

# Transit Safety and Oversight Spotlight

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## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

## Message from the Associate Administrator

Upcoming Safety Training

2-3

Coordinating Transit Safety Performance Targets with Metropolitan Planning Organizations

4

FTA Provides Human Trafficking and Public Safety Resources and Funding for the Transit Industry

5-6

NOW LIVE: State Safety Oversight Reporting Tool

7

NOW AVAILABLE: Updated Highway-Rail Grade Crossing Handbook

7

Applications Due January 31 for U.S. DOT Combatting Human Trafficking in Transportation Award

8

SAVE THE DATE: 15th Annual FTA Drug and Alcohol Program National Conference

8

Data Spotlight: Intersection Collisions by Control Device

9

TSO Profile

10

NOW AVAILABLE: Roadmap to Drafting an Agency Safety Plan for Bus Agencies Job Aid

10

Upcoming TSO Speaking Events and Workshops

11

Dear Transit Colleagues,

Happy New Year! Here at the FTA Office of Transit Safety and Oversight, we started off the new year with continued activity helping applicable transit operators prepare to comply with the [Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan \(PTASP\) regulation](#). Applicable FTA recipients and subrecipients now have six months to draft their Agency Safety Plans (ASP) to meet the July 20, 2020 deadline. To date, 65 percent of applicable agencies have participated in a FTA PTASP webinar, bus or rail workshop or conference. This month, FTA hosted two one-day PTASP workshops in Washington, DC and will offer additional workshops in other locations in February and March. The workshops will take place in New York City, Philadelphia, Denver, and Fort Worth. For more information and to register, [see page 11](#).

Since the publication of the PTASP regulation in July 2018, FTA has partnered with the industry to ensure that agencies are positioned to meet the compliance deadline. For example, over the past year, FTA held 26 PTASP technical assistance webinars attracting 5,000 participants. We will continue to host webinars through April to provide more information to help you develop your ASP and meet the compliance deadline. In addition, the PTASP website houses more than 70 documents that can support the development of each component of your ASP.

The [PTASP Technical Assistance Center](#), or TAC, is another available resource that provides support and hosts an online community of practice for agencies to share information and engage with peers. I urge you to utilize the TAC for all your PTASP questions. Now is the time to focus on your ASPs. FTA is here to support your important safety work.

Sincerely,  
Henrika Buchanan



Henrika Buchanan,  
Associate Administrator for  
Transit Safety and Oversight

## Upcoming Safety Training

FTA sponsors several safety training courses, including those listed below. The [complete schedule](#) of training courses offered through September 2020 is available on FTA's safety website. Please contact the FTA-sponsored [Transportation Safety Institute \(TSI\)](#) at (405) 954-3682 for safety training registration and course information. Individuals may contact FTA's Safety Promotion Team at [FTASafetyPromotion@dot.gov](mailto:FTASafetyPromotion@dot.gov) to request an [Individual Training Plan](#) (ITP). Participants in the Public Transportation Safety Certification Training Program have three years to complete their ITP requirements.

Courses Required by the Public Transportation Safety Certification Training Program (RAIL)*		
Effectively Managing Transit Emergencies	Newark, NJ	Feb. 3-6
	Chicago, IL	Feb. 24-27
	San Jose, CA	Mar. 23-26
	Phoenix, AZ	Apr. 14-17
Safety Management System (SMS) Awareness (eLearning)	On demand at <a href="http://tsi.dot.gov">tsi.dot.gov</a>	Available 24/7
SMS Principles for State Safety Oversight (SSO) Programs	Seattle, WA	Mar. 13
SMS Principles for Transit	Memphis, TN	Feb. 19-21
	Harrisburg, PA	Mar. 4-6
	Seattle, WA	Mar. 10-12
	San Antonio, TX	Mar. 25-27
	Boise, ID	Apr. 8-10
SMS Safety Assurance	Virtual-Live Training at <a href="http://tsi.dot.gov">tsi.dot.gov</a>	Feb. 19
		Mar. 25
		Apr. 29
Transit Rail Incident Investigation	Kansas City, MO	Mar. 16-20
	Seattle, WA	Apr. 20-24
Transit Rail System Safety	Landover, MD	Feb. 10-14
	Atlanta, GA	Apr. 27-May 1
Voluntary Courses for the Public Transportation Safety Certification Training Program (BUS)**		
Fundamentals of Bus Collision Investigation	St. Paul, MN	Apr. 20-24
Transit Bus System Safety	Orange, CA	Mar. 16-20
	Tampa, FL	Mar. 30-Apr. 3
	Tucson, AZ	Apr. 27-May 1

