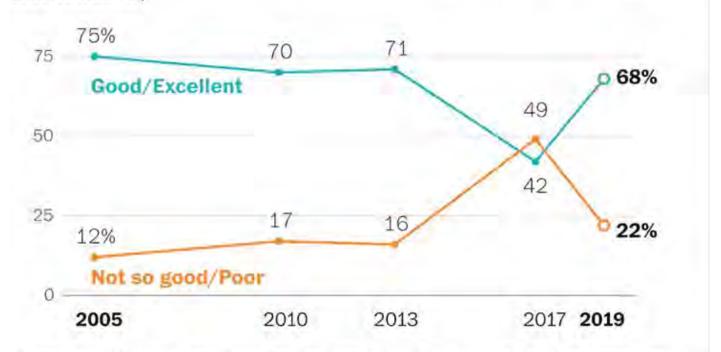
- Cooling Systems
- Bus Customer Facilities
- Bus, Rail & Admin Maintenance Facilities



### Metro: Safety Investments Boost Public Confidence

# Washington-area residents give Metro positive marks, rebounding from 2017 drop-off

Q: How would you rate the Metrorail subway system in the Washington, D.C., region: excellent, good, not so good or poor? (Results among Washington area residents)



Source: April 25-May 2, 2019, Washington Post-Schar School poll of 1,507 adult residents of the Washington area with an overall margin of error of +/- 3.5 percentage points.

THE WASHINGTON POST



## Protecting Metro Employees

- Intense cleaning, disinfection and ventilation
- Personal protective equipment and hand hygiene
- Covid testing/vaccination support
  - Mobile testing program, Voluntary tracking of vaccinations, Incentives to encourage vaccination
- Office guidelines
  - Remote work; Social distancing; Visitor screening

THANK YOU to our Metro colleagues on the front lines and behind the scenes for keeping the Washington region moving.





## Protecting the Public

- Bus and Railcar Air Filtration Pilot Projects
- Proactive and Responsive Cleaning Protocols
- Facial Covering Required
- Face Mask and Hand Sanitizer Distribution
- Real-time Crowding Information
- Touchless Fare Collection





## We're all in this together: Let's all do our part

# How Metro Is Doing Its Part to Keep Riders and Employees Safe



Require Face Coverings



Hand Sanitizing Stations



Deep Cleaning

# How Customers Can Do Their Part to Keep Themselves and Everyone Else Safe



Wear Face Coverings Properly



Wash Your Hands



Maintain Social Distancing



Ride Contactless



**Avoid Overcrowding** 



Stay home if sick





# "Humming Right Along" Ad



wmata.com/DoingOurPart





# "Humming Right Along" Ad



wmata.com/DoingOurPart





### Suspended Fares through June 2022





### Passenger Safety

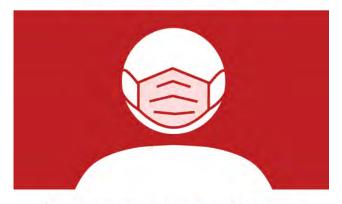
- Rear Door Boarding
- Social Distancing
- Continued Service
- Masks Handouts
- Cleaning Procedures
- Public Service Announcements





For your safety • 6 ft

### Face masks required.



TSA requires proper wearing of face masks, per federal law. Face masks are to be worn at all times. Failure to comply will result in denial of boarding or removal, and may result in penalties.



Stay Healthy. Stay Secure. tsa.gov/coronavirus



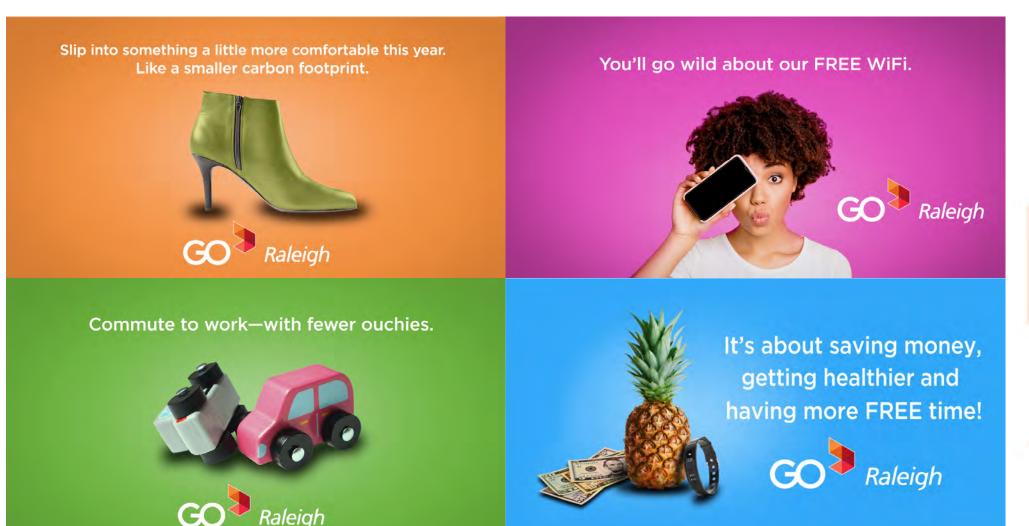








### FY 2022 Ad Campaign



# New Orleans Regional Transit Authority

Alex Z. Wiggins, RTA CEO

### Phased Return to Full Service

- On June 20, the agency began a phased return to full service. The initial phase focused on providing full service during peak travel hours systemwide.
- The agency also implemented the first stages of the New Links Network redesign which will provide enhanced connectivity throughout the region.
- Protective barriers installed on new rolling stock. Plus, ongoing retrofit existing vehicles.





