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Update on the FTA SMS Implementation Pilot at the Chicago Transit Authority

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Overview

- Pilot Program purpose and structure

- CTA Pilot

    - Timeline and milestones

    - Lessons learned so far

    - Key challenges

Pilot Program Purpose

- Safety Management Systems (SMSs) are new to the transit industry.

- Most SMS guidance comes from other industries.

- FTA is developing and testing technical assistance materials and tools to help the transit industry adopt SMSs.

Safety Management Policy	Safety Risk Management
Safety Assurance	Safety Promotion

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Pilot Program Participants

FTA develops and tests SMS implementation guidance for:

- Large multi-modal agencies

- Bus agencies of all sizes

- Rural transit operators

- Contractor-operated services

cta Chicago, IL

Ride On Montgomery County Transit

Montgomery County, MD

TransIT

Frederick County, MD

VAN GO
THE ART OF TRANSPORTATION

Charles County, MD

CTA Pilot Timeline and Milestones

- Began in December 2014
- CTA has:
  - Assigned an SMS Implementation Lead and an SMS Implementation Team
  - Drafted a Safety Management Policy Statement
  - Offered Introduction to SMS training to managers
  - Conducted a safety culture survey (24% response rate)
  - Developed an SMS Implementation Project Plan and Safety Risk Management sub-plan

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Leadership

- An SMS must be developed with agency leadership direction and buy-in.
  - The Accountable Executive
  - Minimize barriers between the SMS implementation effort and leadership.
- SMS implementation shouldn't just be a Safety Department initiative.
  - Safety as a business function across the agency

Key Take-Aways for FTA

- Introduction to SMS video for GMs/CEOs
- Connect leadership across industries

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SMS Expertise

- Basic SMS training may not be enough to make fully-informed decisions

- Need understanding of:
  - What a good SMS looks like in order to develop the agency's vision and goals for SMS;
  - Current safety management practices through SMS lens; and
  - How to transition the agency from current practices to future SMS.

Key Take-Aways for FTA

- Competency-based training

- Practical guidance and tools to support decision-making

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Planning

- Agencies benefit from SMS implementation planning.

  - Prepare the organization (reduce surprises, set expectations).

  - Sequence events.

  - Develop a realistic assessment of resources, and plan accordingly.

- Planning a multi-year, agency-wide effort is a unique challenge.

  - Draw from existing project planning experience, as appropriate.

Key Take-Aways for FTA

- Planning support

- Integrate SMS gap analysis and planning efforts

- Planning vs resources tradeoff

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Organizational Engagement

- SMS implementation is agency-wide and should have input from across the agency.

- Extensive engagement is resource intensive and can feel like a waste of time.

- Balance costs and benefits of engagement.

- Manage development, review, sign-off and feedback activities.

Key Take-Aways for FTA

- Consider positions to be involved, when, and how

- Position-based technical assistance and training materials

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F E D E R A L   T R A N S I T   A D M I N I S T R A T I O N

SSOA Engagement

- SSOAs are interested in how safety is managed.

- Engaging the SSOA early may be helpful.

  - A joint-learning opportunity

  - Develop common language and mutually-beneficial practices.

  - Set expectations for long-term changes.

Key Take-Aways for FTA

- Educate SSOAs

- Help SSOAs and RTAs determine effective engagement strategies

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