\*Applies to SSOA personnel and contractors who conduct safety audits and examinations of public transportation systems not subject to Federal Railroad Administration regulation, as well as rail fixed guideway public transportation system personnel and contractors who are directly responsible for safety oversight. Other safety personnel, including those from bus agencies, are encouraged to participate in the voluntary program.

\*\*The voluntary bus program also includes Effectively Managing Transit Emergencies, SMS Awareness, SMS Safety Assurance, and SMS Principles for Transit. If you would like to participate in the voluntary program please contact [FTASafetyPromotion@dot.gov](mailto:FTASafetyPromotion@dot.gov) to request an ITP and see the rail schedule above for course availability.

Training, cont. from pg. 2

### ADDITIONAL COURSES: Bus and Rail Courses (In Person)

Advanced Problems in Bus Collision Investigation	Phoenix, AZ	Feb. 3-7
Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design	Tampa, FL	Feb. 24-25
Instructor's Course for Transit Trainers	Hilton Head, SC Sacramento, CA Everett, WA Casper, WY	Feb. 24-28 Mar. 9-13 Apr. 6-10 Apr. 27-May 1
Reasonable Suspicion and Post-Accident Testing Determination Seminar	Irvine, CA	Feb. 7
Safety, Security, and Emergency Management Considerations for FTA Capital Projects	Oakland, CA	Mar. 24-26
Substance Abuse Management and Program Compliance	Irvine, CA	Feb. 2-4
Transit Industrial Safety Management	Austin, TX Los Angeles, CA	Feb. 6-10 Apr. 6-10
Transit Safety and Security Audit Course	Memphis, TN	Apr. 22-24
Transit Supervisor Certification Course	Orlando, FL	Feb. 3-7
Transit System Security	Atlanta, GA	Feb. 10-14
Transit System Security: Design Review	Tampa, FL	Feb. 26-28

### ADDITIONAL COURSES: eLearning Courses (Web Based)

Roadmap to Drafting an Agency Safety Plan for Bus Agencies	On demand at <a href="http://tsi.dot.gov">tsi.dot.gov</a>	Available 24/7
Curbing Transit Employee Distracted Driving	On demand at <a href="http://tsi.dot.gov">tsi.dot.gov</a>	Available 24/7
Fatigue and Sleep Apnea Awareness for Transit Employees	On demand at <a href="http://tsi.dot.gov">tsi.dot.gov</a>	Available 24/7
Rail Nomenclature	On demand at <a href="http://tsi.dot.gov">tsi.dot.gov</a>	Available 24/7
Bus Nomenclature	On demand at <a href="http://tsi.dot.gov">tsi.dot.gov</a>	Available 24/7

## Coordinating Transit Safety Performance Targets with Metropolitan Planning Organizations

FTA's [Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan \(PTASP\) regulation](#) (49 CFR § 673.15) requires applicable States or transit agencies to make their safety performance targets available to States and Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) to aid in the transportation planning process. Additionally, to the maximum extent practicable, States and transit agencies must coordinate with MPOs in the selection of safety performance targets.

[The FTA and Federal Highway Administration \(FHWA\) joint planning regulation](#) (23 CFR Parts 450 and 771, and 49 CFR Part 613) requires MPOs and States to incorporate transit safety performance targets into the statewide and metropolitan planning process. MPOs must "integrate, directly or by reference, the goals, objectives, performance measures, and targets described in other State transportation plans and transportation processes" including plans developed by public transportation providers as a part of a performance-based program (23 CFR § 450.306(d)(4)). The regulation lists nine plans that MPOs must integrate into their planning process, including Agency Safety Plans.