# **Temporary Fare Pilot Introduced July 1**

- RTA introduced new reduced monthly and day passes.
  - \$14 Senior Monthly
  - \$18 Youth Monthly
  - \$0.80 Senior 1-Day
  - \$1 Youth 1-Day
- Reduced monthly pass from \$55 to \$45.





# **Employee Vaccine Mandate**

- The RTA announced a mandatory vaccination requirement for the agency's over 800 employees.
- Reinstated mask mandate, regardless of vaccination status.
- Daily temperature checks required.
- Implementing regular onsite COVID-19 testing for all employees.





### **Panel 3: National Advocacy Organizations**



**Irma Esparza Diggs**National League of Cities



Joi Chaney
National Urban
League



Mark Ritacco
National Association
of Counties



Chris Van Eyken
Transit Center

# Transit Keeps Our Communities Moving and Open



#### WHO WE ARE

The National League of Cities (NLC) is the voice of America's cities, towns and villages, representing more than 200 million people across the country.























Empowering Communities.
Changing Lives.







# **Urban League Movement**







# **Transportation Programs**



**Empowering Communities. Changing Lives.** 

"The Leading Access to Success Transportation program, better known as the L\*A\*S\*T\* Mile Program, provides Milwaukee Urban League clients with temporary transportation to their job sites. The program launched Jan. 25.

'Two of our major focus areas are education and employment,' Eve Hall, president and CEO of the Milwaukee Urban League, said. 'And what we've learned through employment is that while there are opportunities, transportation has been an issue, especially for those who had job opportunities on the outskirts of Milwaukee, where public transportation is rather limited.'

Shirron Hines, director of programs, said the program picks up clients from the Milwaukee Urban League, 435 W. North Ave., or Vincent High School, 7501 N. Granville Rd., and takes them to their employers.

It is open to any Milwaukee Urban League client who successfully completes program participation requirements before job placement and has an identified transportation need. The L\*A\*S\*T\* Mile provides transportation to employers not accessible by public or other transportation services."

Source: Ana Martinez-Ortiz, Milwaukee Neighborhood News Service









# **Transportation Programs**



Across the nation, Urban League affiliates are providing essential services to workers and families devastated by the COVID-19 pandemic. Through a partnership with the National Urban League, Lyft is helping them get where they need to be by providing ride codes that the National Urban League and its affiliates will be able to distribute to essential workers and families all over the country.

"The Urban League Movement serves as America's economic first responders, so our staff members and volunteers need to reach the most vulnerable communities," National Urban League President and CEO Marc H. Morial said. "Lyft is providing a crucial element of our response and we are deeply grateful for their partnership and support."







## **Bottom Line**

# TRANSPORATION = JOBS TRANSPORTATION RIGHTS = CIVIL RIGHTS



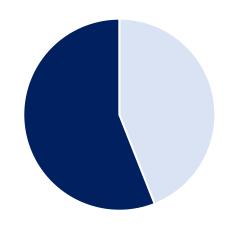


# U.S. Department of Transportation – Federal Transit Administration "America's Open and Transit's Open"

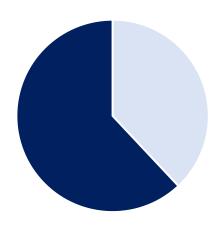
National Association of Counties
Mark Ritacco, Director of Government Affairs



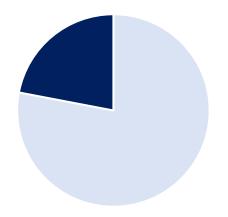
# THE COUNTY ROLE IN TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE

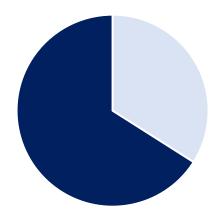


**44 percent** of the nation's public road miles.



**38 percent** of the National Bridge Inventory.





34 percent of public airports.



Annually, America's 3,069 counties, parishes and boroughs invest \$134 billion in the construction of infrastructure and the operation and maintenance of public works, including \$23 billion in the maintenance and operation of public transit.



FROM BUILDING AND MAINTAINING ROADS AND BRIDGES TO PROVIDING EFFICIENT TRANSIT SYSTEMS, COUNTIES ARE A DRIVING FORCE CONNECTING COMMUNITIES AND STRENGTHENING OUR ECONOMY.

