FTA

FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION

APTA Rail 2018

FTA Perspective on Safety Culture

Paulina Orchard
SMS Lead
Office of System Safety
Office of Transit Safety and Oversight
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Overview

- FTA initiatives

- SMS & Safety Culture – how are they linked?

- Example: Implementing an effective employee safety reporting program
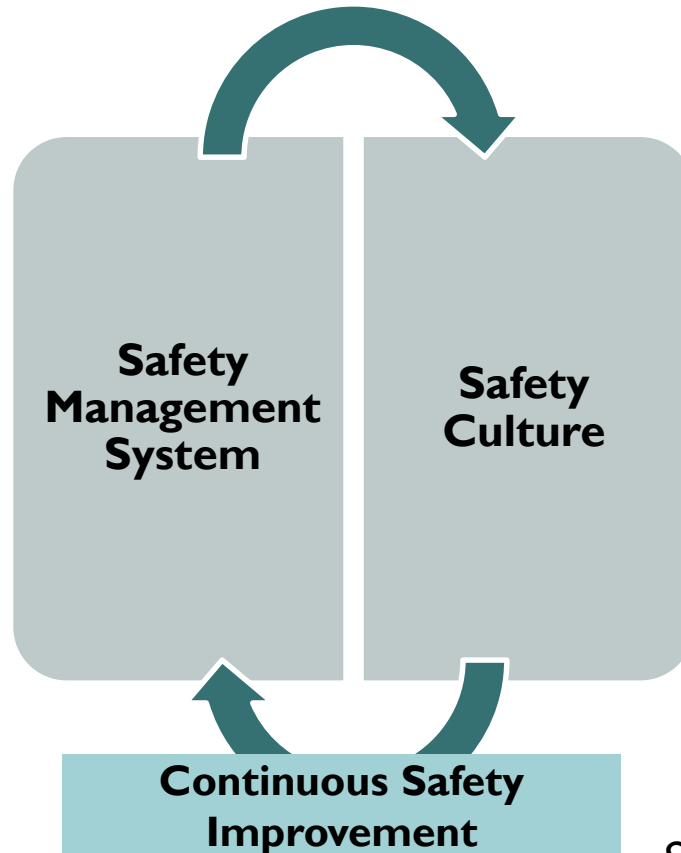
FTA Initiatives

The FTA has adopted the principles and methods of Safety Management Systems (SMSs) as the basis of its Safety Program.

- Safety rulemaking

- Research & pilot programs

    - SMS Implementation Pilot Program

    - Employee Safety Reporting Demonstration Project

- Safety promotion, education and training, and technical assistance

SMS & Safety Culture

Formal, top-down, organization-wide, data-driven approach to managing safety risk and assuring the effectiveness of safety risk mitigations.

Source: FTA SMS Framework

Safety Management System

Safety Culture

Continuous Safety Improvement

The shared values, actions, and behaviors that demonstrate a commitment to safety over competing goals and demands.

Source: U.S. DOT Safety Council

An SMS can help an organization build and maintain a strong safety culture.

Safety culture challenges:

- Distrust; suspect different priorities

- Decisions appear arbitrary or uninformed

- Tough decisions are avoided

- Lack of transparency

- People aren't held accountable

With an effective SMS:

- Awareness and learning are valued

- Decisions informed by safety risk

- Priorities and expectations are explicit and widely communicated

- Clear and consistent accountability

- Focus on achieving safety outcomes

- Transparent, repeated processes

- Continuous safety improvement

Example: Building a strong safety culture through an employee safety reporting program.

Identify safety concern

Analyze & prioritize safety concern

Address safety concern

Communicate how safety concern has been addressed

Paulina Orchard
SMS Lead
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Paulina.Orchard@dot.gov