The FTA/FHWA joint planning regulation requires MPOs to prepare their initial public transportation safety performance targets by January 20, 2021 or 180 days from receipt of transit provider safety performance targets. MPOs may adopt transit provider targets or identify appropriate targets that reflect the needs of multiple transit providers in a region. The MPO and transit providers can decide whether the MPO targets are the same or different from the targets set by each transit agency.

Prior to the PTASP compliance deadline of July 20, 2020, MPOs are encouraged to initiate discussions with transit agencies, State Departments of Transportation, and planning partners to update their Metropolitan Planning Agreements (23 CFR § 450.314). Performing these updates presents an opportunity for the MPO and its planning partners to clarify roles and responsibilities for developing and sharing performance data, and setting, reporting, and tracking progress towards meeting targets through a formal agreement.

By July 20, 2021, specific written provisions for the transit safety measure must be jointly agreed upon and adopted by MPOs, States, and providers of public transportation. MPOs should reflect transit safety measures and targets in all Metropolitan Transportation Plans (MTPs) and Transportation Improvement Plans (TIPs) updated or amended after this date. MPOs are not required to adopt new safety targets until the next update of the TIP or MTP, unless local agreements require more frequent updates.

Further, States will incorporate transit agency safety performance targets, either directly or by reference, into their State TIP. MPOs are not required to set new transit safety performance targets each year but can choose to revisit the targets in conjunction with the preparation of its system performance report that is part of the MTP.

For additional MPO resources related to the PTASP regulation, visit the [MPO webpage](#) on FTA's [PTASP Technical Assistance Center \(TAC\) website](#). FTA will also host a [webinar](#) on Safety Performance Targets on Tuesday, February 4 at 2:00 PM ET. Registration is required.



## FTA Provides Human Trafficking and Public Safety Resources and Funding for the Transit Industry

January is National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) has been working diligently to raise awareness of this terrible crime. Last year, FTA launched its Human Trafficking Awareness and Public Safety Initiative to educate the transit industry on human trafficking and other crimes that may occur on transit systems and provide tailored resources. Human trafficking is modern-day slavery, affecting millions of adults and children in the United States and worldwide. Traffickers move their victims on all modes of transportation, and often use public transit due to its low cost, greater anonymity in buying fare cards, and less direct interaction with government or transit officials.

The FTA created a dedicated [website](#) for its initiative to house information and resources, including videos that transit agencies can use to educate their employees about the indicators of human trafficking and where to find help. In September 2019, FTA hosted a [human trafficking panel](#) at its Joint State Safety Oversight and Rail Transit Agency Workshop. Speakers included FTA, the A21 Campaign, South West Transit Association, and the American Public Transportation Association which provided information on the intersection of human trafficking with public transportation's bus and rail systems, employees, and riders, and available training and resources.

Recently, FTA [awarded](#) \$5.4 million in grants and cooperative agreements to 24 organizations across the country for projects to implement innovative solutions, public safety awareness campaigns, and training to help prevent human trafficking and other crimes on public transportation. The awardees include small rural and large urban transit providers, transportation associations, national non-profit organizations, and local governments.

*Continued on p. 6*



Cont. from p. 5

The selected projects highlight many innovative approaches the transit industry can take to address human trafficking and other crimes. For example, End Child Prostitution, Child Pornography and Trafficking of Children for Sexual Purpose-USA will develop technical assistance materials for transit systems on human trafficking, facilitate focus groups to determine the best placement for materials, and develop a response protocol for transit workers when confronted with potential cases of human trafficking. The North Carolina Department of Transportation will implement a state-wide training program for transit employees on recognizing and responding to signs of human trafficking, and develop awareness materials placed on transit vehicles and at stations. Additionally, the Tri-County Metropolitan Transportation District of Oregon, or Tri-Met, will develop educational materials for riders on how to identify and report potential safety risks to riders and operators, and install digital displays to share information on safety-related topics at transit centers. To read more about the selected projects visit [FTA's website](#).