# **QUESTIONS?**

Mark Ritacco, Director of Government Affairs mritacco@naco.org

Jessica Jennings, Associate Legislative Director

Transportation | jjennings@naco.org



#### **TransitCenter**

Safety for All: TransitCenter's brief on transit safety

Chris Van Eyken
Senior Program Associate,
Improving Agency Practice

#### What does safety mean to riders?

The current approach is not working. Policing cannot address the root causes of social ills on public transit. Agencies must adopt more holistic approaches to safety that uplift their riders and ensure they all feel secure.

As transit agencies reimagine their approaches to policing, they must keep in mind the varied concerns of their riders, and transit employees as well.

Safety means different things to different groups. Agencies have a lot to juggle as they implement new programs. Care must be taken.



#### **Origins of Modern Transit Policing**

The origins of policing on transit as we know it today can be directly traced to the emergence of broken windows policing theory. The NYC subway was one of the first places where theory was employed.

A focus was placed on policing low level offenses and quality of life issues, like fare evasion or the presence of homelessness, became the norm for transit policing.

This approach has led to police abuse and racial discrimination on transit systems. In tandem with erosion of non-police public services, it has led to an over-reliance on police officers.

#### Fare enforcement: seek alternatives methods

Fare enforcement is a common source of friction between riders and police. The harms of fare enforcement fall disproportionately on Black and Brown riders.

Agencies justify the use of police officers by citing the impacts of loss of revenue.

Agencies must seek alternative methods of lowering fare evasion:

- Understand why your riders evade
- Ensure that reduced fare programs are easy to sign up for
- Change penalties for evasion
- Use unarmed personnel to enforce



#### Homelessness: agencies must be pro-active partners

On our transit systems, police are often called upon to deal with homelessness. The police are an inadequate solution to a social problem.

People experiencing homelessness are forced to live within transit systems as they have few alternatives.

The scope of the crisis extends beyond the reach of transit agencies – agencies need to be proactive but they will need help.

SEPTA's Hub of Hope program provides an example for other agencies.



#### What steps should agencies take?

Agencies moving toward equitable transit safety programs should carefully consider their process. Months of work will be needed before comprehensive reforms can be proposed and implemented.

In the short-term agencies must:

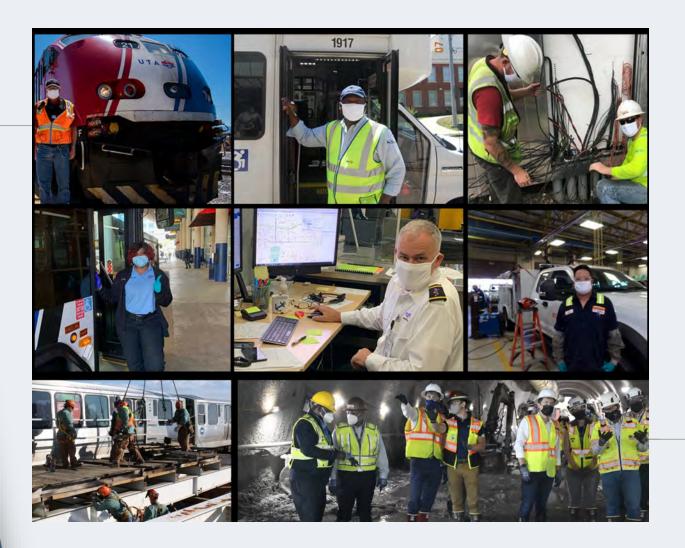
- Be transparent
- Listen to and learn from riders and community groups
- Increase system presence through the use of unarmed personnel
- Reduce the use of police officers in response to fare evasion, homelessness, and mental health crises

# Thank you!

- You can find TransitCenter at <u>transitcenter.org</u>
- You can find our Safety for All report at https://transitcenter.org/publication/safety-for-all/

## **Question & Answer Session**







U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Transit Administration

#### **Transit Renewal Initiative Events**

- Listening Session 3: 2-3:30 p.m. EDT, Friday, August 13
- National Transit Renewal Summit: 11 a.m. EDT, Friday, August 27

Register at <a href="mailto:transitisopen">transitisopen</a>

# **Closing Remarks**





FTA Region VI Acting Administrator





#### **Resource Links**

- American Public Transportation Association <u>apta.com</u>
- Community Transportation Association of America <a href="mailto:ctaa.org">ctaa.org</a>
- Pelivan Transit- <u>pelivantransit.org</u>
- AASHTO <u>transportation.org</u>
- Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority <u>wmata.com</u>
- GoRaleigh- goraleigh.org
- New Orleans Regional Transit Authority <u>norta.com</u>
- National League of Cities <u>nlc.org</u>
- National Association of Counties <u>naco.org</u>
  - Broadband Task Force <u>/resources/broadband-task-force-high-speed-internet-essential-all-counties</u>
  - Transportation Policy Hub for Counties <u>/resources/featured/federal-legislative-actions-transportation-infrastructure-counties</u>
- National Urban League <u>nul.org</u>
- Transit Center <u>transitcenter.org</u>



# Welcome to FTA's Transit Renewal Initiative Listening Session 2







U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Transit Administration

Contact us at <a href="mailto:transitsopen@dot.gov">transitsopen@dot.gov</a>
Or visit transit.dot.gov/transitisopen