On January 28, 2020, the U.S. Department of Transportation (U.S. DOT) hosted the *100 Pledges in 100 Days Human Trafficking Awareness Event* to encourage transportation leaders to take action against this terrible crime. As a part of the event, FTA hosted a panel on *Detecting Trafficking and Protecting the Traveling Public in the Passenger System* where leaders from transit, aviation, and rail shared their perspectives and success stories on human trafficking awareness and education efforts at their organizations.



Acting FTA Administrator K. Jane Williams hosted a panel on *Detecting Trafficking and Protecting the Traveling Public in the Passenger System* with panelists Nuria Fernandez (VTA General Manager/CEO), Candace McGraw (CVG Airport CEO), Leslie Richards (SEPTA General Manager), Elise Eberwein (American Airlines Vice President for People and Communications), and Neil Trugman (Amtrak Chief of Police).

The FTA is proud to lead these efforts and support the U.S. DOT's Transportation Leaders Against Human Trafficking initiative, including U.S. DOT's Advisory Committee on Human Trafficking. The committee completed a [report](#) in July 2019 that recommends actions the Department can take to help combat human trafficking and best practices for states and local transportation stakeholders.

Visit U.S. DOT's [Transportation Leaders Against Human Trafficking website](#) for more information on its efforts to combat human trafficking and to sign the transportation leaders [pledge](#). For questions regarding FTA's Human Trafficking and Public Safety Initiative, contact Henrika Buchanan, FTA's Chief Safety Officer and Associate Administrator for the Office of Transit Safety and Oversight, at [Henrika.Buchanan@dot.gov](mailto:Henrika.Buchanan@dot.gov) or 202-366-1783.

## NOW LIVE: State Safety Oversight Reporting Tool

The State Safety Oversight Reporting tool (SSOR) is now live. The SSOR automated online system officially has replaced the previous spreadsheet method for submitting required State Safety Oversight (SSO) annual reports. This web-based tool streamlines reporting capabilities by allowing the SSO Agency (SSOA) to enter its annual data into the system on an ongoing basis and edit that data prior to final submission. You can access the SSOR tool by clicking [here](#).

An added feature of the SSOR tool is its interface with the FTA's National Transit Database (NTD). This interface provides the SSOA a real-time review of event data submitted by their Rail Transit Agency (RTA). This reduces the possibility of event duplication and allows the SSOA to reconcile NTD data with other internal data and documentation.

As a reminder, all SSOAs are required to use the SSOR tool to submit their 2019 annual reports, which are due no later than March 15, 2020. If you have any questions, please contact your FTA Program Manager.

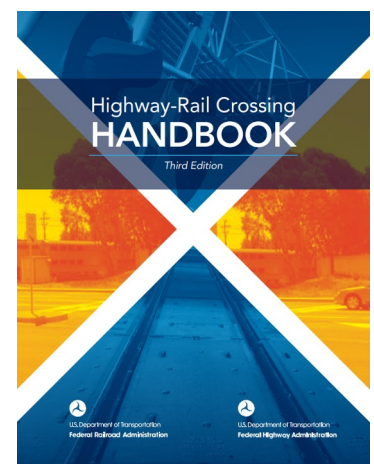


## NOW AVAILABLE: Updated Highway-Rail Grade Crossing Handbook

The [Highway-Rail Crossing Handbook, Third Edition](#) (Report No. FHWA-SA-18-040/FRA-RRS-18-001) is now available. The handbook is a joint publication from the Federal Highway Administration and Federal Railroad Administration and serves as a resource on noteworthy practices, in addition to adopted standards, relative to highway-rail grade crossings. Transit agencies may find the new handbook a useful tool in assessing current and future grade crossing safety practices.

The handbook provides general information on highway-rail crossings, characteristics of the crossing environment and users, and physical and operational changes that can be made at crossings to enhance the safety and operation of both highway and rail traffic at crossings. This Handbook supersedes the Railroad-Highway Grade Crossing Handbook—Revised Second Edition published in August 2007, and is fully compliant with the 2009 Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD).

Related training and learning opportunities will be announced in the future.



Highway-Rail Crossing Handbook, Third Edition

## Applications Due January 31 for U.S. DOT Combatting Human Trafficking in Transportation Award

The U.S. Department of Transportation (U.S. DOT) Secretary Elaine L. Chao created the [Combating Human Trafficking in Transportation Impact Award](#) to recognize individuals and groups who contribute to the fight against human trafficking in the transportation sector. The award seeks creative, impactful, and innovative counter-trafficking tools, initiatives, campaigns, and technologies that can be adapted and used across the nation. The winner will receive a \$50,000 cash award.

Submissions are due by January 31, 2020. To register your intent to compete or to ask questions, email [trafficking@dot.gov](mailto:trafficking@dot.gov) or contact the U.S. DOT Office of International Transportation and Trade at 202-366-4398.



### SAVE THE DATE: 15th Annual FTA Drug and Alcohol Program National Conference

Save the date for the 15<sup>th</sup> Annual [FTA Drug and Alcohol Program](#) National Conference, April 14-16, 2020 in San Diego, CA. Attendees can choose from a variety of sessions to customize their experience for the specific needs of their employer and their knowledge level of [49 CFR Part 655](#) and [49 CFR Part 40](#) regulations.

Sessions will include training for beginner and advanced drug and alcohol program managers, running a compliant drug and alcohol program, and an update from the FTA Office of Drug and Alcohol Policy and Compliance. Additionally, there will be networking opportunities, access to FTA and other Federal drug and alcohol compliance experts and FTA drug and alcohol program compliance auditors, and much more.

Register for this free conference beginning in February 2020.



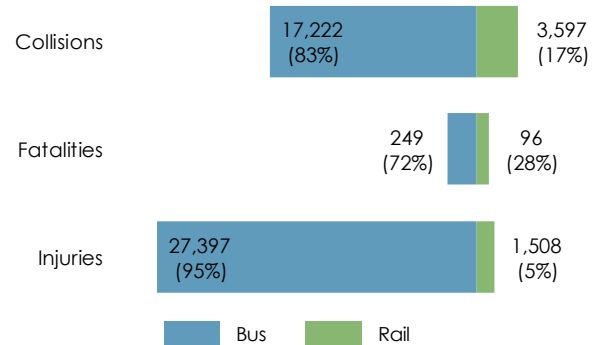
## Data Spotlight: Intersection Collisions by Control Device, 2013 to Present

The Transit Safety and Oversight Spotlight includes a “Data Spotlight” to share safety data trends and highlight data sets that may help the industry identify safety performance targets for their [Agency Safety Plans](#). This month, we focus on National Transit Database (NTD) reporting of intersection collisions<sup>1</sup> broken down by the traffic control devices in place. Questions? Please contact FTA’s [Dharm Guruswamy](#).

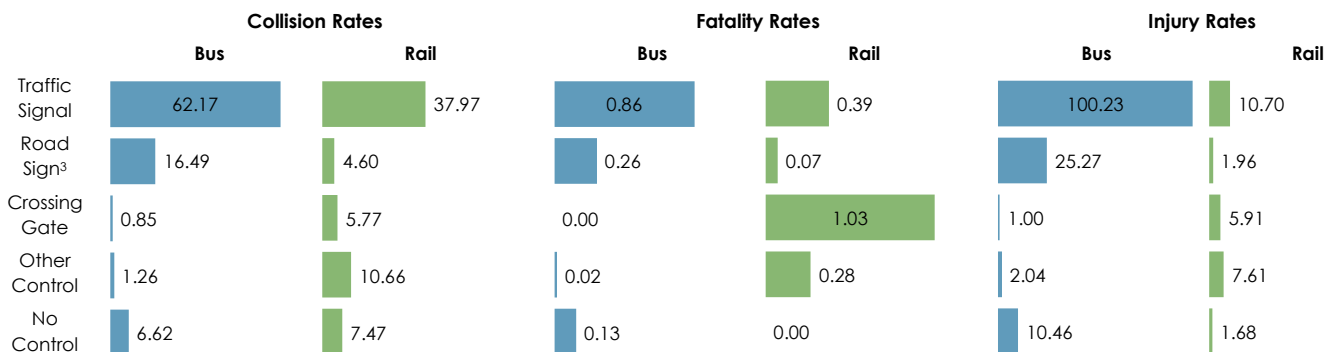
Since 2013, transit agencies have reported 20,819 intersection collisions to the NTD, including 345 fatalities and 28,905 injuries. Bus modes reported the most intersection collisions (83 percent). However, when accounting for differing service levels, intersection collisions occurred at roughly similar rates per vehicle revenue mile (VRM) at rail and bus modes (66.47 and 87.38 per 100 million (M) VRM, respectively). Rail intersection collision fatalities occurred at a higher rate than bus (1.77 and 1.26 per 100M VRM, respectively) during this time period.

Most bus intersection collisions and related fatalities and injuries happened at intersections controlled by traffic lights and road signs.<sup>3</sup> Transit agencies also reported more rail collisions and resulting injuries at traffic light intersections, but reported the most fatalities at crossing gate intersections.

**Intersection Collisions<sup>1</sup> by Mode, Jan 2013 - Sept 2019<sup>2</sup>**

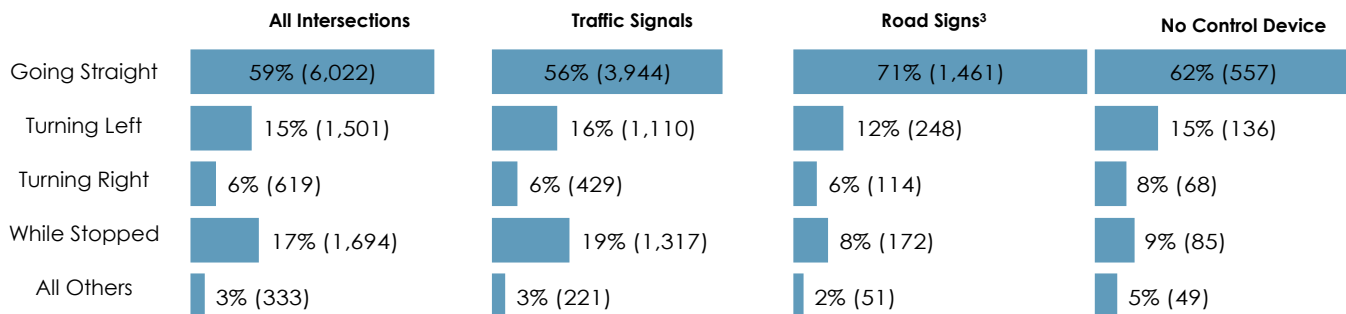


**Intersection Collision Rates<sup>1</sup> per 100M VRM by Mode and Control Device, Jan 2013 - Sept 2019<sup>2</sup>**



In 2016, the NTD began asking transit agencies to specify if a bus was taking a left or right turn during a collision. Since then, considerably more bus intersection collisions were reported during left turns than right turns. This pattern held true at intersections with traffic lights and road signs,<sup>3</sup> and also where there were no control devices. However, between 2016 and 2019,<sup>2</sup> the most collisions occurred while buses drove straight through any of these intersection types.

**Bus Intersection Collisions by Bus Action for Select Intersection Control Devices, Jan 2016 - Sept 2019<sup>2</sup>**



Note: All graphs not to scale

<sup>1</sup>Data includes only reporting from NTD full reporters and excludes all collisions involving suicides. Intersection collisions include collisions at grade crossings.

<sup>2</sup>Data submitted to the NTD for years 2018 and 2019 are preliminary and subject to revision.

<sup>3</sup>Road signs include stop signs and yield signs. Cautionary signs like cross-bucks are considered other controls.

## TSO Profile

*This month's profile includes a Q&A with Malika Nash, Administrative Officer/Cost Center Manager*



Malika Nash, Administrative Officer/  
Cost Center Manager

**How would you explain your job to someone you've never met?** Half of my job involves budget management, including travel, supplies, training, and managing administrative funds for program contracts. I support different programs, such as Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan (PTASP) implementation, with travel and other requests needed to perform staff job duties. The other half involves Human Resource (HR) functions.

**What is your favorite part of your job?** My favorite part of my job is the budget processing side, because I like the hands-on aspect of managing funds and programs. I also enjoy working with numbers.

**What were you doing prior to this role?** I was an Administrative Assistant in FTA's Office of Research, Demonstration and Innovation (TRI), where I supported the Office of Mobility and Innovation and TRI executives with correspondence, timecards, travel, purchase requests, and I served as a management calendar scheduler. I joined TSO in 2012 to help stand up FTA's new safety office.

**What led you to work in transit?** Formerly, I worked at the Federal Aviation Administration in HR, so transportation and safety have always been in the forefront of my work. When a position opened at FTA, I decided to apply because transit was a big part of my upbringing.

**What are some current projects or initiatives that you or your team are working on?** I have been busy working on the administrative budget and just finished closing out the budget for FTA's Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) Safety Oversight effort. Another big priority is managing PTASP travel requests and overall administrative support for the office.

**What is your favorite form of transportation and why?** As a New Yorker, I prefer the train. I love the fast pace, hustle and bustle at the station, and the opportunity to see different people and cultures socialize and come together.

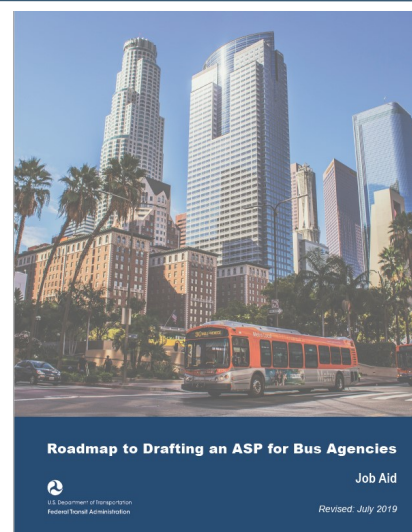
**What are your hobbies and interest outside of work?** I enjoy traveling, shopping, reading, and swimming.

## NOW AVAILABLE: Roadmap to Drafting an Agency Safety Plan for Bus Agencies Job Aid

The [Roadmap to Drafting an Agency Safety Plan \(ASP\) for Bus Job Aid](#) supports the Roadmap to Drafting an ASP for Bus Agencies eLearning course. The job aid helps those drafting an ASP to collect information and make the necessary decisions for a compliant ASP that works for your agency.

The job aid works with other FTA resources, including the optional [Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan \(PTASP\) Template for Bus Transit \(Bus Template\)](#) and [PTASP Template for Bus Transit Reference Tool](#).

Register for The Roadmap to Drafting an ASP for Bus Agencies through the FTA-sponsored USDOT [Transportation Safety Institute \(TSI\)](#).



Roadmap to Drafting an Agency Safety Plan  
for Bus Agencies Job Aid

## Upcoming TSO Speaking Events

### [American Public Transportation Association \(APTA\) Legislative Conference](#)

March 15, 2020

Washington, DC



U.S. Department  
of Transportation

Federal Transit  
Administration

Federal Transit Administration  
Office of Transit Safety and Oversight  
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE  
Washington, DC 20590

<https://www.fta.dot.gov/regulations-and-guidance/safety/transit-safety-oversight-tso>

## [Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan \(PTASP\) One-Day Workshops](#)

**New York, NY**

February 11 or February 12, 2020

**Philadelphia, PA**

March 4 or March 5, 2020

**Denver, CO**

March 10 or March 11, 2020

**Fort Worth, TX**

March 17 or March 18, 2020

*The Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan (PTASP) Workshops will focus on the requirements needed for agencies and States to comply with the PTASP rule (49 CFR Part 673) and discuss how to begin creating Agency Safety Plans, including the identification of key stakeholders to coordinate Agency Safety Plan development. [Register now!](#)*

